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Communications Update

Check out our LinkedIn:
https://www.linkedin.com/company/construction-specifications-institute-grand-rapids-chapter/

Check out our Twitter:
https://twitter.com/CSI_GR

Check out our web site:
https://www.csiresources.org/csigrandrapids/home

CONSTRUCT
Knowledge Today. Innovation Tomorrow.

EDUCATION: OCT. 3-5 | EXHIBITS: OCT. 4-5
LONG BEACH, CA, USA

The three-day conference and expo provides AEC professionals with real-world, practical knowledge for improved building success. CONSTRUCT offers a variety of different solutions-driven learning opportunities for you to stay up-to-date on the latest trends, work smarter, boost your career, and earn continuing education credits.

Join industry leaders including Construction Specifiers, Architects, Designers, Engineers, Project Managers, Contractors, Construction Managers, Estimators, and Manufacturers for CONSTRUCT 2018 in Long Beach, CA.

CONSTRUCT is the national show dedicated to bringing together all disciplines in the AEC industry.


Contact Charlie Appleby for more information or to volunteer to help organize, set-up or sponsor!
applebycharlie@mwacrs.com
616-291-3087
President’s Message

It has been a great start to the FY2019. The Region Chapter Challenge is in full swing and our membership committee has been hard at work garnering new members. If you are interested in becoming a member, or know of someone who is, please contact Brendon Hartwick: hartwickb@progressiveae.com, for more information.

We, as a chapter, are now beginning to truly get involved in the social media trends. Our chapter now has a LinkedIn page (construction specifications institute grand rapids chapter) and Twitter page (CSI_GR). Take a look, as we will have upcoming announcements on each one. We are also updating our chapter webpage.

Our Expo Committee (Charlie Appleby and Gregg Jones) is working hard to nail down the venue and dates for next spring. The booths will fill quickly, so as soon as the information becomes available, contact Charlie or Gregg to get your booth reserved! Please contact Charlie Appleby: ApplebyCharlie@mwacrs.com or Gregg Jones: gregg.jones@c2ae.com if interested.

Our September meeting was one of the largest attended meeting that we have had in a long time. We entertained 10 guests as well as 21 Chapter Members. Our Programs Chair, Elise Love, is setting up some very interesting chapter meetings for the upcoming year. Come join us.

As I write this, there are 5 Grand Rapids Chapter members preparing to attend Construction 2018, the National CSI Conference, in Long Beach, California. An entire week dedicated to education and learning. Plan on a report in next month’s president message.

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Grand Rapids CSI Chapter President FY19

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Em: hojo-1@sbcglobal.net
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Progressive AE
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Technical Chair, Certification Chair
Advertising Chair

Grand Rapids Board of Directors, FY 2018

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Certification Liaison

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Awards Chair
Nominating/ Certification Committee

www.csigrandrapids.org
Universal Design in the Built Environment
The story of the Mary Free Bed YMCA

This presentation will help the audience understand the concept of Universal Design and how specific strategies were applied to the 36-acre campus of the Mary Free Bed YMCA.

This project is the first facility in the world to be certified by the Global Universal Design Commission.

Speaker background:
Michael is Progressive AE’s Executive Vice President and is licensed as an Architect in 18 states. As a practicing Principal, he oversees selected projects and is also responsible for quality and contract negotiations within the firm. He has developed an expertise in the field of Universal Design and its application to projects that have been designed and constructed.

Mike serves on the Board of Directors of the Global Universal Design Commission and he frequently writes and presents on the topic of Universal Design in the built environment on a national and international basis. He has a passion around projects that involve family fitness, competitive swimming, adaptive sports programs and best practices in accessibility. He has helped public and private organizations understand the concept of Universal Design and how it can help in the success of their project goals.
New CSI Member: Metal Tech

MEET ZACH LEWIS

Zach draws experience from his Undergraduate Architectural Degree from Lawrence Tech University. He functions in multiple capacities within Metal Tech, including Project Manager, Estimator, and as an Account Manager for the facilities management component of the company.

