

HEADLINES

Mark The Date - Gulf States Region Leadership Conference is June 7 - 8, 2019. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Mark the Date - Little Rock Chapter Annual Golf Tournament set for May 3, 2019



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- Let's Fix Construction Blog Article "How Continuous is Continuous? And what about Z channels?"
- Let's Fix Construction Blog Article "THE MISCONCEPTION SERIES #6: DRAWINGS & SPECS ARE COMPLEMENTARY"
- Vintage Social Networking Cartoon / LRCSI Info.



Notes from the Institute Director

From the Institute Board
(Long Beach, CA, October 2 & 3, 2018)

We are thrilled to announce that CSI will now be an AIA CEU provider. This opens every chapter to the CEU program starting in 2019. This should be a wonderful way to increase attendance at your chapter meetings with the design community.

The Dynamic Chapter program started this October. I know everyone is busy with their CSI year, but I would highly encourage you to actively participate in the program. Cynthia D'Amour joins us the many years of experience building solid chapters. If need be, table some of your business and work with this program. Investing in yourself and chapter is time well spent and I trust you will enjoy your time spent with Cynthia.

Also starting in October 2018, your membership renewal letter will include a membership card; they are back! Tracy Petrillo, EdH, CAE, our chief learning officer, continues to develop and advance our education and certification programs. She is working on a new faculty guide for the CDT which should be available during the summer of 2019 as well as other updates of our certification program.

The CSI Resources website continues to evolve with our communities. If you have not joined this online experience I highly encourage you to participate. The discussions are lively and it's a great way to connect with all our members nationally. Please visit <https://www.csiresources.org/home> and join a community of interest today!

The volunteer portal has been refreshed and updated. If you would like to join a committee, please visit the following link: <https://www.csiresources.org/volu.../opportunities-list-public>

I would like to congratulate all the winners of Institute Awards in 2018. Please know your service and commitment to CSI is appreciated by all. Please click on the link below to see all the 2018 award winners.

2018 Honors and Awards Winners: <https://www.csiresources.org/institu.../honorsandawards/awards>
FY' 2018 to 2021

The next Master Specifiers Retreat is at the Loews Coronado Bay Resort in Coronado, California to be held from January 31 to February 3, 2019. Specifier registration is open at: www.csiresources.org/msretreat/home.

Our next board meeting will be held February 3 & 4, 2019. So, if there are any items you would like to add to the agenda, please contact me.

Please note that retired or emeritus members must be voted on in person by the Board. I mention this now because most like to present this transition at your year-end awards celebration. If you would like to transition a member to one of these classifications, please follow the instructions provided in this link so it can be added to the February agenda.

<https://www.csiresources.org/.../individual-membersh.../emeritus>

If you have anything further, you would like to discuss do not hesitate to contact me. My cell is 423-385-4598 or you can email me at: wsundquist@wgpaver.com

Please add a sidebar on the page you use for my column that includes contact information for Institute to include the following:

CSI Contacts:

Member Services at

csi@csinet.org or 800-689-2900

Chapter Services:

chapterrelations@csinet.org

Certification:

certification@csinet.org

Education:

education@csinet.org

Accounting:

accounting@csinet.org

Awards:

awards@csinet.org

Marketing:

marketing@csinet.org

It's an honor to serve and I thank you for your support of CSI!

William Sundquist, CSI

Institute Director from Gulf States Region

Customize Your Volunteer Experience with CSI's Volunteer Portal



Are you interested in...

[Reaching out to educators](#) to bring CSI principles into the classroom?

[Meeting and greeting](#) with fellow members at Construct 2018?

Guiding others studying for the CSI certification exams – lead an [online study group](#)?

Sign up for these opportunities and more at CSI's NEW Volunteer Portal:

See all volunteer opportunities in one location

Easily apply for options that interest you and work with your schedule

Opt into the volunteering pool, sit back and have volunteering invitations come directly to you

Join your fellow members... Jump into the [volunteer pool](#) and make a difference!

See how you can volunteer today on the [Volunteer Portal](#).

If you have any questions about volunteering, please email volunteer@csinet.org.

CSI Names Award Winners for 2018

From the Construction Specifier Online Edition - August 2018

CSI has announced the organization's award winners for 2018, as well as those elevated to the College of Fellows and those named Distinguished Members.

