



## SPECTRUM

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Chapter CSI

### President's Message

David Landrey, CSI

My president's message began at a recent board meeting. Chapter Vice President, Dave Sommer, CSI, was running late and looking frenzied as he shuffled into the room. Despite being slammed at work, Dave said something profound enough to stick with me, he said, "*Life is good. I wanted to be in sales. I'm busy and I'm happy as a clam (exhale, breathless)*". It hit me that whatever his definition of success, Dave is happy in his career and it remained true even when he was clearly being stretched. The simple authenticity of his quip moved me to write on this topic because:



- 1.) Career paths, success, and happiness seldom unfold as we had envisioned.
- 2.) I want to rebuke a lingering CSI myth that none of us (or at least very few) came into our jobs by some twist of fate or random circumstance. Trust me on this. It all makes perfect sense.
- 3.) I encourage the sharing of stories, so that young & mid-career professionals (of all stripes) might consider the nearly endless possibilities within the technical weeds in the A/E/C industry and look to utilize CSI as a connective hub to help pivot your career in just about any direction.

Dave Sommer's fairly pre-planned career path is certainly not the norm of most CSI members.

**Kindergarten Cop for out of control designs.** Just a few years back, Julie Taylor, CSI, CCS of Integrus Architecture, was teaching kindergarten before she pivoted her career towards her desire for a more technically challenging job. She enrolled at Lake Washington Institute of Technology which began her path to become a respected

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#### EVENTS CALENDAR 2016

##### Chapter Program Topics

May 12, 2016

*Biomimcry in Building  
Design*

June 9, 2016

*Annual Awards Banquet*

July 14, 2016

*UW Architectural Tour  
(Luncheon Meeting)*

BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

specification writer. (Wow!)

**Dodging Drafting?** The renowned specifications writer, Ed Storer, CSI CCS (SpecRite), came out of college with admittedly *"no clue"* about materials and the crucial differences in performance within various groupings. Like most young architects, he was working the drafting boards at HOK (Chicago) in the 1970's and as he tells it, *"I just did what I was told to do"*. Early along his path, Ed grew annoyed by redundancies in construction documentation and inefficiencies. At the time, Ed's boss thought he might be using specifications to avoid drafting. He was looking through aperture card files to access past details, rather than re-inventing the wheel. He actually quit working at HOK and briefly went to work for a mining and smelting operation in Arizona, conducting time and motion studies. One of Ed's familiar refrains is *"draw less- communicate better."* Well, Ed returned to HOK about a year later, this time in the specifications department, where he found a mentor who allowed him some latitude. It took about a year, but Ed had found his calling.

**Buildings good; sewers bad.** Past-President, Beth Stroshane, CSI CCS, LEED AP, rose onto the scene at CSI as a young specifications writer at NBBJ in Seattle. (That was before she founded Applied Building Information LLC) However, NBBJ was not her first job. Beth's father was a remodeling contractor and her grand-father built bridges and sewers. Always drawn to big structures, she earned degrees in both Architectural Engineering and Construction Management. After college she went to work for Mortenson Construction, but after two years recognized this was not what she envisioned. Beth felt, *"it just didn't fit my personality, so I decided to try out specifications writing. Mind you that I had absolutely no training in that field. I just knew that I like complex projects, and I wanted to build big things, but not be in sewers. At some point of introspection and extrapolating forward, I realized that I knew what I wanted to do by 7th grade, I just didn't know what exactly that job entailed."*

**Specification Suffrage.** Puget Sound CSI is vibrant place and not so surprisingly we have more women specification writers than any region in the US. (Yes, I have verified the count). This heritage leads back to the 1970s and a handful of women on the west coast, including Anne Whitacre, FCSI CCS LEED AP BD+C (HOK). Anne could have been drummed out of architecture if she had followed the advice of some college professors who told her, *"that women tend not to succeed in the architecture program"* and telling her that her drafting skills *'were really not good'*.