(616) 633-7676 cell zach@metaltechbuildings.com (616) 389-8821 direct

Metal Tech Building Specialists is a full service general contractor that specializes in renovation and repair of commercial buildings. Based out of Grand Rapids Michigan, Metal Tech provides complete construction services ranging from metal building repair to large scale commercial building projects in both West Michigan and across the United States. Locally, Metal Tech also functions as an exterior cladding sub-contractor with experience in the installation of aluminum composite material (ACM), insulated metal panels (IMP), fiber cement panels, corrugated metal, concealed fastener systems, and composite wood rain screen systems. Some recent local projects include 20 Fulton East, Diamond Place, and Embassy Suites Hotel on Monroe Ave.

New CSI Member: Verso Agency

MEET BEN BUTER

Ben has been in the construction industry for over 18 years, starting in the field as a laborer and progressively growing his knowledge and skillset through various positions. 2018 has been a big year for Ben, a business that started as an idea has finally grown into fruition. Verso Agency is an independent sales firm providing representative solutions to manufacturers, and buying solutions to businesses and contractors.

Verso currently represents both a living wall manufacturer and washroom products manufacturer, and with over 50 distributorships, he works closely with construction managers on the front-end of projects to establish buying programs that identify early cost-savings, streamline the procurement process, and create value-add project solutions.

Through both Ben’s work & family, his focus is always on building & maintaining relationships. Outside of the office Ben is a part of the scouting board, is the Director of Cub Scout Troop 3342, coaches middle school golf and serves on the CSI Membership Committee.

(616) 446-5472  BBUTER@VERSOAGENCY.COM  www.versoagency.com

www.csigrandrapids.org
**Chapter Member Anniversaries (October)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Joined</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Klepper</td>
<td>Glen-Gery Corporation</td>
<td>10-01-1984</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Murphy</td>
<td>Progressive AE</td>
<td>10-17-1997</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Kuhlman</td>
<td>Benchmark by Kingspan</td>
<td>10-07-2014</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Dawn Cenoa</td>
<td>Sherwin Williams</td>
<td>10-03-2017</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Hixon</td>
<td>Tremco</td>
<td>10-24-2017</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Thiebout</td>
<td>SME-USA</td>
<td>10-23-2017</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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**OUR MISSION**

TO ADVANCE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION AND EDUCATE BUILDING TEAMS TO IMPROVE PROJECT PERFORMANCE IN WEST

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**MasterFormat Application Guide**

**Gary Beimers FCSI, CDT, SCIP**

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**SPEC THAT!**

34 11 23 – Special Trackwork

**MICHIGAN BY THE NUMBERS**

11 12 26 – Parking Fee Collection Equipment

**X plus Y equals?**

11 66 13 – Exercise Equipment meets 32 33 43.13 - Site Seating

**10 14 00 Signage**

**SAY WHAT ?????**

33 96 43 – Tree Transplanting

**MasterFormat REMEMBER WHEN!**

**SAFETY FIRST ?????**
We Saw You: September 2018
by Jim Hojnacki, CCS (retired), Member Emeritus

Practical, Code-Compliant Detailing for Mid-Rise Wood Structures
Presenter: Archie Landreman, NorthCentral Regional Director, WoodWorks! - Wood Products Council

Designing a wood building? Ask us anything.

WoodWorks - Wood Products Council provides free project support as well as education and resources related to the code-compliant design of commercial and multi-family wood buildings.

- Allowable heights and areas/construction types
- Structural detailing of wood-frame and hybrid material systems
- Fire resistance and acoustical-rated assemblies
- Efficient and code-compliant lateral system design
- Alternate means of code compliance
- Energy-efficient detailing
- Application of advanced building systems and technologies

WoodWorks field teams have expertise in a wide range of building types, including multi-family/mixed-use, educational, office, commercial low-rise, industrial, civic/recreational, institutional/healthcare and government. Our objective is to make it easier to design, engineer and construct wood buildings at less cost.

