

Phoenix Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute

# Cactus Comments

## PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Publication deadline for the March 2010 issue of the Phoenix Chapter Newsletter is February 23, 2010.

Articles and items of interest should be submitted to Darlene Moore at [dabmo@hotmail.com](mailto:dabmo@hotmail.com) or Alex Devereux at [adevereux@itt-tech.edu](mailto:adevereux@itt-tech.edu).

We welcome member articles and ideas/suggestions.

CSI PHOENIX NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

## CHAPTER NEWS



**Knowledge for Creating & Sustaining the Built Environment**  
CSINet - Home of The Construction Specifications Institute

### Monthly Chapter Meeting

The February Chapter Meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 11, 2010**. Check-in and Networking begins at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and Program will begin at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the **Radisson Hotel Phoenix City Center, 3600 N. 2nd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85013 (602-604-4900)**. **For reservations, call 602-258-7499 by February 9th at noon.** Cost is \$25.00 for non-members (cash or check only), free to CSI members and counts as one (1) AIA LU credit. This month's program is **"Top 10**

**Construction Fraud Schemes"**. Guest speaker is **Bradley J. Preber, CPA, CFF, CFE**.

### Monthly Technical Meeting

If you would like to join the CSI Technical Committee, the next meeting is Tuesday, February 9, 2010 from Noon until 1:00 p.m. (bring your own lunch), at **HDR, Inc., 3200 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 250, Phoenix, AZ 85018; 602-522-7700**. The topic of discussion is the Building Envelope.

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## DO YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING PRODUCT WORTHY OF A DESIGN COMPETITION?

The CSI Phoenix Chapter is seeking a Featured Product Sponsor for the 2010 Imagination Cube Design Competition.

For additional details, please contact CSI Phoenix Chapter I-Cube Chairman, **Tim Garver, CDT, CSI, LEED AP; 602.714.7280** or [tim.garver@dunnedwards.com](mailto:tim.garver@dunnedwards.com) or **Mark Roddy, AIA at SmithGroup; 602.265.2200**.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**By President, Jay Norton**

• Gung Hai Fat Choi, HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR, which is February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day and also the 98<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Arizona becoming a State! It is the Year of the Tiger (wasn't that last year?). Oh well, anyway it is the year in which such famous people as Sun Yat Sen, Queen Elizabeth II, Emily Dickinson, Isadora Duncan, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Marilyn Monroe, Marco Polo, Beatrix Potter, Karl Marx, Ludwig van Beethoven were born. Modern birth years for the Year of the Tiger are 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 (I don't think we have anyone older than someone born in 1938 as the next Year of the Tiger is 1926). If you were born in this year you have the following characteristics (according to the Chinese):

- Short-tempered
- Suspicious
- Adventurous
- Sensitive
- Emotional
- Risk-taking

You are Compatible With:  
Horses, Dogs  
You should Avoid:  
Monkeys  
Good Career Choices are:  
Boss  
Explorer  
Race-car driver

Oh Boy, and if you really believe all this stuff I'll sell you some waterfront property outside Kingman, Arizona.

Enough nonsense, what I'd really like to do is congratulate and profusely thank our CSI judges at the Future City Competition: Bruce Dimmig and his fiancé Angela, Pamela Bir, Lee and Manny Orosco. They did a marvelous job and I think you will be very impressed when you see the winning team from Villa de Paz school present at our monthly meeting. We're still coordinating with the school but it will either be at our Feb 11<sup>th</sup> or our March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

CSI Phoenix has officially joined The President's Group here in Arizona. This group, all members of which are associated with either the Design Profession or the Construction Industry, is dedicated to coordinating with each other to provide the best possible product (buildings) at the end of the line. This group will also help those searching for employment in finding available jobs. As this cooperative effort matures we will be passing information on to you, our CSI members.

One event that I hope all members will become involved in is ECO Month, March 2010. American Institute of Architects, Arizona is heading this endeavor and whether you are an Architect or a Product Representative it will be beneficial for you to take part in this event. If you are a Product Rep please contact Tim Garver, Dunn-Edwards Paints and he will fill you in on how you can become involved. Architects, please contact AIA Arizona, Tina or you may contact me. There are some great events planned to inform the public on everything from environmental concerns to sustainability.

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"... CSI Phoenix has officially joined The President's Group here in Arizona. ..."