Joining the Ranks of Distinguished Members are **Gregory J. Markling, FCSI, Lifetime Member, CSC, CCS, CCCA** and **Robert W. Simmons, FCSI, Lifetime Member, CCPR.**

The 2018 Class of Fellows includes **Michael G. Young, CSI, CCCA; David A Stutzman, CSI, CCS; Ross Mori, CSI; Gener Fosheim, CSI; Jack Morgan, CSI, CCS, CCCA; Scott M. Conwell, CSI, CDT;** and **Cynthia Belise, CSI, CDT.**

Following is a list of the Service Awards selected this year:

Distinguished Service Award

Daniel Hargreaves, FCSI, CDT

Robert P Brosseau Award for the Advancement of CSI

Shane David, CSI, CDT

Andrew J. Drozda Mentorship Award

Sheryl Dodd-Hansen, FCSI, CCS, CCCA

Kurt Moehlmann, CSI, CDT

Norman Hunter Award for Innovative Allied Organization Cooperation

CSI Chicago's Contractor Engagement Committee

Ben John Small Technical Writing Award

Robert Haddock, CSI

Specifier Article of the Year Award

Wendy Talarico, CSI

Frederick C. Baumert, CCS

Outstanding Contribution Award

Laura Jean Derrick, CSI

South East Region Training Leadership Committee

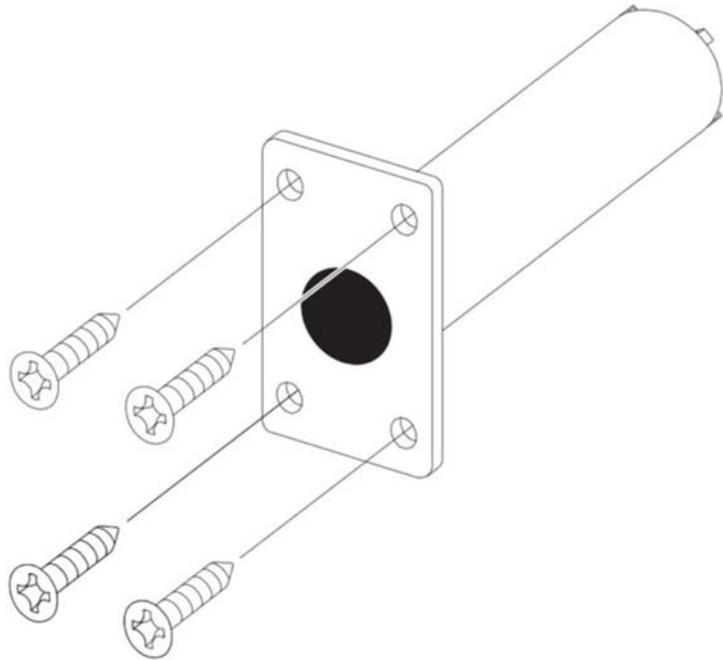
Communication Awards: **Jeffrey Parnell, CSI** (Memphis Website); **Robert Bailey CSI, CCS** (Pittsburgh Chapter Newsletter); **Richard J. Leub, FCSI, CCS, CCCA** (Oklahoma City Chapter Newsletter); **Memphis Chapter** (PerSPECTive Publication); **John Dunaway, CSI, CCS** (Gulf States Leader E-Newsletter); **John Dunaway, CSI, CCS** (Event Promotional Materials); **John Dunaway, CSI, CCS** (Mississippi Chapter Newsletter); **Chicago Chapter** (Chapter Marketing Materials); **Chicago Chapter** (Website Re-Design); **J. Chambers, CSI-EP** (Year in Review—Lehigh Valley Booklet); and **CSINext Chapter** (CSINext Website).

Outstanding Chapter Awards (Gulf States Region Only): Little Rock Chapter, Mississippi Chapter, Memphis Chapter, Chattanooga Chapter, Knoxville Chapter, Nashville Chapter, and New Orleans Chapter.

QQ: Field Preps for Auxiliary Fire Pins

Re-Printed from "I Dig Hardware" by Lori Greene, AHC/CDC, FDAI, FDHI, CCPR

This Quick Question doesn't really have a quick answer, but I'll take a stab at it and then we can discuss it. Here's the question:



Can less-bottom-rod (LBR) fire exit hardware with an auxiliary fire pin be installed on an existing fire door?

First, some other questions...

What is an auxiliary fire pin? When vertical rod fire exit hardware is installed without the bottom rods and latches, an auxiliary fire pin is typically required. It is installed in the edge of one leaf of a pair, and a hole is prepped in the other leaf. When the temperature reaches approximately 450 degrees F, the pin projects into the hole in the other leaf, to keep the doors aligned and help prevent the fire from spreading. Refer to the end of this Article for a reprint of the September 2012 Article "Decoded: Less Bottom Rod Fire Exit Hardware", Doors and Hardware Magazine.

Doesn't the projected pin impede egress? When the temperature is high enough for the pin to project, the doors are no longer being used for egress. Last month I posted a photo and some information about what happens to operable hardware during a fire – [you can read it here.](#)

Why would I want LBR devices and an auxiliary fire pin? Using fire exit hardware without bottom rods and latches helps to avoid maintenance issues, floor strikes, and problems with non-latching hardware. The increase in enforcement of fire door inspections has drawn attention to a lot of existing non-compliant fire doors. Replacing bottom rods and latches with the auxiliary fire pin is a potential resolution for these problems.