Things started to change when Anne joined NBBJ and CSI in the mid 1970's. Anne recalls, *"Back when I started, every firm was expected to have someone at CSI meetings, and they were places where we got stuff done. When I first joined, I was taking the place of my department head Bob Hooper (he was a chapter president in the 60's) and Bob Sears (who became president later) because they were both getting a*

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**ProSpec**  
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*little burned-out. The firm wanted someone there, and when I volunteered, I got to go! One of the Bobs convinced the firm to pay for my dinner - reasoning they would have paid for his dinner - and that was a big deal for me, because it cost \$7.50 for dinner, which was half my food budget for the week. The fact that my firm supported me as a very young practitioner to me was extremely important, because I could not have afforded CSI on my own at that stage in my career."*

Anne went on to become the first women President at Puget Sound Chapter and is one of the most respectful specifications writers I have ever met! (Before I knew all the rules, she made me feel welcome at ZGF.)

**Hey, nobody said anything about blood!** Torin Mowbray, began learning about atoms and molecular science when he was 5 years old. He wanted to be a doctor, but could not stand the sight of blood. He liked sales and felt he could better explain the technical nuances of coating materials and all the selection variables. However, Ed Storer CSI, CCS, flatly told him that all his information, while fascinating, was too complicated for architects to remember. Ed suggested he create a menu or a checklist to make sure all the project variables were covered, but not bury architects with endless choices. As Torin explains, "It was Ed's advice that propelled my success at Tnemec. It forced me to make the complex much simpler for the architect." A scientific mind, coupled with the honest advice of a fellow CSI member and an adverse reaction to blood was the secret of success. As odd as it sounds, it's really not that surprising if you know Torin.

It's been said that CSI professionals are the technical people who work on the less glamorous side of building architecture.

I suppose that's a true statement if you define glamor in the popular sense of notoriety. The names of specification writers, consultants, project managers, and manufacturers reps are seldom inscribed on the cornerstone of iconic buildings. When I think about the most successful and happy people I know in CSI, it's my observation that they have found their own definitions of glamor, happiness and success.

Talking Heads- "Once in a Lifetime"

*And you may find yourself living in a shotgun shack  
And you may find yourself in another part of the world  
And you may find yourself behind the wheel of a large automobile  
And you may find yourself in a beautiful house, with a beautiful wife  
And you may ask yourself-Well...How did I get here?*

*And you may ask yourself  
What is that beautiful house?  
And you may ask yourself  
Where does that highway go?  
And you may ask yourself*

Kevin Vaughn CSI

**Spectrum** is published monthly as a benefit for members of the Puget Sound Chapter CSI.

Articles must be submitted by the 15th of the month for the next month's edition. Email submissions to [office@pscsci.org](mailto:office@pscsci.org).

Visit [www.pscsci.org](http://www.pscsci.org) to subscribe or to view current and back issues.

## LINKS

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**Join CSI**



*Am I right?...Am I wrong?  
And you may tell yourself  
MY GOD!...WHAT HAVE I DONE?*

It's my hope you'll think about your journey. Where you have been and where you're going and share it freely with other professionals in CSI.

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## May Chapter Programs

### **May 12th Chapter Dinner Meeting: Biomimicry in Building Design**

**Location:** Mirabella Seattle (116 Fairview Ave N, Seattle)

**Time:** Social Hour: 5:00-6:00 pm, Dinner: 6:00-6:30 pm, Program: 6:30-8:00

**Cost:** \$40 members/\$45 non-members/\$25 students/\$0 sponsored students (*after 5/9/16, prices will be an additional \$10*)

Our program will be presented by Denise DeLuca, PE, co-founder of Vibrant OS. Denise is a sought-after speaker, educator, and consultant whose career includes years of environmental consulting before taking on the role of Outreach Director during the early expansion years of The Biomimicry Institute. She was Project Lead for Swedish Biomimetics 3000 and co-founded BCI: Biomimicry for Creative Innovation. Denise has focused her efforts on developing comprehensive frameworks as well as practical tools for releasing organizations from conventional constructs and catalyzing their natural human capacity for creativity, effective collaboration, and break-through innovation. She currently teaches online courses in Creative Leadership and Biomimetic Design as part of the Master of Arts in Sustainable Design program at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. This is an opportunity for you and your firm to learn more about biomimicry, so plan on attending and bring a guest, too! See you then!

**[Register for the May Dinner Meeting!](#)**

### **May 5th Tech Talk: Innovative Materials + Processes PechaKucha**

**Location:** WeWork Basement at 107 Spring Street in Seattle

**Time:** 5:30-6:45pm

**Cost:** \$5/person

**Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, May 3rd.

Reminder to sign up for our first ever Happy Hour PechaKucha, being held on Thursday the 5th. Wednesday, May 3rd is the last day to register.

For the uninformed, PechaKucha is a fast-paced presentation style where each presenter shows 20 slides at only 20 seconds per slide.

The theme of the evening is "Innovative Materials + Processes" and will feature (in no particular order):

- "HPDs" by Beth Stroshane of Applied Building Information, LLC
- "DensElement: Sheathing with Integral WRB-AB" by Mike Fletcher of D-SEVEN and Jeff Hermann of Georgia Pacific
- "STANLEY Shelter: Responsive Lockdown Solutions" by Jenny Senner of STANLEY Commercial Hardware
- "Virtual Reality in Architecture" by Simon Manning of ZGF Architects
- "Pacmat" by Nora Vivarelli of Pacific Mat
- "How Technology Affects the Building Product Industry" by James Connelly of the International Living Futures Institute
- "Electrochromic Glass" by Michael Gray of Sage Glass
- "CarbonCure: Recycling Waste Carbon Dioxide in Concrete Plants" by Ryan Moller of Mutual Materials

To truly make this a Happy Hour to remember, we're including beer and a "Build Your Own Nacho" bar.

Our location is being sponsored jointly by Applied Building Information LLC and WeWork; beer is sponsored by WeWork; soda is sponsored by Pella Commercial Windows and Doors; and "Build Your Own Nachos" is sponsored by STANLEY Commercial Hardware.

**[Register for the May Tech Talk!](#)**

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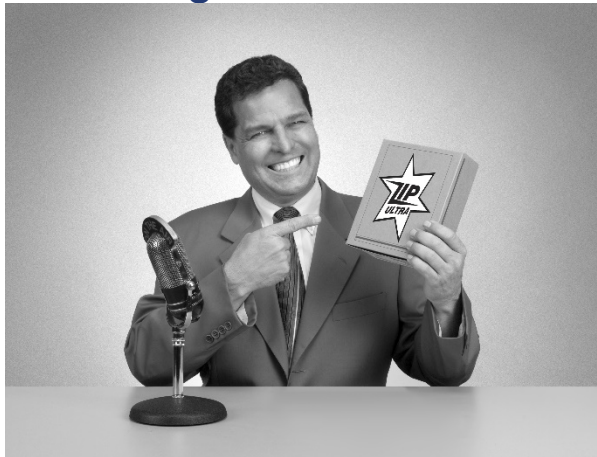
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## Chapter Meeting Quick Pitches



There are presently openings for 10-minute Quick Pitches for our May and fall Chapter meetings. The cost is \$150. Any member or non-member can present. If interested, contact [Dick Owen](#) for questions or to reserve your date. This is a great opportunity to introduce our Chapter members to you, your products, or services.

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## ProSpec 2016 Recap

By Kelly Laleman, CCS



Once again, Seattle gifted us with a beautiful sunny day to enjoy ProSpec at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center on the waterfront. Event sponsorships were sold out, which was accompanied by a robust trade show, full of exciting new products.

The afternoon seminar speaker was Chris Hellstern, Miller Hull Partnership. He presented "In Advocacy of a Materials Transformation," which discussed the need for healthy materials and useful tools for identifying them, an overview of the Living Building Challenge, and Miller Hull's Bertschi School Science Wing project. This project features a living wall and a river flowing through the building. You can learn more about the project in Hellstern's book *Living Building Education*. The keynote speaker was Toshiko Mori, Robert P. Hubbard Professor at Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Mori surveyed a range of her work, including renovations of existing buildings, new buildings within rich historical context, and new buildings in open rural spaces. She capped off the presentation with her inspiring pro-bono cultural center in Senegal. Mori's work across all building types and sizes consistently displays a light, delicate touch. Mori's sense of humor was as equally delicate and delightful as her work.

A huge thank you goes to Grant Gustafson of NBBJ for reaching out and arranging for Toshiko Mori to be our keynote speaker!

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The Puget Sound Chapter CSI has a separate organization, the Puget Sound CSI Memorial Foundation, established in 2007, whose purpose is to provide scholarships, fellowships, and grants to promote educational programs serving the interest of the Puget Sound Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute, the construction industry, and related endeavors, which support the objectives of CSI. The Foundation is administered by a volunteer board composed of willing past presidents of the Puget Sound Chapter. Brad Williamson is the current president of the Foundation Board. Any individual or organization can contribute tax deductible donations to the Foundation by sending a check made out to the Puget Sound CSI Memorial Foundation and mailing to the Puget Sound Chapter office: 2150 N. 107th St., Suite 205, Seattle, WA 98133-9009, Phone: (206) 382-3393 (The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization). Donations in the



past have been used for scholarship awards to candidates selected on the basis of recommendations by the Foundation Board and by Chapter members. The Foundation is always interested in your fund raising ideas and financial support to promote the Foundations objectives.



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## April Events Recap

### Chapter Dinner Meeting

By Julie Taylor, CCS

Four panelists representing the Owner, Architect, Contractor, and Subcontractor examined the GC/CM delivery method as it applies to

school construction in Washington. Taine Wilton introduced the topic by explaining how the Edmonds School District has implemented the GC/CM process on a few of its school projects. David Mount with Mahlum continued the discussion by citing specific examples from his experience working with the Edmonds School District. The contractor's role was explained by Dan Huber with BN Builders. While the first three panelists, acknowledged the success of GCCM projects, Patrick Rooney with Division 9 questioned how subcontractors can successfully engage in the process. Throughout the presentation, the audience asked questions and offered suggestions to help improve the delivery method. All attendees left the meeting with a better understanding of the effectiveness of the GC/CM delivery method.

### **Tech Talk Recap**

*By Melissa Balestri, CCS*

On April 21st Jeff Mosley of SINAK Corporation presented "Sustainable Concrete Installations." Jeff began by defining sustainable concrete and explaining the basics and not-so-basics of concrete science before moving on to more advanced topics. Did you know that many of the standards we're referencing actually test mortar, not concrete, samples using a method (ASTM C309) developed in 1953? It's not appropriate for the way we use concrete in our current market. He discussed alternate standards to use (take a look at ASTM C39) and recent changes in common references (notably ACI 302). Other topics included real world use and impacts of various curing and testing methods (water curing is still the gold standard but initially expensive; using calcium chloride tests you can infer how large your capillaries are and therefore how permeable your concrete is; and "blessing the slab" can result in false high readings), and how admixtures affect water cement ratios (watch the weight of the admixture! Aim for a 0.42 to 0.45 w/c ratio after admixtures to allow for human error and on-site water addition). My favorite part about Jeff's presentations is how differently he approaches topics. He makes them easy to understand and turns even the simplest topics on their head to look at them from a completely different angle. Many thanks for Jeff for an informative and engaging class.

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## Affiliate Events

### **2016 West Region & NW Region CSI Conference**

**When:** May 18-22, 2016

**Where:** Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Incline Village, NV

**Learn more and register!**

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## About CSI

CSI is a national association of specifiers, architects, engineers, contractors, facility managers, product representatives, manufacturers, owners and others who are experts in building construction and the materials used therein. They are dedicated to improving the communication of construction information through:

- A diversified membership base of allied professionals involved in the creation and management of the built environment. Join us.
- Continuous development and transformation of standards and formats.
- Education and certification of professionals to improve project delivery processes.
- Creation of practice tools to assist users throughout the facility life-cycle. Join a CSI Practice Group.

CSI is governed by a Board of Directors, a nationally elected body that provides long-range strategic leadership. The Board is composed of nationally elected CSI officers, including the president, president-elect, two vice presidents, the secretary, and the treasurer; elected representatives (directors) from each of CSI's 10 regions; and a director at large. CSI's executive director/CEO is a corporate officer.

For more information about or to join CSI, visit [www.csinet.org/joincsi](http://www.csinet.org/joincsi), or call 800-689-2900.

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