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT'D)

*(Continued from page 2)*

Finally I'd like to put a plug in for our annual CSI Golf Tournament, the proceeds of which go towards our Scholarship Fund. Dave Spice is once again heading this effort and is looking for sponsors. Please contact him at DAS Products, 480-838-0821 or [dspice@dasproducts.com](mailto:dspice@dasproducts.com). Our Scholarship Fund, managed by the Ken Lockhart Foundation is one of our most worthy efforts and I urge each of you to support it. Especially in tough economic times such as these it is important to be a sponsor or donor. And if your company can't do that, at least sign up to play a round of golf and bring a client.

See you at our luncheon meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Jay Norton  
CSI Phoenix  
President 2009-2010

**About the President:** Jay Norton, Associate AIA, CSI CDT, SAME, LEED-AP recently retired as the Specifier for HDR Architecture here in Phoenix. Previously he held similar positions at Architectural Resource Team and BPLW Architects & Engineers (now WH Pacific). Jay previously spent 21 years in the United States Air Force and is a Retired Lt Colonel and Command Pilot with over 5,000 flying hours in a variety of aircraft including the A-26 CounterInvader and the A-10 Thunderbolt II. Jay holds Bachelor of Design and a Master of Architecture degrees from ASU and is a Desert Botanical Garden Certified Desert Landscaper. He is currently pursuing becoming an Arizona Master Watershed Steward. Jay has been a Professional member of CSI since 1989 and though retired, his interest in CSI has not diminished. You may e-mail Jay at [nimrodj@cox.net](mailto:nimrodj@cox.net).

### Chapter Meeting Topic Synopsis

In President Barack Obama's stimulus package, there are billions of dollars earmarked for construction and infrastructure projects. As with any major spending plan, the potential for fraud is real and can be significant. The construction industry has been hit hard by the recession, and pressure to overcharge and/or commit fraud is growing stronger. The one-time nature of construction projects and the need to engage in multiple third-party contracting relationships provide fertile ground for fraud to occur and, oftentimes, to go undetected. In this session, the top 10 schemes will be identified and we will discuss how to discover them. Also covered will be ways to prevent, or detect and stop, construction fraud.

## SPEAKER BIOS

### Bradley J. Preber, CPA, CFF, CFE



**Managing Partner, Phoenix & Albuquerque  
National Practice Leader, Litigation services  
West Region Practice Leader, Forensics, investigations & litigation**

Brad is the Managing Partner of the Phoenix and Albuquerque offices of Grant Thornton LLP and is a partner in the Advisory Services practice in Phoenix. In addition, he is the National Practice Leader of litigation services and the West Region Leader of forensics, investigations and litigation services. Brad has over twenty-five years of accounting industry experience serving as a **litigation consultant, expert witness, forensic accountant and fraud investigator**. He specializes in complex claims and events, with a particular emphasis on class actions, commercial disputes, professional malpractice and fraud claims.

#### Experience

Brad served as the damages expert in several landmark cases and he has instructed National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) programs. He frequently speaks, writes and teaches on leadership, accounting and fraud matters.

#### Industry experience

- ⇒ Accounting and auditing
- ⇒ Federal, State, Tribal and Local governments
- ⇒ Government contracting
- ⇒ Real estate development, general and heavy highway contracting and homebuilding
- ⇒ Manufacturing

#### Professional affiliations

- ⇒ **Certified Public Accountant** (Arizona, New Mexico and Texas), **Certified in Financial Forensics**, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants
- ⇒ **Certified Fraud Examiner**, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, National and Arizona Chapters

#### Community involvement

Brad is active in many professional, civic and community groups, including the Arizona State University, W.P. Carey School of Business Accountancy Professional Advisory Council

#### Education

BBA, Accounting (with honors), University of New Mexico

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## LIGHT-COLORED TPO AND CONDENSATION

**Thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) roofs** have gained popularity since they appeared in the 1990s, particularly after early problems with seam failures were addressed by the industry. The material is thermoplastic; heat is used to form 'welded' seams in the field. (With thermoset materials such as ethylene propylene diene monomer [EPDM], adhesives are employed to bond roofing materials in the field.) TPO roofs are reinforced single-ply membranes composed of polypropylene and ethylene-propylene. Similar to other single-ply membranes, they can be mechanically attached with screw-type fasteners or installed fully adhered.

