

Starting Fresh - FY2020 Begins



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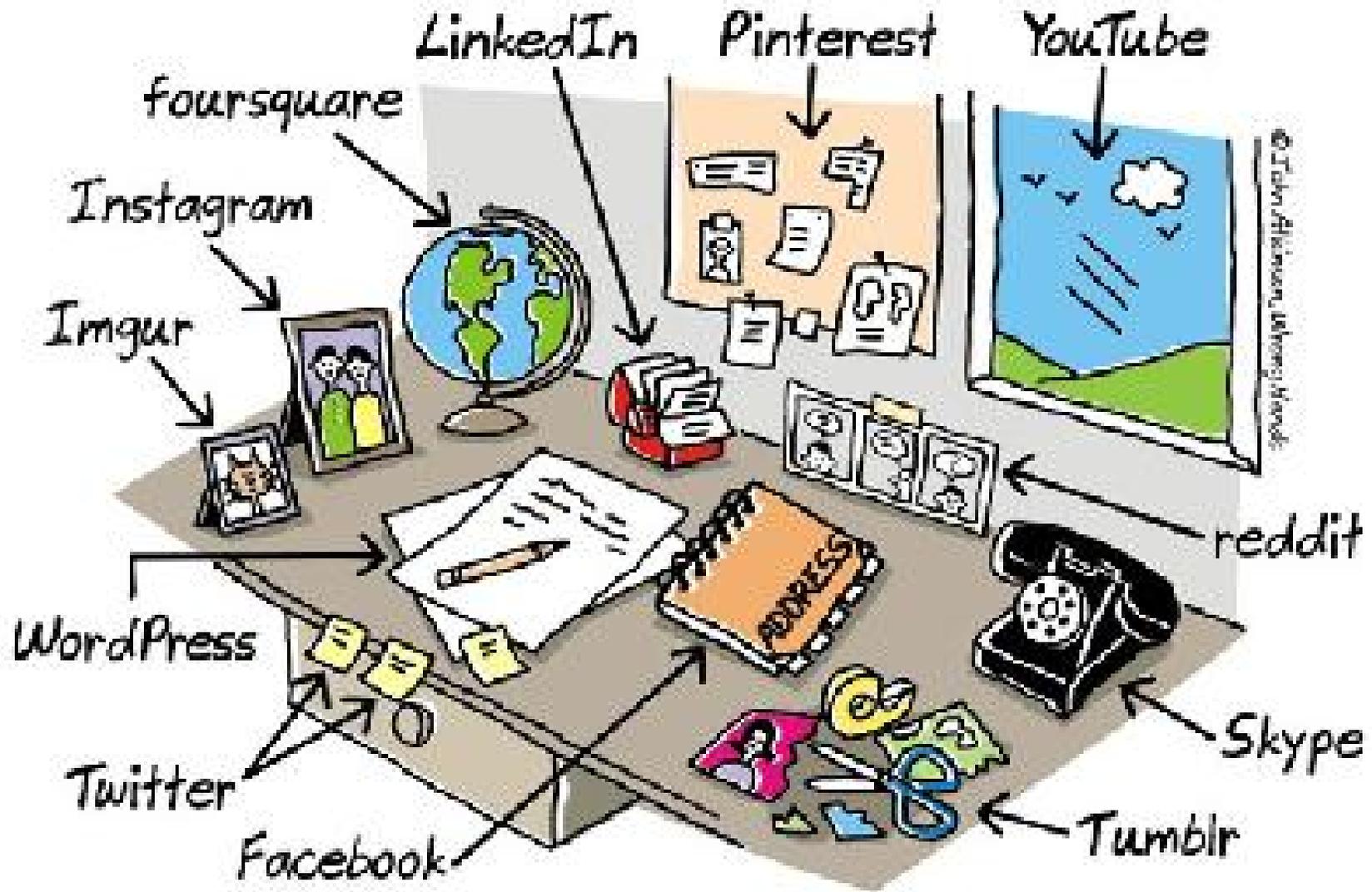
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If you have any questions about volunteering, please email volunteer@csinet.org.

vintage social networking



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LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

LUNCH AND A SEMINAR—WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019

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
Demilec

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

LOCATION:

Baldwin & Shell Construction
Conference Room

1000 West Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

**Reservation Deadline: Please RSVP
by Noon, Tuesday, August 13, 2019**
(LRCSI must guarantee meal count
for the Presentation)

SPEAKER:

Chris Bring, Architecural Sales Specialist, Demilec



PROGRAM:

“Spray Foam in Commercial Design”

Program Summary:

Attendees of this one hour spray foam education course will receive one SD/HSW credit. We will focus on the non-residential use of spray foam as an insulation, air barrier material, and various assemblies. We will discuss building code requirements including ASHRAE 90.1, NFPA 285 compliance, the value of continuous insulation, and the advantages of spray foam.