So, back to the original question – there are several things to consider:

Do the listings for the existing doors allow LBR devices? It's important to check with the door manufacturer before modifying the doors. Fire doors that pre-date the introduction of LBR fire exit hardware may not have been tested with these products. Listings that do allow LBR devices may require the strikes for the top latches to be changed to a different type.

Can the prep for the pin be made in the field? If the manufacturer's [installation instructions](#) include field preparation for the pin, and the required holes are 1-inch diameter or less, there should not be a problem. This has been clarified in the 2019 edition of NFPA 80: *4.1.3.2.4 When performed at the job site, drilling raceways for wires or preparation for fire pins shall be in accordance with the door manufacturer's listing and when permitted by the laboratory with which the door is listed.*

What about existing holes and voids left by the removal of the bottom rods and latches? This is another question for the door manufacturer. If the rods and latches are surface-mounted, NFPA 80 includes provisions for addressing the fastener holes. If the rods and latches are concealed in the door, filling those voids would be considered a field modification that requires approval from the listing laboratory.

Decoded: Less Bottom Rod Fire Exit Hardware (September 2012)

Vertical rod fire exit hardware is available with top and bottom rods and latches, or with the top rod and latch only – known as “less bottom rod” or “LBR” devices. Eliminating the bottom rods and latches can help to meet accessibility requirements and also allows the floor strikes to be omitted, but security may be affected so the application

doors & hardware
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NFPA 80 – Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protections does not specifically address less bottom rod fire exit hardware. The standard requires fire doors to be equipped with an active latch bolt to ensure that the door is positively latched during a fire. Panic hardware used on fire doors must be fire exit hardware, which is not equipped with the mechanical means to hold the latch retracted (AKA “dogging”), and must bear labels from the listing agency for compliance with both panic and fire test standards.

Less bottom rod fire exit hardware has been successfully tested for use on fire doors, and the specifics can be found in the manufacturer's literature or the listing agency's directory of certified products. For most applications, an auxiliary fire pin is required in order for the doors to maintain their fire resistance rating. This pin typically mounts be-

tween 6” and 12” above the floor, on the edge of the door, although some manufacturers have tested their LBR devices without an auxiliary fire pin, or with pins mounted in the bottom edge of the door. The pins remain retracted under normal conditions, and are heat-activated. When the temperature of activation is reached – usually around 400 degrees, the pin projects from the edge of one door into a hole in the edge of the other door leaf (or into the floor if the pins are installed on the bottom of the door). In addition to fire exit hardware, these auxiliary fire pins are sometimes used on fire doors with automatic flush bolts, when the bottom flush bolt is omitted.

The auxiliary fire pin has raised concerns about egress in the past, because once the bolt is projected, the doors no longer allow free egress. It's important to understand that the pin projects only during a fire, and its purpose is to maintain the alignment of the doors to prevent the spread of smoke and flames. According to Underwriters Laboratories, an auxiliary fire pin with an activating temperature of 400 degrees typically projects 15-20 minutes into a fire test, when the temperature inside the test furnace is approximately 1,400 degrees Fahrenheit. The pin is only actuated when the activation temperature is reached, and at that point the area would not be tenable for occupants or firefighters.

The tests used for fire door assemblies – UL10B, UL10C, and NFPA 252, do not require the doors to be operable at the conclusion of the test. Most locks and exit devices incorporate fusible links which render the hardware inoperable during the fire test, so the doors remain latched throughout the hose stream portion of the test. The auxiliary fire pin associated with less bottom rod exit devices operates under the same principal.