These roofs are marketed as durable (resistant to tears, punctures, and algae and mold growth), quickly installed, available in wide widths that limit the number of seams and reduce installation labor, and easily repaired with proper surface preparation after exposure. ASTM D 6878-08e1, *Specification for Thermoplastic Polyolefin-based Sheet Roofing*, outlines physical properties and minimum performance requirements for TPO roofing as a guideline for manufacturers.

TPO roof membranes are primarily fabricated in light colors (e.g. white, tan, and gray). While originally marketed in the south, the use of white TPO membrane has experienced a marked increase in northern climates due to its high reflectivity characteristics that have directly contributed to improved energy performance and reduced cooling costs. Consequently, these roof systems are a popular green alternative to traditional roofing systems. However, a unique moisture problem resulting in the

formation of condensation at the underside of the roof has been noted in some white TPO roof installations on large warehouse facilities in northern climates.

This phenomenon appears to be largely related to the use of mechanically fastened, white-colored membrane assemblies supported by metal decks, where a single insulation board is present and an effective air/vapor barrier is absent. Although single-ply roof assemblies with darker membranes have a history of performing well in northern climates, the introduction of white membranes in these assemblies appears to be the primary factor related to condensation forming below the roofing membrane.

One theory is moisture within the building migrates to the membrane's underside, which can be significantly colder compared to darker membranes that absorb heat from solar radiation. This is particularly true in winter when the membrane's temperature can approach that of the surface air.

Interior moisture condenses on contact with the membrane when the material's temperature is below the dewpoint of the interior space. If the temperature of the membrane is cold enough, condensation can accumulate on the membrane's interior surface as ice, returning to liquid form when the membrane temperature rises.

Mechanically fastened membrane systems appear to be more susceptible to condensation issues as they can flutter between fasteners under wind, potentially resulting in a greater migration of moisture

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## LIGHT-COLORED TPO AND CONDENSATION (CONT'D)

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within the assembly compared to fully adhered systems.

Designers should be cognizant of the issues concerning the use of light-colored roof membranes in cold climates, and understand the importance of incorporating effective thermal, air, and vapor barriers within these systems.

*Deborah Slaton is an architectural conservator and principal with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE) in Northbrook,*

*Illinois, specializing in historic preservation and materials conservation. She can be reached at [dslaton@wje.com](mailto:dslaton@wje.com).*

*David S. Patterson, AIA, is an architect and senior principal with WJE's office in Princeton, New Jersey. He specializes in investigation and repair of the building envelope. Patterson can be reached at [dpatterson@wje.com](mailto:dpatterson@wje.com).*

*Joseph Godfryt, AIA, and Richard Koziol, AIA, of WJE contributed to this article.*

## AIA ARIZONA COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (C.O.T.E.) AND ECOMONTH

ECOMONTH lectures and events exist during the month of March to educate the public of Arizona on the importance of the environmental conservation and architecture's role in the process. The lectures and events are held throughout the State of Arizona and are free to the public.

Details are still being worked out; however, here's what's available. To stay current, visit the AIA AZ web site at <http://aia-arizona.org/>.

**Homes** - Lecture and event on Saturday, March 6 at 1:00 pm; location to be determined

**Work** - Lecture and event on Friday, March 12 at 12:00 noon; location to be determined

**Shop** - Lecture and event on Saturday, March 20 at 11:00 am; location to be determined

**Learn** - Lecture and event on Friday, March 26; location and time to be determined

### What is C.O.T.E. ?



The Committee on the Environment (COTE) works to advance, disseminate, and advocate—to the profession, the building industry, the academy, and the public—

design practices that integrate built and natural systems and enhance both the design quality and environmental performance of the built environment. COTE serves as the community and voice on behalf of AIA architects regarding sustainable design and building science and performance.

COTE reflects the profession's commitment to provide healthy and safe environments for people and is dedicated to preserving the earth's capability of sustaining a shared high quality of life. The committee's mission is to lead and coordinate the profession's involvement in environmental and energy-related issues and to promote the role of the architect as a leader in preserving and protecting the planet and its living systems.

COTE provides the AIA with knowledge about environmental issues and advises the Institute on environmental policy matters affecting the practice of architecture. The committee supports cooperation with educators and institutions of learning, manufacturers, government agencies, environmental organizations, and industry groups in advancing environmentally sound design processes and standards as well as environmentally innovative materials and integrated systems.

# SHOW ME YOURS AND I'LL SHOW YOU MINE!

by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI, CDT



Wouldn't it be interesting if, instead of a specification competition, we had a "specification comparison"? Something a little lighter, for a change, but still productive and interesting!

I think this would really be both helpful and educational for all, since we all do not write our specs in exactly the same way. This is due in part to the requirements of our clients [public versus private versus governmental, etc.]. In addition, much of it has to do with our philosophy, our direction and our opinions.

Also, we need to understand that relatively few of us ever are sued [is that a mark of success?] and when so engaged, it is usually over some non-technical wording [attorneys love to twist words, meanings and intentions to their clients benefit, which makes suits unfair challenges to us, being basically non-legal as we are]. Failure, for whatever reason, usually is not related to bad selections and directions, but toward improper installation, or manufacturing shortcomings.

From various discussions, we can see that there are mind boggling, vast and diverse arrays of resources and reference material that any one of us has at our disposal and in which we have confidence. Recent example-- Did you ever hear of, or see SDI 127J-04 in their Technical Data Series Industry Alert? Whoa!!! Here is really deep and interesting "stuff" not all that obvious or apparent except to the deep and highly dedicated researcher. Most of us tend to run the hell out of "Search" in an effort to pick up any tid-bit that is appropriate or useful to our cause, circumstance or problem.

For all its good directions, programs and intentions, we all have not been corralled into "doing it the CSI way"-- in general principles perhaps, but not in all detail. We don't use the same fonts; we don't use the same wording; we don't express our requirements in precisely the same manner [nor do we need to]; we tend to re-use products that have been successful for us in the past, but which are not universal with us all; our products are about as individual as our fingerprints, or the proverbial dissimilar snowflakes! It would just be interesting to see how we formulate, compile and present our specs [as opposed to just how we do-- or should—write them].

It would be neat [they still say that?] to see what others do-- don't you think? Or don't you give a whip-stitch about this? Maybe it's just me, but I like to see, glean, crib and steal what others do that makes me and my work better. I have some "heroes" and "heroines" in this business [NO list will ever be released!!!] and have come to admire [and often am amazed] what others do. Granted our practice is different from many, but then isn't your practice different too?

I think a display along with a forum for a nice, civil, non-opinioned, non-judgmental, non-pompous comparison of products [with some quiet discussion] could be beneficial and profitable to many of us. I do realize some have reached their optimized plateau and care to go no place else, but some of us, I think, always like to peek over the fence to see what's going on elsewhere in our world. Well, just a thought--

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more than likely will never occur.....but, then, who knows?

Hey! Wait! I think we can pull this off! I don't perceive that we are so parochial or closeted or secretive to not allow others to see our work. Our discussions and sharing show we are open; we love to learn new things; and we are willing—always—to chip in and help others. OK! Just say where and when!

How about a tabletop display at the 2010 SHOW?; examples from various offices for viewing; only to see what others do! Might learn something [know I will]. No critiques involved, as we are not in competition to see who is closest to CSI criteria; looking at other aspects of work-- appearance, fonts, formatting, colors, styles, information, presentation techniques, etc. other than technical content!

Why not? I bet there'll be some real doozies, innovations and great insight! See you and your example there!

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*Ralph W. Liebing, RA, CSI, CDT, is Senior Architect--Specifications with HIXON Architects, Engineers, Interiors, in Cincinnati OH. He may be reached at [rliebing@hixon-inc.com]*

## In these economic times CSI is still the answer- Inland Empire CSI is #147 West Region CSI.

Riverside CA – The birth of a new CSI chapter – Inland Empire CSI (#147), drew a full house of 88 members and well wishers to celebrate the inaugural dinner meeting to Riverside CA. on January 14, 2010. The new chapter boasts 13 Professionals and 9 Industry members. Most of them work in the Bakersfield-Ontario-Rancho Cucamonga area. It is located East of Los Angeles in Southern California.



The evening began with a social hour. Members of Southern California's Producers Council came out in force with 24 table-tops. There were 5 architects/project managers who came to Riverside from the high desert (Victorville), and several more drove up from Murietta. All major architectural firms in the area were represented at the event as well as representatives from the four neighboring CSI chapters - Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego and Fresno.

Greg McAloney, CSI, presented a \$1,000 check to the new chapter as seed money on behalf of Producers Council of Southern California. Two of the area's largest architectural firms offered their facilities for future chapter meetings.

Inland Counties AIA was represented by Executive Director Florence Hagstrom, President James Horecka, AIA, and President-elect Dennis Tanida, AIA. Plans are in the works for some joint events in the future.

CSI Secretary Sheryl Dodd-Hansen, FCSI, presented the chapter charter to new Chapter President John Melcher (P). CSI Director, Duane Johnson, FCSI, and West Region Director Dave Willis, CSI

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were also present.

The new chapter board members include: Vice President - Earnest Lauria, CSI (I); Secretary - Kay Melcher, CSI (P); Treasurer – Donald Zanzosso, CSI (P); Directors – Joe Salazar, CSI (P), Kathie Fountain, CSI (I), and Charles DiGangi CSI, (P). Chapter Advisors – Janet Piccola, FCSI (I) and Valerie Harris, FCSI (I). Chapter Chairpersons include: Membership – Jennie Guida, CSI (I); Programs – Janet Piccola, FCSI (I); Certification- Education-Technical – Kay Melcher, CSI (P).

Efforts to organize a chapter in this area began during the presidency of Robert Molseed, FCSI, who made an analysis of the US Census to pinpointed this area ripe for a new chapter in 1992. It finally came to fruition when members within the area decided it was time for a home chapter. This new chapter has the enthusiastic support of nearby Southern California chapters like Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego and Fresno.

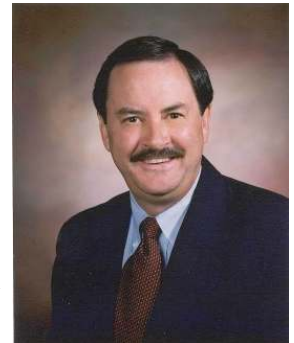
Congratulatory messages to the new chapter may be sent to Chapter Secretary Kay Melcher, CSI, CCS, LEED AP – [kay.melcher@stvinc.com](mailto:kay.melcher@stvinc.com)

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Story contributors include: Jan Piccola, FCSI, Sheryl Dodd-Hansen, FCSI, and Kathy Greenway, CSI  
By Gilman Hu (PG 2010-3)

## CSI President

# Mike Davis on Membership



Greetings, CSI members!

I don't know about you, but I am glad to see 2009 come to an end. I have been involved in the construction industry since 1969, and 2009 had the most damaging impact to our industry that I can remember. The company I work for had projects cancelled and was fortunate to end the year with only a 50% reduction in our volume of work from previous years.

I discuss this only to lead into my topic for this communication: CSI Membership. Why join CSI or continue membership in CSI? We talk about "the benefits of CSI membership," but what are they? Is it really worth the cost and time commitment to be a member of CSI? In the current economic situation, would I do better to invest my time and dollars in something else? My membership is up for renewal, and these questions have been on my mind for several days. I will renew my membership, but I am sure other CSI members and prospective members are asking these questions. I will try to provide some simple answers.

**Why join CSI or continue membership in CSI?** My simple answer: How can you afford not to join CSI? Membership in CSI is not expensive. I have been a member of CSI since 1993. Until renewal in 2006, my membership was paid by my company. I left my position as a partner in a general contracting firm and took off several months to catch my breath. When it was time to renew my membership, I did not need to think twice. I believe I receive true value in my CSI membership. The networking opportunities are endless, if you make the effort. The letters "CSI" on my business card has opened many doors that might not have opened without having those initials.

Yesterday, I received a cold call from a product representative. No phone call, no advance notice. Just happened to be in town and thought he would stop by my office to check on bid opportunities. My sched-

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ule was pretty hectic. However, when I looked at the business card handed me, I saw "CSI" following the representative's name. This is the only reason I got up from my desk and had a 20-minute meeting with this representative. If there had been no "CSI," there would not have been a meeting

- **What are the benefits of CSI membership?** Where do I start? Networking opportunities as I previously mentioned, certification programs, education programs, involvement in creating methods of handling or distributing building information... I leave it to each of you to make your own decision on this question, as we could have many different answers.

- **Is it really worth the cost and time commitment to be a member of CSI?** CSI membership is an investment. And like any other investment, if you fail to continue to make the investment, you will find the dividend shrinks. Compared to other organizations, I feel the cost of CSI membership is economical. But more than dollars, consider investing your time in CSI. I truly believe that an investment of my time in CSI has enabled me to grow professionally at a quicker pace. In some cases, I have been able to receive instant credibility from architects because of my involvement with CSI.

We continually discuss the "grass-root members" of CSI. Folks, we are the grass roots of CSI; each and every one of us, with all our imperfections. It's the person down the hall, in the next cubicle or across the country. We are not just specifiers; we are designers, contractors and subcontractors, building owners, product representatives, and others involved in one of the greatest professions. In short, we are the construction industry!

As you read this email, please give serious thought to your membership status in CSI. If you are not willing to grow in your chosen profession and don't want to give your time, then by all means find something else where you can commit your time and resources. However, if you are willing to grow and make a commitment, CSI has a place for you at the table. Get involved! I look forward to working with you as we work to improve our industry.

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*CSI President Mike Davis, FCSI, is "an Estimator for DBS Corporation" in Chattanooga, TN. He can be reached at [president@csinet.org]*

## CURMUDGEON'S CORNER—TRAVELOGUE, PART 1: CATHEDRALS AND CHURCHES

by Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA

*My wife and I had so much fun on our European Vacation that I can't help but think about it every day. It was such a wonderful, inspiring experience that it may have made me less curmudgeonly - at least for a while. In consequence, I will occasionally set aside the Curmudgeon's Corner, and recall some of what we saw.*

Churches, synagogues, and other places of worship can be found throughout America. Here in the Midwest, you won't find a town small enough to not have at least one, and some appear to have more than can be supported by the local area. Of course, the town itself doesn't include the farms that extend endlessly in all directions; I often try to imagine the weekly processions from the outlying areas to the churches. With horse-drawn wagons as the fastest means of travel, there wasn't much sleeping in on Sunday mornings!

Our larger cities have more and larger churches, and we just happen to have two major Roman Catholic churches in the Twin Cities - the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis, and the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul. My wife and I also have visited the Washington National Cathedral a couple of times, so even though we live in the boonies, we have been able to see a few of the biggest churches in the United States. Still, the oldest of the ones we have seen are less than a century old.

And so, when we left on our vacation (yes, I'm back to that again), we looked forward to seeing the fabled cathedrals and churches of Europe. But with only three weeks available, we had to limit ourselves to only parts of Germany and Italy, and my

observations obviously are limited to what we saw.

Our first stop was Rothenburg ob der Tauber, a walled city a few hours southeast of Frankfurt. The city itself dates back to about 1100 AD, and its feature cathedral was constructed from 1311-1484. Its two towers are about 180 feet tall, and the east end of the soaring nave is lighted with a few beautiful lancets of stained glass. One of its two large altars was created by Tilman Riemenschneider, who has been called the Michelangelo of woodcarvers, and the west end of the nave is dominated by a towering, 5,500 pipe organ.

Our next destination was Immenstaad am Bodensee, in southernmost Germany. Immenstaad is a resort town on the north shore of the Bodensee, or Lake Constance as it's known here. Most of our trip was by rail, but the last leg was on a large passenger ferry, which deposited us on a long pier leading into the heart of town. Looking south from Germany, you can see Switzerland from all but the east end of the lake, where it is bordered by Austria. We didn't see much of Immenstaad, as we travelled out during the day and returned each evening for dinner by the lake. One of these excursions was to Meersburg, a short bus to the west. Meersburg is a small city, most of which is centered around two old castles, but from the lake, the enormous city winery looks like it may be the more important part of town. The age of the older castle is unknown, some saying the first part was built in the seventh century, while others believe it wasn't built until the twelfth century. Either way, it's been around just a bit longer than the good old US of A. A short distance to the east is the new

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## CURMUDGEON'S CORNER—TRAVELOGUE, PART 1: CATHEDRALS AND CHURCHES (CONT'D)

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Meersburg castle, which is more of a palace. It was built in the eighteenth century, but used as a castle for only a few decades, having since become the home of two or three museums. The east end of the palace contains a modest chapel, which was built for the resident prince. Along with the rest of the building, it has undergone more than one restoration, the last about twenty years ago. From the outside, you wouldn't know there is a chapel within, as the façade and height are in keeping with the rest of the building. As a result, it's a real surprise when you enter and find a tall, two-story space built in the rococo style. The walls and ceiling are stark white, overlaid with elaborate ornamentation and gilding, and most of the ceiling is decorated in colorful fresco.

After a visit to the Zeppelin museum in Friedrichshafen, we went on to Salzburg. From there, we took a day trip to Hallstatt, Austria, a postcard-sized town that looks like it was built for postcard pictures. After a two-hour rail trip through what might be the most beautiful mountains and villages in the world, we arrived at the Hallstatt station, a mere whistle stop compared to some of the terminals we saw. The station comprises a small building, a small platform, and the ubiquitous station clock. It is not, however, the end of the line, as it is across a lake from the Hallstatt, and the only way to complete the trip is by a ferry. Not surprisingly, the ferries schedule is tied closely to that of the trains.

Even though Hallstatt has only a thousand residents, it has two churches, both easily

seen from across the lake and from much of the town. St. Michael's Chapel, which is perhaps fifty feet above the main street, dates back to the twelfth century. It is famous for its ossuary, home to about 2,000 human skulls. The other church, Christ Church Lutheran, was built in the nineteenth century. Located at street level, it has a spire that appears to reach about as high as the spire on the older church.

Moving on to Firenze (Florence), we found a comfortable second floor room with a window overlooking a courtyard. Looking out the window, we could see the tops of the Brunelleschi dome and the Campanile at Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore. The basilica is visible from a great distance, though usually hidden from street level. This shouldn't be surprising, given its size - at 500 feet long, 125 feet wide at the nave and 300 feet wide at the transept, and over 300 feet tall - it's by far the biggest structure in town. The exterior, a striking combination of white, green, and red marble, is a well-known symbol of the city. Unfortunately, we found the interior to be a disappointment after the colorful exterior. It has few windows, paintings, or statues; the highlight is the dome, which has almost an acre of painted surface. Still, despite the lack of ornamentation, the verticality of the interior and the sheer volume were quite impressive.

Come back next month, when we'll set out for the cathedrals of Rome.

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# CURMUDGEON'S CORNER—TRAVELOGUE, PART 1: CATHEDRALS AND CHURCHES



east end of St. Jakob, Rothenburg



west end of St. Jakob, Rothenburg,  
showing organ



east altar, St. Jakob, Rothenburg

# CURMUDGEON'S CORNER—TRAVELOGUE, PART 1: CATHEDRALS AND CHURCHES



Riemenschneider altar, St. Jakob,



Meersburg chapel altar



Meersburg chapel ceiling



Knowledge for Creating  
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### Construction Specifications Institute

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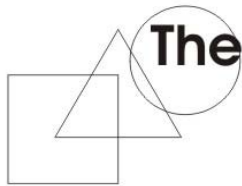
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<p><b>FEBRUARY 3</b>  <b>Horton Automatics</b>, John Gallas, 480-917-6946</p> <p>1 AIA LU (HSW)                  Specifying Revolving Doors – the presentation will discuss the different types of manual and automatic revolving doors, selecting the proper size revolver, codes you must consider, egress and safety requirements, activation and safety controls, and energy savings and investment return. This is the only door that will recover its cost with energy savings.</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY 10</b>  <b>Irwin Seating Company</b>, Dudley Clark and Lanton Associates, Tony Evans, 480-303-9182</p> <p>1 AIA LU (HSW)                  Design of Seating Spaces for Theatres &amp; Auditoriums – this course will clarify common terms used in regards to auditorium seating, describe different types of auditorium seating layout configurations, examine building code regulations in regards to auditorium spaces and analyze the impact of sightlines, riser mounting, radius layouts and aisle lighting.</p>
<p><b>FEBRUARY 17</b>  <b>USA Shade</b>, Claude Cetner, 714-427-6980, 1 AIA LU</p> <p>Our new presentation this year discusses how Tensile Structures are Designed and Engineered, the various types of cladding materials used, components in a tensile structures, LEED and how Tensile Structures are moving into the GREEN era. We look forward to an open discussion with architects and designers in the Phoenix metropolitan area.</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY 24</b>  <b>Ardex</b>, Ben Mack and Lance Neff, 602-315-7875</p> <p>1 AIA LU                  Moisture in Concrete – this program will cover the changes in floor covering, adhesive, building practices, and the insistence for fast tracking projects and how it has increased the need for knowledge of substrate moisture. Arizona and the southwest desert is the hot spot for floor failures due to substrate moisture. Come learn the most up to date information to protect your floor from moisture.</p>

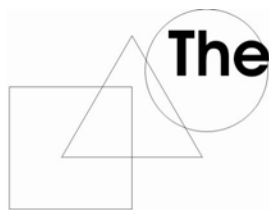
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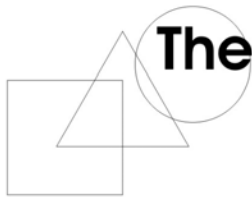
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<p><b>FEBRUARY 11</b>  <b>Structural Glazing Systems</b>, Luis Peris, 602-885-4468</p> <p>1 AIA LU                  Glazing has advanced tremendously since the middle ages when it was introduced into churches and monasteries with small openings of colored glass creating a moon and telling a story. The current story is of energy efficiency, sleek framing profiles, and larges expanses of glass, daylighting and sun controls, and multitudes of finishes and surface treatments. How does glazing compare to other building materials comprising the building envelope? Can crystal towers meet current energy codes? What is still left to accomplish in the glazing arena?</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY 25</b>  <b>Siplast</b>, Paul Schnieders and John Popp, 480-734-5320</p> <p>1 AIA LU                  A Sustainable, High Performance Roof Insulation Solution, this program will cover the following objectives: Introduction into lightweight insulating concrete systems, what makes a lightweight insulating concrete system and what are the differences, mass effects relating to lightweight insulating systems, and how this product an system will help contribute to LEED credits.</p>				
<p><b>PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING SEMINARS:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Mesa</b></span></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="radio"/> 02/11 <b>Structural Glazing</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="radio"/> Call and remind me at _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> 02/25 <b>Siplast</b></td> <td><input type="radio"/> Call and remind me at _____</td> </tr> </table>		<input type="radio"/> 02/11 <b>Structural Glazing</b>	<input type="radio"/> Call and remind me at _____	<input type="radio"/> 02/25 <b>Siplast</b>	<input type="radio"/> Call and remind me at _____
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## FEBRUARY 18

**Milliken Contract**, Jim Chepalis, 480-216-6448 and Denah Shane, Dow Chemical

IDCEC CEU 0.1 Credit and 1 AIA LU

Minimizing Distractions – Sound Decisions from the Ground Up

This course will cover the importance of noise reduction, sound absorption, and sound transmission as it relates to flooring. We will also touch on the backing systems in carpet, mainly focusing on commercial and hospitality applications, and some residential. Also, we will discuss the benefits of cushion back carpet tile and a brief overview of Milliken's' Holistic approach toward the environment.

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# LOOK WHAT'S NEW!



## From The CSI Phoenix Chapter Technical Committee

The **CSI Phoenix Chapter Technical Committee** has created a **“Technical Resources”** webpage on its website for technical information related to the construction industry.

Material located on the webpage has been prepared by the Technical Committee or has been prepared by other sources and are considered of value to share with the building design and construction community.

Although the webpage is in its early stages of development, the materials are organized using CSI's **UniFormat™**.

The following documents are currently posted: *(Click on the title to open the document)*

### **Construction Systems and Assemblies**

#### **B Shell**

##### **B30 Roofing**

**[Roof Design Resource for Energy and Environmentally Efficient Roofs in Arizona](#)**

#### **C Interiors**

**[Indoor Air Quality PowerPoint: Materials and Design](#)**

Presented by: Shannon Newton, MPH, CIH  
Health Effects Group, Inc.

Visit **[www.csiphoenix.org](http://www.csiphoenix.org)** to find these technical documents as well as other information about the Phoenix Chapter.

***Committee's Current Project:*** The Technical Committee is currently undertaking topics on the building envelope as they relate to the multitude of environments within Arizona. The Committee welcomes anyone with an interest in this subject matter to participate. Contact the Committee Chair for meeting dates and location.

### **About the CSI Phoenix Chapter Technical Committee**

The responsibilities of the Technical Committee include:

1. Develop, implement, and administer the Chapter's technical program.
2. Accomplish projects assigned by the Chapter President and Chapter Board.
3. Coordinate activities with Chapter certification and education committees.
4. Publicize the Chapter's, Region's and Institute's technical programs to create better understanding and promote greater participation.

For more information about the Technical Committee, or you have questions, please contact the Committee Chairman:

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