This Course Provides 1 AIA HSW CE Hour.



President's Thinking

By Billy J. Mathis, FCSI, CDT

Well here I am again. As your President for at least the next Fiscal Year, I don't really have any grandiose agenda. My one primary goal is to see if we can grow the Chapter and get some new blood into our leadership positions. To accomplish this I have put together a 4 person board whom I think can turn us around and get us going. Melissa Aguiar is the new President Elect. Hip Hip Hooray, I have someone to follow me into the leadership role. Melissa has been out of the mix for a little while so we felt that she could use the time as President Elect to get to know the Little Rock Chapter as it is now so when we move forward, she can see the growth and expansion firsthand. Whether she is President Elect for one or two FYs is up to her. When she feels she is sufficiently capable to take over, I will relinquish the "throne" and crown a new leader. Carlie Massery is our Director of Membership and she has taken the latest training from the Institute, the Dynamic Chapter Program, which is going to help us get things turned around. With Melissa enrolling in the next class as well, we should have two dynamic leaders capable of getting the turnaround started. Carlie is not one for sitting around and lamenting the current status, she is a go getter who will be a definite asset to this as well as the Memphis Chapter (where she is involved and, on the Board, as well). Finally we have Rachal Belanger, as the Director of Operations. She brings with her a level headiness and solid foundation that the Chapter can build upon. She is always there when we need her and she contributes in many way that most people outside the leadership don't see. Together I think we have the start for a good year and I am hoping we can turn this around in the next few years. I want to be the "Seasoned Member" that hangs around and provides the continuity from the old to the new CSI. Together I really think we can get going.

This in no way stops us for accepting some older, less active members in roles such as Secretary or Treasurer and there is even a Director or two slots open. If you would like to get involved, even just a little, we want to hear from you. Help us take this chapter from grey hairs to young and vibrancy. We need good ideas and we need good people. Let's bring this Chapter back from death's door and make it as great as it once was. I want to see the Little Rock Chapter be the leader in the Gulf States Region again, but more than that I want to see an active, connected, and concerned Chapter going out into the community and showing just what CSI can offer. Come and see us, get involved and see where you can go both privately and professionally.

AIR BARRIER PROBLEMS ARISE WITH WET CMU

REPRINT FROM - LET'S FIX CONSTRUCTION BLOG -7/8/2019



Contributed by [Roy Schaufele](#)

Late fall and during all winter, concerns and problems arise with air barrier applications on CMU (Concrete Masonry Unit). I know because I get the phone calls. Generally speaking, the fluid applied water-based vapor permeable air barriers go on OK but take a long time to cure or set.

Additionally, I've observed a myriad of job site problems with self-adhered vapor impermeable sheets, flashings and tapes. The vapor impermeable materials were applied properly but exhibited blistering and lack of adhesion within days. When investigated there was always liquid water on the adhered side of these sheets.

Observations of quite a few jobs leads me to state that, in this investigation, the vast majority of "problem" jobs had the following in common:

1. New construction projects with

2. The top of the CMU wide open with nothing to prevent rain entry
3. Unheated and wide-open interiors of the building
4. Located adjacent, within 30 miles, to a coastal condition with dew and fog.

OK, let's deal with what will lead to an excellent new construction air barrier installation and long-term performance:

1. If the Architect/Specifier has specified a dry water repellent in the CMU, it is already causing a potential problem with the adhesion of a water-based air barrier or primer. This issue has been written about previously in an article in Coatings Pro Magazine July 2018 "Legacy Specifications, Wall and Air Barrier Performance". The Air Barrier installer absolutely needs to make the Architect/Specifier aware of this prior to bid.
2. If the project is wide open with doors, bay doors and windows not finished or openings not protected from water entry, then a tremendous amount of water can enter the CMU causing some of the problems referenced above. The top of the walls and window openings should be treated in such a way as to prevent water from running in to these open areas.