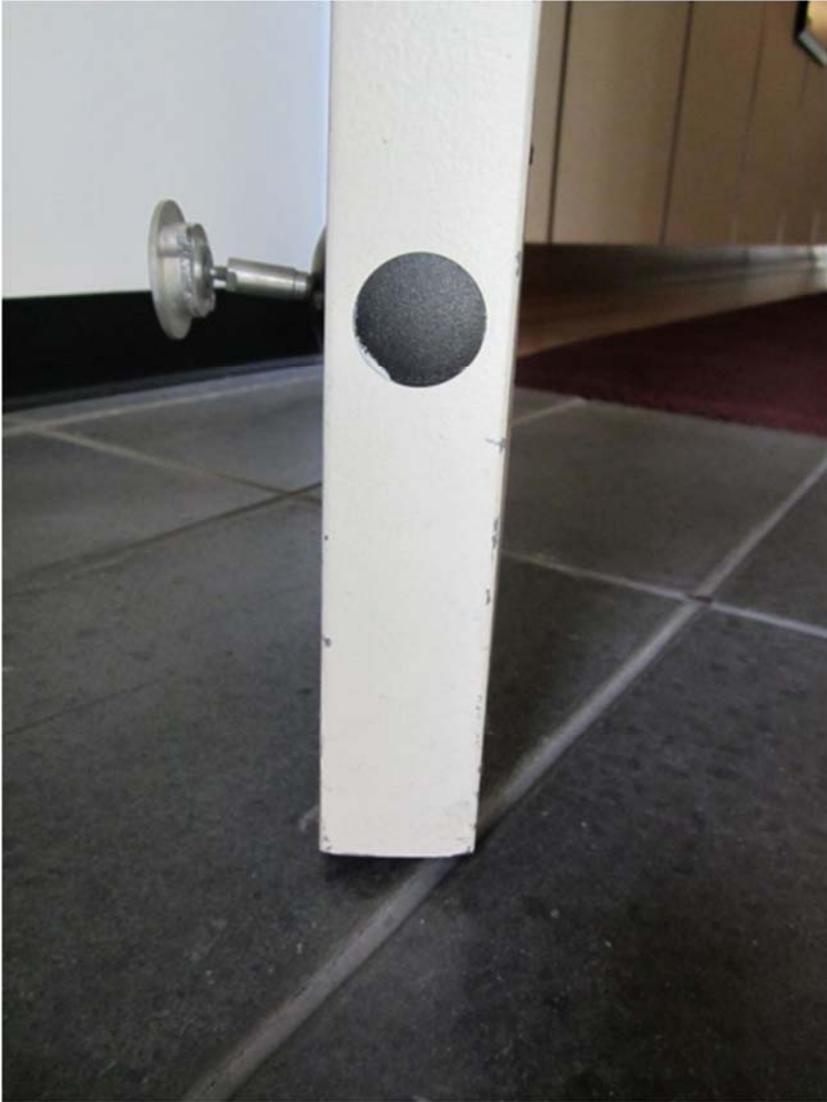
Another issue that has been raised is regarding firefighter access once the auxiliary fire pin has been projected after reaching the activating temperature. In addition to the fact that most latching hardware is designed to become inoperable during a fire, the doors themselves (especially steel doors) are likely to become wedged into the frame. The intumescent material required in some applications may also affect the operation of the door after a fire. Firefighter access will require a halligan bar, even if an auxiliary fire pin is not part of the assembly. And as one fire marshal commented, a door secured by a projected fire pin or inoperable hardware can be a warning to firefighters about the conditions on the other side of the door.

A change to the 2009 edition of the International Building Code helps to clear up some of the confusion about the egress requirements when these products are used on fire doors. Paragraph 1008.1.9 Door Operations, states that egress doors must be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort, except as permitted by this section of the code. Paragraph 1008.1.9.3 lists several exceptions where locks and latches shall be permitted to prevent operation of doors. These exceptions include:

1. Places of detention or restraint.
2. Certain occupancies where key-operated locks may be used on the main entrance if certain criteria are met.
3. Pairs with automatic flush bolts, with a requirement for the inactive leaf to be without hardware that would give the impression that the inactive leaf could be operated independently.
4. Dwelling unit doors in Group R occupancies with an occupant load of 10 or less, where a night latch, deadbolt, or security chain may be used in addition to another lock.
5. And a new exception, added in the 2009 edition of the IBC, states: *“Fire doors after the minimum elevated temperature has disabled the unlatching mechanism in accordance with listed fire door test procedures.”*

The purpose of Exception 5 is to address the use of fusible links and heat actuated components used in door hardware, including the auxiliary pin used with less bottom rod fire exit hardware.

Before removing bottom rods and latches from existing fire exit hardware, it's important to check with the manufacturers of the fire exit hardware and the fire doors, and to follow the required procedures. Doors that were installed before the introduction of LBR devices may not meet the fire test criteria for the use of the product. Retrofit kits are available for some brands of hardware, and the kit may include replacement top strikes that need to be installed. Removing existing rods and latches without following the proper procedures is likely to result in a fire door assembly that is no longer code-compliant.



- A Concrete Surface Profile (CSP) of 2 for Resilient Flooring and 3 for Hydraulic Cementitious Underlayment should be provided by the Construction Manager/General Contractor to the Flooring Contractor. Equipment for profiling concrete surfaces is readily available. Contact the International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) for information about and samples that show concrete profiles.
- Bond (Pull) Tests are an important, simple and effective way to confirm the overall floor system (adhesive, self-leveler, floor covering) are bonded together and to the parent concrete.
- There are flooring contractors out there that do invest in training and certifying their installers through recognized programs such as Red Seal, INSTALL and Product Manufacturer Certification. More work needs to be done to raise the value of certification and get these skilled mechanics the recognition they deserve. This is not to say there aren't plenty of talented installers out there with no certification, the problem is, how do other construction parties recognize skilled installers without certification? Solution: the NFCA specification requires that installers have recognized certification. This over time will increase its' value.

