



Designing for the Severely Disabled

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) would like to extend an invitation to join them on Thursday September 2, 2004 for dinner and to learn about designing for the severely disabled. This will not be a review of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mark Feinman of Complete Construction is a Certified Environmental Access Contractor. He will show us installations of equipment and structures designed for the needs of people with limited mobility. Some of the installations are specifically designed for the client

while others can serve many users. You will see equipment that you didn't know existed.

As is true with all our meetings, people are welcome to attend at no cost if they arrive after dinner. In this case, please let us know you are attending, but not having dinner, so that we can make sure there is enough room.

AIA/CES Learning Units: This program meets AIA/CES criteria. Participants will receive 1 hour of LUS (learning units), which also applies to 1 HSW (Health, Safety, Welfare) hour.

- When: **THURSDAY, September 2, 2004**
- Location: Ramada Inn Silicon Valley, 1217 Wildwood Avenue, Sunnyvale
(Lawrence Expressway and 101)
- Times: Social hour: 6:00 PM with Hors d'oeuvres
Dinner: 7:00 PM
- Menu: California chicken, green salad, pasta and green beans with fresh rolls. Peach cobbler and coffee.
- Program: 8:00 PM
- Dinner Cost: \$25 per person

RSVP: Please call Harry Hedges (408) 378-2762 or email hharki@aol.com.
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED ***** Call prior to noon on Tuesday, August 31, 2004*****

Benefits of Membership in CSI

- CEU's (LU's) earned by attending the monthly meetings and seminars
- Low cost insurance
- *Construction Specifier* magazine
- Knowledge and learning
- Networking with some of the most successful professionals in the industry
- Meeting local people

President's Message *by Dave Ingram*

2004-2005 Board of Directors

Officers

PRESIDENT

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(415) 672-4342

daveingram@sbcglobal.net

VICE PRESIDENT

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(408) 578-5298

swenson@starband.net

TREASURER

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(408) 297-0288

marvin@mba-architects.net

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(408) 629-4088

egron@earthlink.net

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

Jim Balboni
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jimbalboni@msn.com

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Carl Bredl
(415) 601-8728

floornet@prodigy.net

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORS

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(650) 967-6600

ron@casarch.com

Krista Nelson
(408) 298-1885

krista@aba-arch.com

Hannah Moyer
(650) 298-8150

hmoyer@watrydesign.com

REGION DIRECTOR

Mike O'Donnell
(408) 988-4965

Bossbid@aol.com

Unfortunately, Dave Ingram's uncle just passed away, and he will be unable to provide his usual President's message for this month. We send our condolences and prayers for his family.

Call for Volunteers

Santa Clara Valley CSI Leadership

We have arrived at the start of a new fiscal year '05, which among other things means that some of our chapter officers and committee chairs are up for grabs for the year ahead. Some important positions are being vacated, and we need help form our membership to continue to be successful – get a more rewarding experience from CSI and help out! A couple of hours is all it takes for most positions.

All those interested are welcome at our next board meeting, scheduled for 5:00 PM to 6:15 PM on September 2, 2004 at the Ramada Inn. The board meeting is at the same location as the chapter meeting and is held prior to the general meeting.

Give us a call (415) 672-4342 or send us an email to:

daveingram@sbcglobal.net to let us know that you can come. Thanks !

VAC Industry Standardizes on gbXML for Building Design and Engineering

San Francisco (June 10) -- PRNewswire -- GeoPraxis, an architectural, engineering and construction software company, today announced that leading heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) manufacturers have adopted and are deploying gbXML, streamlining building design and providing interoperability for architects and building design teams.

This critical breakthrough by the AEC industry will speed building design and drive down the costs by seamlessly sharing building design information between architects, building engineers, HVAC systems designers, and sales teams.

Green Building XML (gbXML) is an open schema available at no charge to the AEC industry.

Market leader HVAC manufacturers standardizing on gbXML include: Trane(R), Carrier Corporation, and YORK International.