One of my friends and great technical writer in Austin, TX, Mr. Dave Watts, RA, has the following statement in his specifications: Section 04 20 00, 3.18 PROTECTION OF FINISHED WORK, 3.18.e "Protect tops of masonry with waterproof coverings secured in place without damaging masonry. Provide coverings where masonry is exposed to weather when work is not in progress."

3. If the construction site is not conditioned then it is up to the General Contractor to provide some type of interior heating to prevent the build-up of moisture in the CMU wall.
4. "Hand Damp", a widely used term that is non-quantifiable and can lead to problems as it is never indicative of how internally wet the CMU may be. Real world is that I know of a multi-generation family business that was put out of business as the air barrier placed on the "hand damp" CMU never cured out as the interior of the CMU contained a ton of moisture. Yes, they were being pushed hard by the GC, who was already behind schedule and they acquiesced.

Perceptual statements were made to me that today's CMU is too "open" or "porous" compared to what was made a few years ago. Upon research, I have found no information to confirm or disprove these statements. I've checked project specifications that were 20 years apart and all specify CMU to the ASTM C90 - Standard Specification for Load-Bearing Concrete Masonry Units.

As of the writing of this article, there are no CMU manufacturers that are members of ABAA.

It is this author's opinion that perhaps it is time for the ABAA (Air Barrier Association of America) to research these concerns and to either lay this concern to rest or have a proactive technical approach to answer the preceding perception(s).

SUBMITTALS AS A DOUBLE-CHECK MECHANISM

REPRINT FROM -LET'S FIX CONSTRUCTION BLOG -5/28/2019



Contributed by [Liz O'Sullivan](#)

On a recent project of mine, the lack of a submittal for the contractor's proposed solution to an unexpected situation caused a problem. The contractor didn't think that a submittal was required by the contract documents, and the architect didn't realize that a submittal was required by the contract documents. The contractor could have saved himself some money and time, and could have saved the architect and the owner some time, if the contractor had just prepared a submittal for the architect's review before proceeding with the work. (Oh, yes, some freshly-installed flooring underlayment had to be removed before the project could proceed. THAT was a waste of time and money.)

If something is added to a project, because of an unforeseen condition, everyone (architect, owner, contractor) often acts as if it's the first time this sort of thing has ever happened. It's not. Unexpected things happen all the time on construction projects, and that's why we have standard processes to deal with them.

Anything that wasn't originally in the project, but is part of the project now, is in the contract as the result of either a change order or a minor change to the contract. Whether it's a moisture mitigation treatment for an existing slab, or a whole new roof assembly, whether it was initiated by an owner as a late addition to a project, or it was initiated by the contractor as a solution to an unexpected condition, or initiated as a substitution request because of a sudden product unavailability, it ends up in the contract as the direct result of a change order or a minor change (such as the type authorized by an ASI, Architect's Supplemental Instructions). Even when the change results in no added cost to the owner, and even when its purpose is solely to repair a mistake made by the contractor, it's a change, and it should be documented (and submitted on).

Architects and specifiers can make sure that the contract documents require submittals for things that weren't originally in the project. Requiring submittals for items added to the project during construction is a good idea. In fact, requiring submittals for items added to the project during construction may be even more important than requiring submittals for things that were originally part of the design, since the new element wasn't originally thought through along with the rest of the design. The contractor's preparation of the submittal, and the architect's review of the submittal, act as a double-check mechanism to help make sure that the added item will be appropriate.

If the architect is creating a new spec section as part of an ASI or Proposal Request, the architect should include in the specs a requirement for submittals – just as the spec sections in the original documents did. If the architect is modifying a spec section as part of an ASI or a Proposal Request, the spec section probably already calls for submittals. The architect needs to dictate those submittal requirements in the documents issued during construction.

Then, the architect just needs to make sure that the contractor provides the submittal required by the contract documents; the architect then just needs to enforce the contract documents.

We have typical processes that state submittal requirements for Substitution Requests and for contractor-generated Change Order Proposals. So the architect doesn't need to reinvent a process; the architect just needs to enforce the contract documents.

If there's a substitution request generated by the Contractor, the Division 01 spec section "Substitution Procedures" can include language that requires product data and samples to be submitted as part of the substitution request. MasterSpec's master language already does this very well.