These are some of the items that are commonly overlooked until the floor installer arrives on site with a crew eager to get the job installed... too late! No flooring contractor wants to delay his customer, and so the tendency to say yes to installing too early is a common occurrence

Conversation, planning ahead and the use of available industry standards has been lacking in flooring. Yes we are just a finish trade, but unfortunately we are the finishing trade that brings lasting and deeply problematic issues for all involved when problems arise. Brands are damaged, business relationships broken and good companies end up in court.

One final layer of security: third party inspection services available for the commercial flooring sector, referred to as the Quality Assurance Program (QAP) ensures specifications are read and that the above list of items is addressed in advance and that ultimately warranties are left in place. Once engaged, QAP assigns a certified flooring inspector who will review the project and issue a series of reports at critical stages of the installation. A flooring specific preinstallation site meeting is held, installer qualifications checked, specified products checked and that acceptable conditions required for a successful installation are provided to the flooring contractor. This is how we secure positive change for all construction parties involved in a floor covering installation.

For more information go to www.nfca.ca

(Editor's Note: Chris Maskell is the President of The National Floor Covering Association (NFCA) in Canada, which promotes industry standards for resilient, carpet, hardwood, laminate, cork and bamboo floor covering installations. Their mission is to engage professionals in the construction industry through education and compliance to national floor covering installation standards which provide a quality assurance platform to ensure successful installations on commercial projects.



During a fire test, and potentially during a fire, the operable hardware on the door melts away and/or is deactivated by fusible material inside of the product. The latching portion remains, as the door is required to be latched for the entire duration of the test – including the hose-stream portion. But the parts normally used to retract the latch – the lever, touchpad, crossbar, etc. – no longer function in that capacity.

FLOORED: ADVANCE ACTIONS ASSURE ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS

Contributed by [Chris Maskell](#)

The flooring industry is constantly challenged by the same repeating issues. Installing too early, wet concrete, non-flat sub-floors, sub-floor surface not prepared, heat not on, windows not in and lack of installer training and certification. In fact, as construction speeds up to meet demands for faster build times and with the threat of an increase in the cost of borrowing money lurking in the economic wings, the provision of acceptable conditions for the flooring contractor is becoming less likely.

This raises the importance of supporting those in the construction team (Building Owner, Construction Manager, General Contractor, Design Authority, and Flooring Contractor) with good, timely information that helps all involved plan ahead for the floor covering installation. As one of the last significant trades onsite, the flooring contractor needs certain conditions, that if not planned for in advance, will be next to impossible for the Construction Manager/ General Contractor to provide without extra time and/or extra money: two things in short supply at the end of a build or renovation.

Change is possible, but requires a few things to be understood and acted on in advance.

There is a generic Canadian floor covering industry reference manual available for specification, which supports all construction parties, and when included in the Division 09 section of the construction documents, means correct flooring processes and supportive language is available to guide the floor installation and all the points listed below.

- Concrete is not dry just because it is cured. Concrete, on average, takes one month per inch of thickness to dry enough to receive most flooring products. Note: Concrete poured into a steel pan takes significantly longer.



- According to national flooring standards, slab moisture testing should be conducted by a third-party testing agency according to ASTM F-1869 (calcium chloride) or F-2170 (in-situ relative humidity). Testing is not the scope of the flooring contractor, who has no way of controlling the test field from spoilage by other trades. The flooring contractor is responsible to verify proper testing has been done prior to installation. According to National standards, installation is deemed to be acceptance of surfaces and conditions.
- Alkalinity testing must be conducted at the same time as concrete moisture testing. High Alkalinity present in all new poured concrete re-emulsifies flooring adhesive, causing bond failure.
- Heat needs to be on well in advance. Concrete slab temperature needs to be brought up to above 15°C (60°F) for most adhesives and above 10°C (50°F) for many floor leveling products. For in-floor hot water heating systems, the surface for engineered wood flooring should not exceed 28°C (82°F).
- Ambient (room) Relative Humidity in the installation area must be maintained at levels recommended by the product manufacturer, usually between 35% and 55%.
- Flatness of the sub-floor (waviness), is generally required by manufacturers to meet 3/16" over 10' (depending on the Floor Covering specified and the manufacturer) using a 10' straight edge. Most concrete slabs will curl and/or deflect (sag) after pouring beyond this measurement and require a cementitious topping to be added. A cash allowance or unit price for this work must be included in the budget. Additional levelling or topping work is not the responsibility of the floor covering contractor. This work however, can be taken on as a billable extra. (Editor's note: 1/8" in 10' is the standard in the US)
- FF/FL requirements provided by Division 03 Concrete according to ASTM 1155, do not guarantee an acceptable surface for the flooring contractor because this measurement system stops 2' from walls and columns and does not measure through doorways. Inspection of the sub-floor must take place well in advance of floor covering installation. Additional Hydraulic Cement Underlayment (toppings) added to the parent concrete are not in the scope of work for the flooring contractor. The flooring contractor can however bid on this work as a billable extra.
- Sub-floor surfaces should be prepared by the Construction Manager/General Contractor. Curing agents, paints, oils, waxes, old adhesives should be removed prior to the flooring contractor arriving on site. This also is not in the flooring contractors scope of work but can be undertaken as a billable extra.
- Non-porous concrete surfaces should be tested for water absorbency according to ASTM F-3191. A very simple and effective test.

LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

LUNCH AND A SEMINAR—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018

Lunch 11:30 am
Seminar 11:45 p.m.



Please make reservations online at
[Http://littlerock.csinet.org](http://littlerock.csinet.org)

Cost of the Meal is being Sponsored by
Ace Glass

Questions or Problems should be sent to
Billy Mathis - bjmathis@taggarch.com

LOCATION:

Ace Glass Construction Corporation
Headquarters

3101 Dugan Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72206

**Reservation Deadline: Please RSVP
by Noon, Tuesday, November 13,
2018** (LRCSI must guarantee meal
count for the Presentation)

SPEAKER:

Jamie Ellis, Ace Glass

PROGRAM:

**“Hydrophobic Coatings: Improve Sustainability
and Reduce Maintenance Costs” plus at the
end a Tour of the New Ace Glass Facility.**

Program Summary:

In this one hour course, we will evaluate hydrophobic coatings as a solution for many common problems encountered during the life-cycle of a building. Some of the easily recognized benefits of a protective coating include a decrease in environmental damage to exterior glazing, significant reduction in building maintenance, improved photovoltaic performance, and enhancement of the forward-facing aesthetics. Additionally, we will explore a variety of applications, from shower enclosures to exterior glazing, while simultaneously explaining the operational, environmental and inherent benefits to this technology. The course will conclude with an evaluation of how hydrophobic coatings can help the building achieve LEED v4 certification.

This Course Provides 1 AIA HSW CE Hour and 1 GBCI CE Hour.

**Be prepared to spend a little extra time on site if planning to attend the tour after the
presentation**

If you are interested in following the Little Rock Chapter, our links are as follows (*for Facebook and LinkedIn look for the CSI Little Rock Chapter*):

Website: <https://csilittlerock.org>

Facebook: www.facebook.com

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com

If you are interested in Joining CSI or if you are just interested in keeping up with the information provided by CSI, follow this link to the Institute Website Membership Pages:

For Membership Information:

<https://www.csiresources.org/communities/membership/individual-membership>

To Join CSI:

https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/CSIRESOURCES/143a718d-6df6-484a-8a79-76d79635b741/UploadedImages/PDFs/CSI_MembershipFormFY18.pdf

To See what CSI is all about:

https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/CSIRESOURCES/143a718d-6df6-484a-8a79-76d79635b741/UploadedImages/CSI_ResourcesCatalogFinalLowRes.pdf

How Continuous is Continuous? And what about Z channels?

Article Reprinted with the Permission of Mr. Laverne Dalgleish with contributions by Eoy Schaufele, GCSI, CCPR, FABAA, LEED Green Assoc. CABS, from Let's Fix Construction Blog.

In the last few years a lot of attention has been placed on the proper installation of continuous insulation in buildings. The purported reason for this has been to stop the thermal bridging that occurs when you put thermal insulation between steel studs.

Years ago, we started out insulating our buildings by requiring a certain R-Value insulation to be installed in the cavities. In those days wood framing was very common. As we moved to steel studs in commercial buildings, we realized that the building assembly was performing less than the R-Value of the insulation. From that we started requiring an "effective thermal insulating value".



Today some building codes simply require a maximum U-Value for the building envelope which is supposed to reflect the thermal performance of the building assembly. But does it? In most cases, the answer is "not really".

When we look at the requirements in the International Building Code and in ASH RAE 90.1, the basic principal of overall building assembly U-Value is there but the only requirement is that you take into consideration the primary framing members (in a lot of cases, simply the studs). This is a good first step.

If we want to get to truly energy efficient buildings, we need to look at all thermal bridging materials that are incorporated into the building assembly. Not only should the main structural beams be calculated and the steel studs, but we need to look at all thermal bridges. This includes Z channels, fasteners, brick ledges, hat channels, masonry ties, balconies, parapets and anything else that will transfer heat. But the codes are not yet there.

Peering in to the future there are some manufacturers that are starting to develop thermal break materials and designers are starting to incorporate thermal breaks into their building envelope design. This is a desire by forward-thinking architects.

Today, the International Building Code and ASHRAE 90.1 do not require you to take all of the thermal breaks into consideration and you do not have to include them in your modeling. The Z channel is a common method used to be able to structurally support the cladding system. Is it a thermal break? Yes. For code purposes, do you need to consider it? No. That

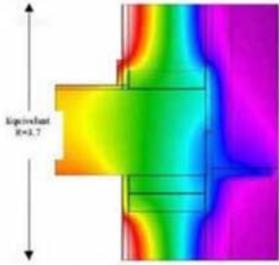


Figure 1: Floor Slab Heat Flow with no exterior insulation (vertical section)

Today, the International Building Code and ASHRAE 90.1 do not require you to take all of the thermal breaks into consideration and you do not have to include them in your modeling. The Z channel is a common method used to be able to structurally support the cladding system. Is it a thermal break? Yes. For code purposes, do you need to consider it? No. That is a disconnect between code requirements and good building practice.

We want to reduce the energy use by our buildings and the building envelope provides the biggest opportunity. We need to bridge the thermal gap between what is required by the codes and what is good building practice. Having requirements for continuous insulation was a good step forward, we need to keep going.

About the Authors



Mr. Laverne Dalgleish specializes in Standards, Building Codes, Quality Assurance, Building Science, Building Envelope, and Personnel Certification.

He is the Executive Director of the Air Barrier Association of America. working to champion energy conservation in buildings while educating the building owners and designers about the benefits of energy conservation such as durability, comfort, reduced maintenance, reduced HVAC equipment costs and the positive impact on the environment.



Mr. Roy Schaufele, FCSI, CCPR, FABAA, LEED Green Assoc., CABS, is the founder of D7S (Division 7 Solutions, Inc.) in Converse, TX.

He is the only person in the world to be a fellow of both the Construction Specification Institute (FCSI) and the Air Barrier Association of America (ABAA). He is also an internationally published author in Division 7 subjects, holder of numerous awards and US patents, and he has been the speaker at over 425 AIA Learning Unit programs. He currently sits on the Executive Committee for the Air Barrier Association of America and is their former chairman.

THE MISCONCEPTION SERIES #6: DRAWINGS & SPECS ARE COMPLEMENTARY

Contributed by Liz O'Sullivan - Let's Fix Construction Blog 10/22/18

complementary adjective

com·ple·men·ta·ry | \,käm-plə-'men-t(ə-)rē

Definition of *complementary*

- 1 : serving to fill out or complete
- 2 : mutually supplying each other's lack

Recently, I was preparing a masonry architectural specification section for a remodel project. The project has an existing CMU wall which is to receive a small area of new CMU infill. It's an exterior structural wall, and the architectural drawings indicate that the infill CMU is to be grouted solid.

I asked the structural engineer if we need reinforcing bars (rebar) in the cores of the CMU. I told him that I would delete rebar from the spec section if we don't need rebar, so that the Contractor knows he doesn't need to provide it.

The engineer said, "You can just leave it in the specs. If the rebar isn't on the Drawings, they'll know they don't need it."

NNNOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO.....!!!!

Drawings and Specifications are complementary and what is called for by one shall be as binding as if called for by both." This is according to the General Conditions of the Contract for this project. This is a typical provision in construction contracts. (1)

So, if rebar isn't required for that wall, there should be no rebar in the spec or on the drawings. If rebar is in the specs, even if it's not on the drawings, rebar is required by the contract. If rebar is on the drawings, even if it's not in the specs, rebar is required by the contract.

Design professionals need to completely comprehend this concept, and for some unknown reason, many don't. Contractors need to completely comprehend this requirement, and for an understandable reason (it's not in their best interest at times) they don't always seem to grasp this.

The lead design professional on the project, the entity who is performing construction contract administration, is the party who must enforce the contract documents, including the specifications. This party has to understand the relationships among contract documents before he or she can properly enforce them. If the specifications and drawings have been prepared to be complementary, and are clear, concise, correct, and complete, they will be easy to understand (for all parties) and easy to enforce.

Unless the design team intends for something to be included by the contractor in the project, it shouldn't be in the specs (or drawings). There shouldn't be a bunch of things in the specs 'in case we need them' if we don't actually intend for them to be in the project, because by doing that, we've taken the first step to our documents' not being taken seriously by the contractor. If there is extra information in the specifications, the contractor will assume that the specifications are boilerplate specifications that are reused on all projects, and are not specific to the project, and will ignore all the specifications.

Also, the architect should enforce the provisions of the specs and the agreement and the conditions of the contract, or else these documents won't be taken seriously. We have to say what we mean, and prove that we mean what we say.

If the contractor starts ignoring the specifications, the architect or engineer who's doing construction contract administration will have a much harder time trying to enforce the specs. When the specs include a lot of inapplicable things, the contractor will start ignoring the specs, because guessing at the intention of the specs, or constantly asking about the intention of the specs, will be a waste of the contractor's essential time. (Of course, the contractor is usually contractually obligated to ask for clarification in the case of conflicts in the documents, but it's not fair for design professionals to knowingly issue documents with conflicts.)

So, architects and engineers, remember that the drawings and specifications are complementary and what is called for by one is as binding as if called for by both. Enforce this during construction!