Upcoming programs:

Christmas Fowling
2019: Panel Discussion
2019: Family Night Outing
2019: CSI Jeopardy Night
June 2019: 34th Annual James Hojnacki Scholarship Golf Outing

CSI program beverage sponsors:
Thank you to our current and future sponsors!
We’re always looking for sponsors and ways to thank them.

Maybe you would like to pair up with a program that is similar to your company’s mission?

Contact Elise Love, J Costen or Charlie Appleby for information.
GET READY FOR THE EXPO – SPRING 2019

We have made the decision to move the West Michigan Design and Construction Expo to spring of 2019 late March, date to be determined. We thank the folks at Builders Exchange for all their hard work in the past several years for partnering with CSI Grand Rapids.

CSI will be forging ahead on our own with the show in the future. Again, thanks to Elizabeth and the GRBX Team for their contribution to the success of this important event. Going forward we will need to recruit volunteers at many levels. I would like to ask any product representatives that have an interest in making this show a success to reach out to me or any board member. Join the Expo team for fun and networking.

EXHIBITOR BOOTH SALES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE 2019 WEST MICHIGAN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION EXPO

Get registered early to get the discount rate and prime spots. This is the only design construction expo opportunity in West Michigan. We have been averaging about 500 attendees – architects, engineers, specifiers, contractors, facility managers, manufacturers, and product representatives from the West Michigan area.

If you are an architect, engineer, specifier, contractor, or facility manager encourage the manufacturers and product representatives who visit you to get a booth.

If you are a manufacturer or product representative encourage those architects, engineers, specifiers, contractors, and facility managers to be sure to visit you at your booth at the expo.

GET YOUR BOOTH TODAY!
One of the presentations at the 2017 convention in Providence was a panel discussion titled *Hot Topics and Emerging Trends*, which included comments about the decline in the quality of construction documents. I found this to be an interesting subject, as I had seen many attacks on document quality over the years. Not only that, but I had made presentations on the subject.

In 1997, Michael Chambers and I presented “Document Coordination” for the Minnesota chapter of AIA. We discussed the roles of drawings and specifications, document quality, coordination techniques, short-form specifications, and MasterFormat 1995. Our handout included reprints of several articles about document quality; some, with scary titles, tried to prove that construction documents were atrocious and getting worse, while others how quality depended on coordination of construction documents.*

The frequency of problems in construction documents makes it easy to accept claims that they are getting worse. In 1997 I believed those claims, but I now believe the opposite. I would argue that overall, construction documents are better than ever before.

Since the presentation Michael and I made in 1997, I have continued to collect articles about the quality of construction documents. Most of the articles address current document quality, but a few discuss a change in quality. The main difference is, while the first group of articles describe specific problems, the articles that talk about changes of quality lack specificity. Rather than explain how documents have changed, they rely vague expressions of individual perception.

For example, the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) has published several annual reports, often in conjunction with the Facility Management Institute (FMI). These reports frequently refer to a decline in the quality of documents, with conclusions based on comments obtained by surveying facility owners, but they do not include supporting information. I have seen thirteen of these reports, going back to 2000.

The reports consistently claim that quality of construction is a major concern, and sometimes say there has been a decline in the quality of documents. The 2003 survey report was the first to assert that “there is a general decline in document quality,” along with declining skill levels. There is no support for the claim, but the report does include an interesting exploration of reasons for that decline.

The 2004 survey asked, “Have you experienced a decline in the quality of design documents?” More than 70% of responders said yes. Even so, it’s worth noting that about 30% said documents at the beginning of construction were adequate or excellent.

From then until the 2010 survey, survey reports mentioned document quality only tangentially, noting that quality is always a concern, but making no specific reference to a change in quality.
The 2010 report states about 30% of owners report that the quality of design documents worsened in the previous two years. That sounds bad, but the graph provides additional information.

Even though about 30% of owners said document quality had declined, more than 35% said there had been no change in quality, and 25% said they were better!

While we should know of problems with construction documents, cherry-picking statistics is unnecessary and unjustified.