Contractor-initiated Change Order Proposals that are the result of unexpected site conditions are addressed in the Division 01 spec section "Contract Modification Procedures." The MasterSpec version of this section includes some language for this, but more specific language could be added by the specifier.

When unforeseen site conditions pop up, people often panic, and rush through things, trying to find a solution quickly, to stay on schedule. Just remember – there are probably already processes for these situations in your contract documents, in Division 01 of the specifications. Do not ignore them. This is the worst time to throw out the rules. Your schedule may suffer even more if you ignore submittal requirements. If the requirements for typical submittal info get written into the “rules” (Division 01) and are in there BEFORE unforeseen situations come up (before the contract is signed), it’s easier for the architect to enforce the submittal requirements. It can be difficult to extract a submittal from a contractor after a substitution request or a change order proposal has already been submitted and informally approved.

This post originally appeared on Liz O'Sullivan's website as "Today's Webinar on Submittals"

WANT MORE ON SUBMITTALS OR DIVISION 01?

"Substitutions and Submittals: Not So Dirty Words" and "Why You Need to Read Division 01 on Your Projects: The Rules of the Game" are just two of the sessions available as part of the NEW Product Rep University Program at CONSTRUCT. This day long program has been designed to meet the needs of Manufacturer's Representatives of Architectural Building Products, as integral members of the project team. The program features a full day of education (6 sessions) to help you stay up to date on current trends in the industry, and refine your interactions and relationships with design professionals. Get additional details on the Product Rep University, including the sessions here: <https://www.constructshow.com/en/education/ProductRepUniversity.html>

CONSTRUCT will be held October 9 - 11, 2019 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. Details and registration will be opening soon. Read more on CONSTRUCT here.)

SUBSTITUTIONS: HANDLE WITH CARE

REPRINT FROM - LET'S FIX CONSTRUCTION BLOG - 7/22/2019



Contributed by [Liz O'Sullivan](#)

I think there's a big problem with the way substitutions are often handled, at least here in Colorado.

CSI has some great solutions – for example, 2 different substitution request forms, one for use during bidding, and one for use during construction. MasterSpec has what I consider to be fairly decent language regarding substitutions, in Division 01. But these solutions are often not implemented.

I think that “what we've got here is a failure to communicate” on several levels:

- G.C.'s often fail to forward Division 01 on to bidding subs, so subs don't know the requirements for substitution request submittals. (They don't even know that there ARE requirements for substitution request submittals.)

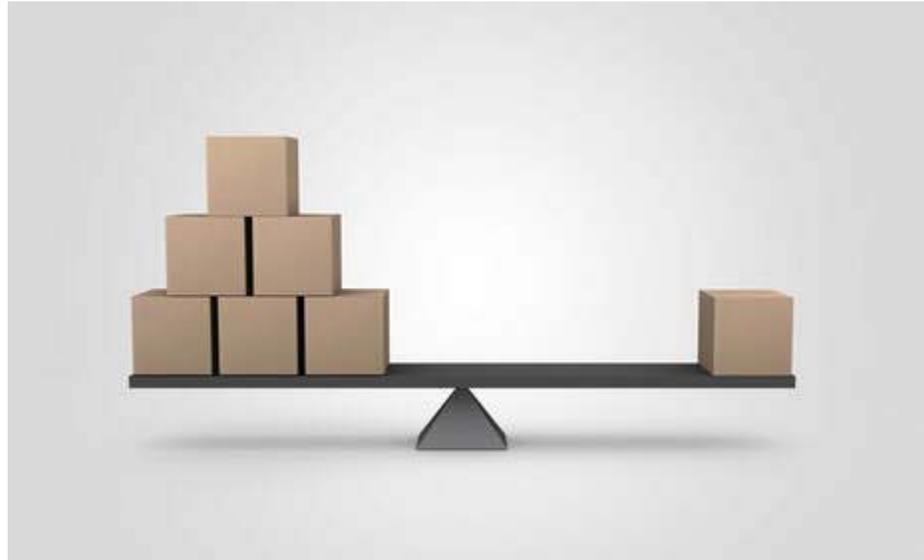
- Then the G.C.'s try to push substitution requests through to the architects without the required information, since they didn't receive that info from their subs.
- Project architects often fail to enforce the specifications' requirements about the information that is to be submitted with a substitution request. Sometimes, that's because they aren't familiar with the requirements in their own project specifications.
- So the architects waste their precious bid-period time trying to verify that the proposed substitution is comparable to the specified system or item, doing the work that the sub ought to have done.
- Owners seem to not understand that substitutions can't appropriately be made in the blink of an eye, since the designed system took weeks to design and took everything related into account.
- Back to the G.C.'s – during construction, they submit on non-specified items, or they just install them, because that's what their subs gave their bids on, even though they weren't acceptable products. This happens when the G.C. didn't verify that the subs' bids were in compliance with the construction documents during bidding, and the sub didn't know the proper procedure for getting a substitution request approved.

As a specifier, I sometimes add some language to the “acceptable products” list in each spec section that refers to the Division 00 section “Procurement Substitution Procedures” and/or Division 01 section “Substitution Procedures,” or if I have a Basis-of-Design product by one manufacturer listed, and a list of comparable manufacturers after that, I sometimes add language in each spec section that indicates that the contractor should “Comply with the requirements of Division 01 Section ‘Product Requirements’ for comparable product requests.”

But as with everything else, the project architect still has to know what's in the specs (and then enforce the specs), the G.C. still has to comply with the requirements of the construction documents (and make sure his subs do too), and the Owner still has to understand that proposed substitutions have to be very carefully evaluated since everything was designed around the specified product.

NOT “EQUAL”, JUST EQUIVALENT

REPRINT FROM - LET'S FIX CONSTRUCTION BLOG - 4/29/2019



Contributed by Michael Chambers

I recently had the opportunity to discuss specification marketing strategies with a former publisher of a national architecture magazine. I mentioned that a very powerful strategy was to ensure that the appropriate competitors are named in manufacturers guide specifications. A look of abject horror greeted that remark which, of course, caused me to launch into a primer on specification marketing to design professionals.

Additionally, there has been a significant discussion on 4Specs.com about what specifiers want in manufacturers guide specifications. Interestingly, naming appropriate competitors was mentioned numerous times.

Specification marketing is second only to continuing education presentations as the most effective branding and marketing tool for construction product manufacturers. A product representative must be a good educator and highly knowledgeable about specifications to be truly effective with design professionals.

Competitive Advantage

While the industry understands competitive advantage in terms of faster, better, or cheaper, a product representative's competitive advantage lies in the following 3 critical elements:

1. Know the limitations of your products
2. Know competitive products as well as your own
3. Sell yourself not your product - develop relationships

Limitations

It is critical for specifiers and designers to understand how not to use or apply a product or system. This may seem a bit counter-intuitive but it is not. Many, if not most, product failures begin with the designers and specifiers not understanding how to appropriately use and apply a product or system. More than anything else help specifiers avoid mistakes.

Competitive Products

Every competent manufacturer and product representative intimately knows and understands who the competition is and how their products and systems stack up. Share that information with designers and specifiers and instantly you become the go-to expert and resource.

Sole source specifications are a powerful magnet for substitutions. Make certain that specifiers and designers clearly understand why you are suggesting competitive products and why you consider them equivalent. Remember, there is no such thing as “equal” products, just equivalent.

Offering specifiers a list of equivalent products allows product representatives to level the playing field and narrow the competitive arena. Be careful to ensure that appropriate competitors are named or your reputation may be damaged.

Solutions NOT Products

The final, and arguably, most important element of competitive advantage is the product representative's relationship with designers and specifiers. Provide solutions not products. Sell yourself, your expertise, your industry knowledge not your products.

Specification Review

Whenever possible, request a copy of the specification and offer to review and comment on project specific information. Any specifier worth their salt will provide project specifications for review. This is a significant opportunity to expand relationship, build credibility, and find out what the specifiers knows about your product.

In the final analysis, what a manufacturer may reasonably expect from a specifier is a well-crafted specification that lists the appropriate competitors. Who better to help the specifier accomplish that task than a knowledgeable product representative?

Protect your competitive advantage by supporting specifiers in producing complete specifications that contain appropriate requirements and truly equivalent manufacturers and products.

(Editor's Note: Michael D. Chambers, FCSI, FAIA, CCS is Associate Vice President and Senior Project Specifier for HGA and is responsible for the specifications in the four California offices and is principal of MCA Specifications. Michael also sits on the CONSTRUCT Education Advisory Council with Let's Fix Construction Co-Founders, Cherise Lakeside and Eric D. Lussier.

What I Learned in CSI

by: Gary Bergeron, CSI, CCS GSR Technical Chair

(Extract from the Gulf States Leader, May 2019 Edition)

Where else can you find a paint expert, wood movement specialist, air barrier technician, an architect, and a mechanical designer in one organization? You can find these people at your local Construction Specifications Institute chapter or CSI Region Conference. Most of us in the construction industry know about solid wood paneling, and its ability to “move” as it expands and contracts with humidity changes. This was illustrated on a recent project.



I was asked to visit a recently completed multimillion-dollar home.

This home included several rooms that were surfaced with 8 inch wide planks of tongue and groove poplar wood on the walls and on the vaulted ceiling. It appeared the poplar wood was installed without much wood surface preparation. The wood planks were installed during the humid summer months with a “penny gap” between the planks. See photo at bottom right. Most of the wood paneling was sanded after it was installed on the wall.

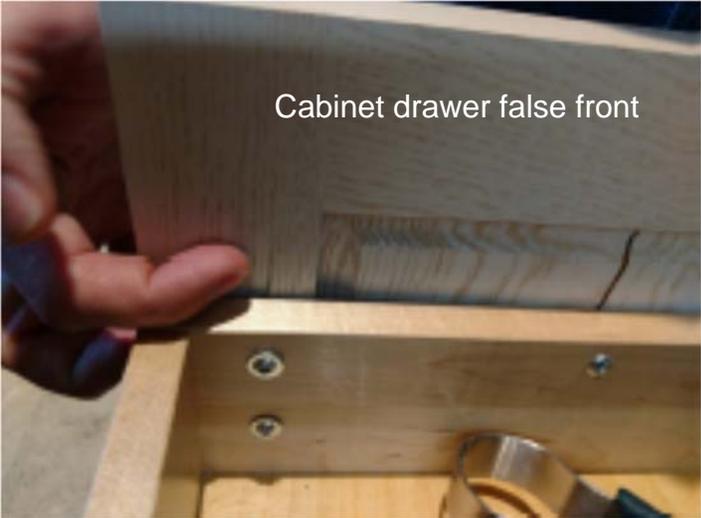
The wood paneling was “pickled” after the wood planks were sanded. According to Kent Kile at PPG Paints, “pickling” is a paint wash composed of diluted paint mixed with a solvent. Since this pickling was only applied to the exposed finished surface, only one side of the wood was sealed leaving the remaining surfaces to absorb and release moisture.

Margaret Fisher of the Architectural Woodwork Institute (AWI) said that all surfaces of wood paneling should have been prepped prior to installation or it would absorb moisture like a sponge and the owner could expect shrinkage and swelling. Due to the humidity fluctuations, some of the wooden column wraps were also splitting where the wood was edge glued. See photo top right. Some of the false front cabinet drawers were cracking in one room.

Further investigation revealed the drawer boxes were fabricated or installed approximately 1/8 inch too short. Thin silicone bumpers were applied to the drawer boxes then false fronts were screwed to the drawer box. Six screws were installed in the rail, stile, and floating panel of the false front. This installation method prevented the floating panel from moving with humidity changes and caused the wood to crack. See photo at bottom far right.

As we entered the attic area, we noticed blown in insulation on the top of the dome. Suzan Jordan with DuPont Tyvek reviewed the photos and noted an incomplete air barrier in this location. There were several eyebrow louvers in the roof plane and some ridge vents. This allowed the exterior humidity to penetrate the attic and occupied space causing humidity fluctuations inside the structure. If the air barrier is not complete, the humidity and air flow paths may cause condensation inside the wall or ceiling cavity resulting in mold.

If you want to discuss this and other construction issues, come to the next CSI chapter meeting or CSI region conference.



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

LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter Officers

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| President: | | Billy J. Mathis, FCSI, CDT |
| President-Elect: | | Melissa Aguiar, CSI, CCS, CDT, SCIP |
| Immediate Past President: | | Open |
| Secretary: | T | Melissa Aguiar, CSI, CCS, CDT, SCIP |
| Treasurer: | | Billy J. Mathis, FCSI, CDT |
| Directors | | |
| Operations | | Rachal Belanger, CSI |
| Honors | | Melissa Aguiar, CSI, CCS, CDT, SCIP |
| Membership | | Carlie Massery, CSI |
| Education / Certification | | Open |

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