Leading architectural design software and engineering companies supporting gbXML also

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include Autodesk(R), Graphisoft, Bentley Systems, Elite Software, ECOTECT, and GeoPraxis.

While Trane has supported gbXML for several years, the adoption of gbXML by other leading HVAC manufacturers indicates that the industry is now standardizing on gbXML.

For more information, visit <http://www.GreenBuildingStudio.com>; <http://www.gbXML.org>. (This release was issued through Major Newswire (<http://www.majornewswire.com>)).



Residential Development to Play a Vital Role in Ongoing Neighborhood Evolution

Oakland, Calif. —B Temescal Place, Inc. developers of a new 25-unit Townhouse/Loft development in the historic Temescal District of Oakland, California, announced this month the details and opening of their new residential development.

Early in the design process we made a commitment to use as many green building concepts as possible.

—Roy Alper, Principal.

“Early in the design process we made a commitment to use as many green building concepts as possible,” added Roy Alper, Principal. “We have installed

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2004-2005 Committee Chairs

MEMBERSHIP

Ron Ronconi
(650) 967-6600
ron@casarch.com

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Jeff Cremona
(408) 328-4215
jeff.cremona@otis.com
Mike O'Donnell
(408) 988-4965
bossbid@aol.com

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

Hannah Moyer
(650) 298-8150
hmoyer@watrydesign.com

PROGRAMS

Krista Nelson
(408) 298-1885
krista@aba-arch.com
Hannah Moyer
(650) 298-8150
hmoyer@watrydesign.com

AIA LIAISON

Krista Nelson
(408) 298-1885
krista@aba-arch.com

ANNUAL ROSTER

Ron Adams
(408) 435-1313
ronadams@hillbrothers.com

EDITOR AWARDS/HISTORIAN

Julie Brown
(408) 778-0633
julie@jkbspecs.com

WEB MASTER

Robert Anderson
(808) 823-9353
Webmaster@csiscv.org

OPERATING/HOUSE

Harry Hedges
(408) 378-2762
hharki@aol.com
Mike O'Donnell
(408) 988-4965
bossbid@aol.com

TOYS-FOR-TOTS

Mike O'Donnell
(408) 988-4965
bossbid@aol.com
Ron Adams
(408) 435-1313
ronadams@hillbrothers.com

Jim Balboni
Project Executive
New Equipment
Western Region



Otis Elevator Company
470 Lakeside Drive, Suite D
Sunnyvale, California 94085
408-328-4211 Fax: 408-738-2655
OtisLine 24 Hours: 1-800-ADD-OTIS

Minutes of the Board Meeting

CSI, Santa Clara Valley Chapter
(Draft, Board Approval Pending)

PLACE: Ramada Inn, Sunnyvale

DATE: August 5, 2004

TIME: 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Hannah Moyer,
Krista Nelson, Dave Ingram,
Marvin Bamburg, Mike
O'Donnell, Jeff Cremona, Gus
Sharvey

1. Meeting was called to order by Dave Ingram.

2. Minutes from last meeting were accepted, with the following correction to Item 8.c.: "Dave stated that the Roster will be in 8 1/2 x 11 format."

- a. Treasurer's Report was distributed by Marvin.
- b. Dave was informed that signature sheets are now in place.
- c. The Treasurer's Report included this year's Chapter Budget.
- d. The Treasurer's Report was approved by the Board.

4. Regional Director's Report: Mike has Agenda for Regional Meeting in San Diego, in last week of September. A note will be put in the Newsletter.