The most recent CMAA report, published in 2015, states, “as major challenges, the poor quality of documents tops the list.” It goes on to say, “This finding is consistent with … the 2010 study, i.e., 34 percent said the quality of design documents had declined … and 33 percent made the same claim about construction documents. … as long ago as [2005] more than 70 percent of respondents had cited a decline in the quality of design documents.” Again, the report uses only some of the information; it uses its own reports as sources but adds nothing new. The only other reference to document quality appears in a graph that shows poor document quality is an urgent challenge for owners.

One of the articles Michael Chambers and I used as a handout, “Contractor Survey Finds That Specs Don’t Measure Up,” was based on a survey conducted by Engineering News Record (ENR) and the School of Building Construction at the University of Florida.

ENR sent surveys to 500 contractors and received responses from 120 of them. Asked about the quality of specifications, 37% were rated good, 35% were rated fair, and 17% were rated poor. Compared to drawings, 85% of respondents said specifications were “sometimes or even more often” of lower quality. They reported that more than 84% of specifications “sometimes, often or generally have major omissions.” Contractors complained that specifications are boilerplate and contained irrelevant information. As was the case with the CMAA reports, the ENR survey summary expressed only subjective opinions.

How can this be?

In 1997, I accepted both claims about construction documents - that they had many problems and that they were getting worse. I had seen enough of them to know that defects were common, and because all I had heard about the change in quality was negative, I believed what I had read. In the time since then, I have noticed that every few years, the decline in construction document quality again becomes a popular topic. But, if document quality was declining twenty years ago, and has continued to decline since then, how is it that we can build facilities today that are more complex than they were in the ‘90s?

In a sense, this is the opposite of what we often seen in advertising. Every time a product is changed - and, I suspect, sometimes when it hasn’t changed - it is promoted as “New! Improved!” If laundry detergent, for example, has been improved many times since it was introduced, it should be perfect by now, but it’s not. And chances are, within the next year or two we’ll see more “improved” versions of many common products.

I contend that the quality of construction documents not only is not declining, but is, in fact, improving. Some of the improvement can be attributed to our tools. As software evolves, it makes it easier to avoid many types of mistakes. Both graphic and text processing programs now incorporate features that eliminate some problems, reduce the frequency of others, and help the user make correct choices. Also, the basic data used by computers has improved by becoming more standardized, and by being continually revised to incorporate real-world information. Many design firms have libraries of proven details and specifications that can be used as-is in many cases, and that can be easily modified to meet project-specific requirements. Building models now can incorporate complete, actual dimensions of structural elements, mechanical systems, and many products, allowing generation of more accurate dimensions, and software can analyze models to find conflicts.
I’m not saying documents are perfect. I continue to see mistakes in both drawings and specifications, and it’s likely they will never be eliminated. There will always be new employees who need to learn the correct way of creating drawings and specifications, there will always be new contractors and subcontractors who must learn how to use construction documents, and there will always be new products and processes that will challenge designer and contractor alike.

I see the problem as one of perception. Assume a typical project has 10,000 items. If 100 of them present problems, it’s likely that the 9,900 - or 99% - that were not a problem will be forgotten, and the one percent that didn’t work will be the ones that are remembered.

A word about boilerplate

As noted above, contractors and suppliers frequently complain about text that is repeated many times with little or no change. What they don't seem to understand is that some requirements do not change much from one project to another. Specifications aren't prose; they're documents that define products and processes used in construction. If a given window is used in two projects the specifications may well be identical because that particular window is required in both projects. Similarly, the general conditions may be identical in multiple projects, and even the supplementary conditions may vary only slightly from one to another.

Boilerplate isn't bad; it's necessary. However, the amount of boilerplate can be minimized by proper use of Division 01 and industry standards, and by elimination of redundancies and nonessential text.

What have you seen? Are contract documents getting worse? If you think so, please post a comment on my blog to explain why, and provide evidence!


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Agree? Disagree? Leave your comments at: