

# CSI February 2012 Newsletter

## February Monthly Chapter Meeting Thursday, February 9, 2012

### Location

Radisson Hotel Phoenix City Center  
3600 North Second Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85013

### Schedule

5:30 pm – Networking/Table Tops  
6:30 to 8:00 pm – Dinner/Meeting & Program  
8:00 to 8:30 pm – Table Tops

**Program:** See the future! Join us for presentations from the 2011 Imagination Cube winner as well as the winning team from the Future Cities competition. Both will amaze and impress you with the creativity of the “younger generation” and the future of the construction industry.

## President’s Message – Expect the Unexpected

**By: Stephen Smith, CSI, AIA, CSI Phoenix Chapter President**

Hopefully, many of you were able to attend the January monthly meeting. We had a change of program since the original speaker was called out of state. We were able to have Mike Jackson fill in and speak on “A Paradigm Shift – The Future of Specifications?” I was unable to attend but was able to sit with him the next day and also get a copy of the presentation.

He identified how complexity and computation are changing how buildings are designed and constructed. Design and construction went unchanged for literally millennia. Then in the 1800s various inventions triggered an explosion of changes leading up to the present. Now changes occur so rapidly, we aren’t even quite aware of them and their consequences. There have been financial, social and legal changes that have affected us, but technology has been the foremost. Buildings have gone from complicated to now being complex. Where at one time an individual might have been able to understand everything there was to know about the building, now it requires a lot of people to discuss one system within it.

Another objective in his presentation was how collaboration, Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) and Design/Build are changing who the designer actually is. As he pointed out, “good design” is nothing more than decisions made with the benefit of expertise, creativity and aesthetic sensibility. Owners want predictable outcomes. Collaboration helps reduce the risk associated with unpredictable outcomes. If architects, engineers, contractors and subcontractors are collaborating on the design, whose design is it? Who draws it? Who specifies? Is it the design of the professional or the fabricator? The design professional should shout – “We do!” but it isn’t that clear any more.

Design is essentially decision making. Drawings and specifications are how we record those decisions. It used to be that drawings and specifications communicated the intent to the

contractor, but now if the subcontractor participates collaboratively then intent is already clear. If they do the drawings as fabrication drawings – how does the designer’s role change? What if designers began modeling in manufacturing software and those files went directly to production?

Mike went on in his presentation to describe the implications of the shift to customization and a manufacturing paradigm. We are shifting from a construction / assembly paradigm of fitting lots of bits and pieces together, to a manufacturing paradigm of fabricating entire assemblies in a factory environment. Customization becomes easier through computation and manufacturing to create the one off designs. As stated in the paragraph above who does the modeling?

In this environment, how do you specify? Is it performance based, but how is performance described? If it is prescriptive – prescriptive of what? They might focus on materials such as aerogel insulation, composites, etc. They might look at concerns such as resource location, embodied energy, carbon debt, manufacturing pollution, etc. They might consider manufacturing technology such as the software requirements for molds, composite weaving machinery, pressure and heat forming. They also might consider interfaces such as quick couple connectors and structural adhesives.

Mike also discussed how globalization and massive integration will affect building system optimization in the near future, but I won’t address these in this message in an effort to keep this somewhat short. One of Mike’s last slides addressed “change” with the subtitle “Change is not mandatory. Survival is not necessary.” They might not be mandatory or necessary, but you know where that leaves you!

Hopefully you can see the message Mike spoke about. From the emails I received from several of you, it appears his topic was very thought provoking. I don’t know what the future holds for us, but a couple mottos spring to mind. The Boy Scouts have the motto “Be Prepared” and when I took the motorcycle safety course one of the mottos they mention many times during the course was “Expect the Unexpected.” Both of these mottos deal with the future and sometimes it’s more immediate and eminent than other times. So expect the unexpected and be prepared.

Let’s continue this discussion in the [Forums](#) on the chapter web site.

## **Membrane Compatibility Choices**

**By: Tom Urich**

In recent years, the design community has accepted the use of self-adhered membranes to be used as additional protection against water and air intrusion into the building envelope. These products are typically 40 to 60 mils thick with a release paper on the back and are manufactured by at least 10 manufacturers.

## **Faster Cloud**

**By: Pamela Bir, Your Computer Lady**

Several previous articles have discussed SaaS (Software As A Service) and the prospects for cloud computing. Today we're going to look a step further at PaaS (Platform As A Service) as it is being utilized by RevUp Render.

## **Designer Code Academy: Building Code Application During Design**

**February 10, 2012 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**

The building code gets more complicated with each edition. And, as it gets more complicated, the potential liability upon the design professional increases.

## **Filling Your Project Pipeline**

**February 14, 2012 at 3:00 pm**

Join us at 3:00 pm on February 14<sup>th</sup> at The Reference Library as Rebekah Morris, Publisher of the Arizona Builder's Exchange presents step by step practices on finding design and construction project leads for manufacturers and product reps.

## **Understanding Construction Contract Documents**

**Three Day Seminar on February 16, 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm**

This course is designed for entry level and experienced readers and writers of written Construction Documents. Each session is intended to be 8 hrs. in duration. The fundamental information is intended for readers and writers of construction documents and presents an understanding of how the documents are organized and specific procedures for following certain requirements.

## **The Reference Library February Box Lunch Schedule**

### **CONSTRUCT 2012 – Call for Presentations**

On the heels of a successful show in Chicago, CONSTRUCT has opened the Call for Presentations for next year's event, September 11-14, 2012 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, AZ. There are some changes to the submission and selection process providing more time to gather presentations while rewarding individuals who submit early.

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**Link to this for read more:**

<http://www.csinet.org/Main-Menu-Category/Membership/Individual-Membership/Quick-Tasks-Individual-Membership/CSI-BOGO-Program.aspx>

**CSI Academies, March 1-3, 2012 in San Diego, CA at the Westin San Diego**

Early Registration Deadline: Feb. 1, 2012

This event sold out before the early registration deadline last year, so don't put off registering!

The "CSI Academies" takes place in San Diego from March 1-3, 2012. Not sure if we already have that listed on our calendar. Page 12 of this month's "The Construction Specifier" has additional information and a listing of some of the planned seminars.

**Link to this:** <http://www.csinet.org/academies>