5. President's Report: Dave noted that all programs are now in place, and thinks we will have a good year.

6. Unfinished Business: For Chapter Budget, see 2.c. above.

7. New Business: The Strategic

Planning date will be September 17, 2004, 4 - 7 PM. Place to be announced.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Golf Tournament Committee: Mike stated that the 2-people committee has met. No people signed up after distribution of the flyer. Product shows during Tournaments are free. Dave suggested holding seminars during product shows, and asked that the Golf Tournament be rescheduled.

b. Educational Seminar Committee: Hannah asked for subject suggestions for one _day seminar per year.

c. Marketing: Dave talked to Vendors, asks that target date be rescheduled after January 01, 2005. Date then to be put in the Newsletter.

d. Programs: Mike has speaker for next month. October speaker may be one from the National Convention. Mike also has a lead on a speaker for November. Robert Simmons may be March 05 speaker. Krista will call Prospects for January and February, 2005.

e. Certification: No report.

f. Editor/Publications: No report.

g. Website: Mike will discuss more use of website with Bob Anderson.

h. Operating/House: Mike discussed attendance and budget issues.

i. Membership: No report.

j. Awards: No report.

9. Announcements: Hannah said she enjoyed the CSI University. Krista stated that we should subsidize attendance. Dave handed out Chapter Reimbursement Guide.

10. Meeting was adjourned 6:01 PM.

SBIC Call for Entries

The Sustainable Buildings Industry Council is pleased to announce a new award category for this year's program: the Exemplary Sustainable Building Award. All building design professionals--including SBIC members and nonmembers--are eligible to participate in this category. This award recognizes institutional, residential, and government buildings that demonstrate the successful application of the whole building design approach. The traditional Best Sustainable Practice Awards category recognizes SBIC members who demonstrate excellence in a wide variety of areas, such as sustainable policy initiatives, sustainable design and construction process innovations, development of sustainable design curriculum, and sustainable product and

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SUMMARY

2004 WEST REGION CONFERENCE, SAN DIEGO

SEPT. 30 - OCT. 3

San Diego Chapter's 50th Anniversary

The San Diego Chapter will host this year's conference at the tropically plush Catamaran Resort Hotel on beautiful Mission Bay.

Products Show Booths and Table-tops Available – Space is Limited.

Contact Gina Adams at RCP Block & Brick for additional information: Phone 877.401.6733 or email gadams@rcpblock.com or visit the San Diego website at <http://www.sandiegocsi.org>.

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technology innovations. Only SBIC members are eligible to participate in this category. Visit http://www.sbicouncil.org/prog_bpawards.htm to learn more about the awards program. All entries must be received by SBIC by 8:00 PM EST, Tuesday, August 31, 2004.

Evolution *continued from Page 3*

Oakland's largest solar photo-voltaic electrical system, avoiding the use of vinyl or materials with formaldehyde, using energy efficient low-e plus windows and low VOC paints." Temescal Place, designed by Oakland firm Thomas Dolan Architecture and construction by Kimes Morris Construction, earned the support of area residents and merchants early in the process, who welcomed the new housing and the addition to the lively streetscape. "We are totally committed to customer service and satisfaction," said Ron Kriss, Principal. "Temescal Place is the first development in Oakland to offer *Life of the Home* service, a full 10-year inspection and maintenance program provided by Owens Corning HOMExperts." This semi-annual service is designed to keep each home and the entire building performing as it should for many years to come." The Grand Opening and Second Phase release will begin on June 12 and 13, 2004. Visit <http://www.temescalplace.com>.

Planning Calendar 2004 - 2005

Chapter Meetings

September 2 - Designing for the Severely Disabled

Oct. 7 - "Manufacturer's Reps--- What can they do for you?"

Nov. 4 - TBD

Dec. 2 - Holiday Party

Other Important Dates

September 29: Certification Exams (WE Region Conference, San Diego, CA)

October 27-29: 6th Annual Product Representative Academy; www.csinet.org/prainfo. Registration opens in July!

April 20-22, 2005: The 49th Annual CSI Show & Convention; www.theocsishow.com.

Visit our website at
www.csiscv.org or

The West Region's website at
www.westregioncsi.org



Dave Ingram, CSI

Architectural Services

Phone: 415-310-5896

Fax: 415-467-6727

dingram@frazee.com

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West Region Report



A Roundhouse for CSI

*By Ed Buch, CSI, CCS, AIA and
Paulette Salisbury, FCSI, CDT*

In the early part of the 20th century, railroad locomotives were routed by use of a roundhouse. I am intrigued by the concept of moving a huge powerful engine on a turntable and changing its direction in very limited space and seemingly little effort. The metaphor might be obvious to those readers who have been following my column for the past few months. CSI has used the roundhouse technique and turned its powerful engines in a new direction.

By focusing on Membership and Chapter Services, our organization is making the bold changes for which members have clamored. The new direction includes combining leadership development with the traditional industry CSI Show and Convention. Now members and potential members can make one trip and participate in professional development and leadership enhancement workshops and seminars at the same venue. The first opportunity to experience the combined dynamics will be in Chicago next spring. We anticipate the schedule to look like this: CSI Show and Expo April 20-22, CSI Convention will be April 20-23 and the Leadership Conference (CSI U) April 22-23, 2005. You can get more details at www.csinet.org.

This change in direction allows us to save money at every level of CSI by reducing the number of trips dedicated members make to participate in the various meetings and convocations. It also gives us more flexibility in keeping previous commitments to certain housing and destination contracts. And it offers more Chapter involvement in the hosting of future CSI events. So keep this in mind when planning for the future. The schedule is as follows: April 2006, CSI Show, Convention and Conference, Las Vegas, NV. Followed by CSI Show, Convention and Confer-

ence in June, 2007, location to be announced.

As you probably know by now, the Membership and Academic Affairs Committees at the Institute level have now been established with a grass-roots perspective. Each Region Chairman of these committees sits on the Institute Committee. This gives a more direct connection between the policy and implementation aspects of these vital growth committees. Bryan Varner and Matthew Boomhower have already begun charging up the Chapter chairs to advance their exciting plans for this year.

By the time you read this, Chapter budgets will have taken shape. I hope each Chapter will have designated funds to send as many active members to Region Conference and the leadership events in April as possible. These two events help shape and inspire the leaders of today and help to insure capable leaders at all levels of CSI for the future. Don't short change your Chapter by only sending one or two officers.

At this time of year, we are gearing up for the Region Board meeting at the Conference in San Diego. The Board will be tackling important issues related to governance, communications and finance. Be sure to have your voice heard by contacting your Chapter Region Director

West Region *cont'd on Page 8*

The Big Picture: MasterFormat and OCCS

This six-part series, which first appeared in 2001, looks at MasterFormat organization, OmniClass (then known as the Overall Construction Classification System, or OCCS), MasterFormat Level 4 identifiers, the need for unique section numbers and titles, expansion of MasterFormat, organizational systems for construction products and practices, and how MasterFormat might be used as a table in OmniClass.

Part 4

Let's step back for a moment and look at one of the big problems with any organizing system for construction products and services. It's something that is so common that we don't even see it, yet it is responsible for the difficulty we have in creating a consistent system.

In the world of biology, there are many illustrations that explain the relationships of animals and plants. Each of them looks like a tree, and each of them shows how any particular organism is related to others above, below, and next to it. For example, there is a large group called mammals, a subset of which is primates, a group that includes apes, and humans, and so on. (This isn't a scientific discussion, so don't write to explain the fine details!)

Regardless of where you look on the tree, it is easy to see how

organisms are related. This makes it easy to create a system that describes each organism's location and characteristics by a single name; this is a hierarchical system. The creators of MasterFormat produced a system that appears to be hierarchical, but is not.

If we consider windows as a group, it is easy to see that MasterFormat is not truly hierarchical. The next lower level suggests that four types of metal windows, wood windows, plastic windows, composite windows, and special function windows are equivalent subsets of windows. Clearly, steel, bronze, aluminum, and stainless steel windows should be subsets of metal windows. Furthermore, a group of windows defined by function cannot be equivalent to a group defined by material, as some items will appear in both groups.

Another example of the problem is the "composite window" - is it a wood window with an applied cladding material? Or is it a window formed of a composite material? Is a window with a wood interior and an aluminum exterior a subset of wood windows or of metal windows?

If construction products and procedures were truly hierarchical, creation of a consistent organization system would be trivial. It would be obvious that composite windows were a subset of windows in general, and that only one type of window fit that definition. The problem we face is that there is no obvious and per-

vasive hierarchy. Thus we have to deal with wood floors, which might be placed in Division 6 as wood products, or Division 9 as finish products. Or with Andersen Renewal windows, which might be wood products, wood windows, composite windows, or clad windows.

The bottom line is this: A construction classification system is not a true hierarchy, and inconsistencies within and between categories are inescapable. Someone will have to assign each item to a single group, even though it might logically be placed in any one of several groups. Since that is the case, it would make sense for any new system to be compatible with successful existing systems as much as possible. At the same time, a new system should address shortcomings of existing systems, so some change is to be expected.

Visit the CSI website at www.CSINet.org/ for the latest information on MasterFormat, and www.OCCSNet.org/ for the latest on OCCS.

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SUMMARY

West Region *cont'd from Page 6*

with your ideas. This group of dedicated members has several new faces this year. We want to welcome each of the new folks and acknowledge those who continue to serve our organization. You can view the list of Region leaders in a printable directory on our Region website.

The Conference is the premier event for the West Region. Our Annual Meeting for Members is held at this conference as well as the board meeting, trade show and networking opportunities. There is no excuse to miss this event if you are or hope to be an active member of CSI.

Our Institute President, Gary Betts, FCSI, CCS, AIA will be joining us and will make remarks about the future of CSI. Also on hand to give a Membership Keynote address will be Executive Director, Karl Borgstrom. If you haven't met these two dynamic men, take this opportunity to get to know them. They are sure to be impressed by the dedication and energy of CSI members in the West!

We will soon unveil the new West Region Website at the same old address, www.westregioncsi.org. With the support of Tectonic Network, we have a more useful and colorful tool for sharing information and inviting new members to CSI in the West. Check it out! You will also be able to submit articles, photos and items for the events calendar so each of your Chapter events

will get wider publicity. Let's not keep CSI the best-kept secret in the Construction Industry!

Are you using the CSI Directory online? It's easy to use and can give you the names and data on every member in the available data base. You can also search to find Chapter officers and committee chairs. What a handy tool. Be sure to check it out. The printed directory that we all use so often will be made available on-demand in the fall. There will be a return-request notice available soon.

I am excited to announce that the West Region will be able to offer to its members a printed Construction Services and Products Directory this fall. Published in conjunction with McGraw Hill, the Region will make available a comprehensive magazine-style directory of ALL CSI members in the Region. You will be asked what Division your product or service best fits for a listing in the appropriate section. There will also be an alphabetical listing as well as advertising of leading products and services. We anticipate a vigorous response to requests for ad space in this premier edition. The Northwest Region has successfully published a similar document for years and has found it an invaluable tool for connecting design professionals and product reps throughout the entire Region. We will, too!

So now you see how we have redirected our engines in the CSI Roundhouse. It's time to get

back on board and become more active in your Chapter and Region. This train is going places!

WORDS YOU MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN

By Julie K. Brown

pinnate (*PIN-ayt*),
adjective.

1. Resembling a feather, having similar parts arranged on opposite sides of a common axis.

lability (*luh-BIL-i-tee*), noun.

1. Susceptibility to change, lapse, error or instability.

potvaliant (*POT-val-iant*),
adjective, also pot-valiant.

1. Showing courage under the influence of drink.
2. Such courage is also known as Dutch courage.

excerebrose (*eks-SER-ee-bros*),
adjective.

1. Brainless.

blunderbuss (*BLUN-duhr-bus*),
noun.

1. A short, wide-mouthed gun used to scatter shots at close range.
2. A clumsy, blundering person.
As an adjective.
1. Clumsy, blundering.