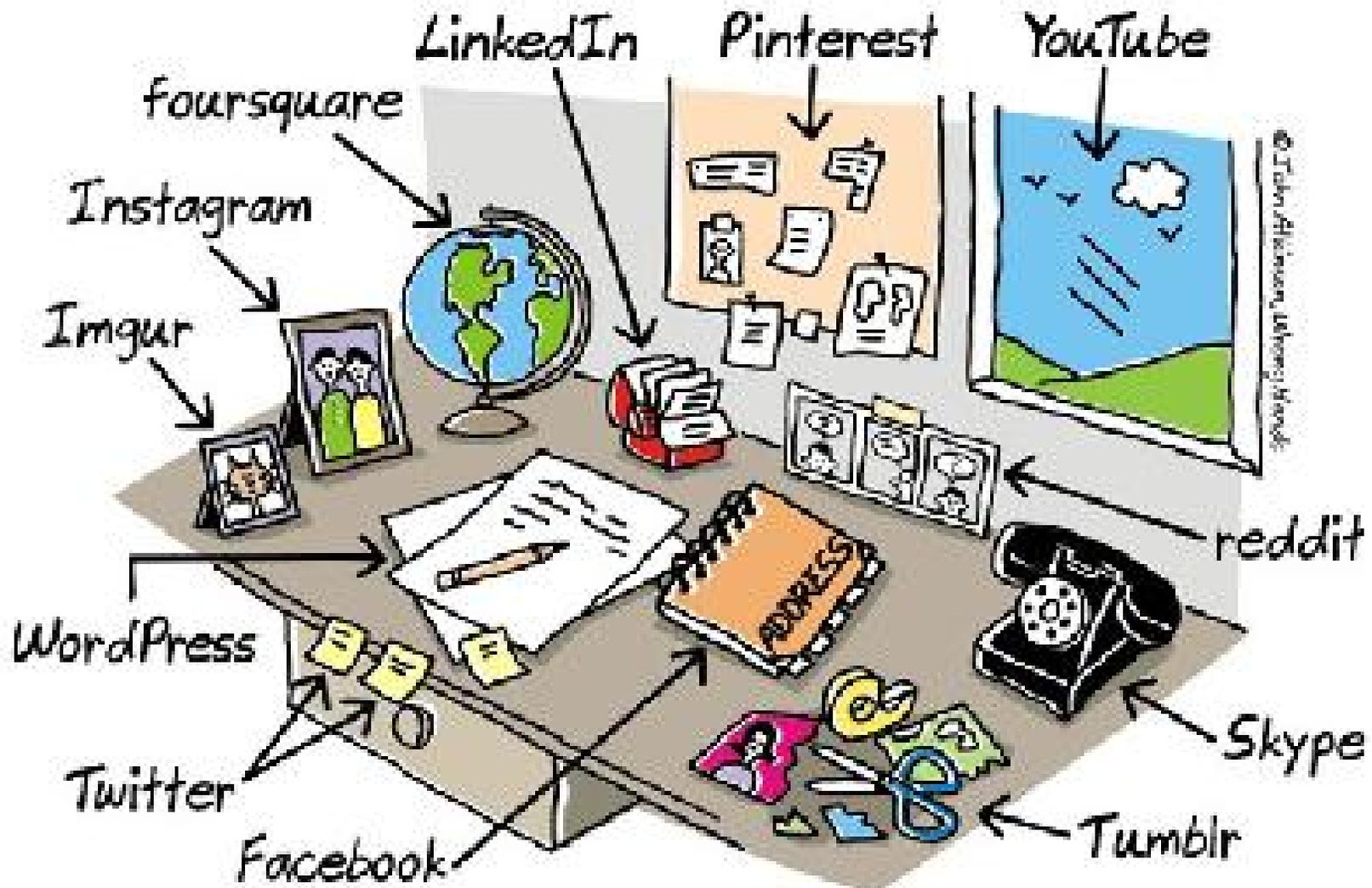
And, architects and engineers, don't put extra stuff in the specs! It wastes your time and the contractor's time during construction, and it may waste the owner's money.

Notes:

(1) AIA A201, The General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, indicates that the Contract Documents consist of "the Agreement, Conditions of the Contract, Drawings, Specifications, Addenda" et cetera. AIA A201 goes on to say "The Contract Documents are complementary, and what is required by one shall be as binding as if required by all..."

This post originally appeared on Liz O'Sullivan's website as "Well, If It's Not on the Drawings..."

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LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter Officers

President:		Garrett Shaffer, CSI
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Operations		Rachal Belanger, CSI
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Education / Certification		

Chapter Info

Chapter Website:	https://csilittlerock.org
Chapter Newsletter:	SpecWork
Chapter Meeting Day and Time:	2nd Wednesday of Each Month unless otherwise specified by the Chapter President
Chapter Board Meeting Day and Time:	1st Friday of each Month unless otherwise specified by Chapter President

If you are interested in Joining CSI or if you are just interested in keeping up with the information provided by CSI, See the slides shown from the "Why CSI" presentation