



VERMONT CHAPTER
PO Box 302
Williston, Vt. 05495



Green Mountain Specifier

April 2001

NEXT EVENT:

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2001
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

AFTERNOON LUNCHEON SEMINAR:
"Paint And Coating Systems"
Technology & Specifications

SPEAKER
Shance Burchill, CSI, ASID
Sherwin Williams Co.

LOCATION
The Clarion Hotel
South Burlington
Williston Road near I-89 Exit 14E

TIME
Thursday, April 12, 2001
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

AGENDA
11:00...Tabletops
11:20...Introductions and Speaker
12:30...Lunch – Speaker continues
1:00....Panel Discussion
1:30.....End Program - Tabletops

CREDITS
AIA Member & VT Architect Program
Attendees will receive credit for (2)
hours of Health Safety & Welfare
Learning Units.

RSVP
By NOON, Monday April 9th to:
Jonathan M. Miller, CSI, CCS, AIA
President - Vermont Chapter CSI
e-mail: jmiller@ffinc.com
phone: (802) 864-2598 or 864-0280
fax: (802) 860-1815

COSTS
CSI, AIA & ASID Members **Free**
Students **Free**
Non-Members **\$15.00**

Thanks to the *Sherwin Williams Company* for providing a free lunch for CSI, AIA and ASID members – three cheers for corporate sponsors!

Paint and Paint Coatings

Our next program "Covers the World" as the *Sherwin Williams* architectural representative and our main speaker, *Shance Burchill, CSI, ASID*, will speak to VOC's (the new AIM rule), architectural coatings, industrial coatings, specifications, submittals, equals, surface prep and primer systems. Tabletops and a Discussion Panel will include *Duncan Galvanizing, the PDCA, General Polymers, MultiSpec Architectural Coatings, Johns Manville, Textra Wallcoverings*, and others TBD.

CSI Vermont Wins National Recognition!

CSI's Chapter CUP

Our chapter increased our membership by 76.19% during the year 2000 and almost doubled the nearest chapter's effort by adding 17 new members.

The Vermont Chapter achievement is so remarkable because we were just 1 of 142 chapters competing for this honor. An article by Jonathan Miller appears in the March issue of "The CSI Leader". If you'd like a copy, e-mail Jonathan and he will e-mail you "The Leader" in PDF format.

CSI VT Wins Again! Outstanding Chapter Commendation Award

The Vermont Chapter was just informed that they are one of the four (out of 14) Northeast Region CSI chapters to receive the Institutes Outstanding Chapter Commendation Award for FY2000, which ran from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

WE WANT YOU ...

...to make a contribution to the Green Mountain Specifier – ideas, articles, letters, advertising or other relevant material (if you're nice, maybe we'll even take irrelevant material). Contact:
Chris Eling, CSI, Editor
CE@pmarch.com
Peter Morris Architect, Inc.
8 Roundtree Way
Vergennes VT 05491
phone: (802) 877-3830
fax: (802) 877-3972

CSI Certifications Study Group

The CDT is the first step in CSI certification. Normally, certification exams are given but twice a year: once in April by each chapter, as well as at the national CSI convention. However, for a limited time only we are offering it to you in this fall on October 10th at the CSI Regional Conference at Basin Harbor Club!... near Vergennes VT.

A group of CSI members will be setting up a certifications study group in late summer – it is anticipated that these sessions will go for six weeks leading up to the conference in October. Even if you don't feel the need to actually become CSI certified (or you can't afford to lighten your wallet a little,) these study sessions might be very useful in refreshing your familiarity with contracts, specification procedures, and construction documents in general.

Act Now! Take advantage of this Special Offer! If you would like more information, please contact Chapter President Jonathan Miller.

LAST MONTH:

MARCH PROGRAM RECAP

CSI CERTIFICATIONS:

Construction Documents Technologist
Certified Construction Specifier
Certified Construction Product
Representative
Certified Construction Contract
Administrator

SPEAKER

Architect, Specifier & Project Manager
Jonathan M. Miller
CSI, CDT, CCS, AIA, NCARB

TIME/LOCATION

March 15, 2001
The Windjammer, South Burlington

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

1.5 direct Health Safety & Welfare hours
of Learning Units for AIA or VT
Architect members.

Attendees were extolled on the many advantages of CSI Certification: benefits for themselves and for employers. General methods and definition in specifications, types of contracts, acceptable hierarchies and relationships in the building process ...all these and more are part of the knowledge tested in the certification processes.

Describing these certifications, and their qualifying exams, was Jonathan Miller, who is a certified CDT (Construction Documents Technologist) and CCS (Certified Construction Specifier), and will be trying for the very difficult CCCA (Certified Construction Contract Administrator) exam in April. Jonathan read sample questions from his old practice tests, and those in attendance were surprised to find that they didn't know as much as they thought!

If you are interested in refreshing – or perhaps fleshing out – your knowledge of specifications, contracts, and the processes of construction documents, see the “Study Group” article on page 1. You can also visit the CSI web page:

www.csinet.org/certify/certhome.htm

You're talented, knowledgeable, and skilled. So let the industry know, that you know your stuff! Earn CSI Certification and let it be known!

The President's Message

Jonathan M. Miller, CSI, CCS, AIA

Greetings! I am very pleased to write this column for our Newsletter. It has been five or more years since we had one and the new effort is thanks to new member *Chris Eling* and his employer, mentor (and incoming Chapter President), *Peter Morris, CSI, RA*. I am very grateful to them for stepping forward to resurrect the **Green Mountain Specifier**.

I am beside myself for our winning the Institute's *CSI Chapter Cup* for highest percentage increase in membership in the nation, and for also winning the Institute's *Chapter Commendation Award* for FY2000 ! Both of the awards will be presented to me, on behalf of the chapter, at the Dallas Convention in June. Speaking of awards, stay tuned for an update regarding our joint awards meeting with the local ASHRAE chapter headed by President *Russ Pratt* of Hallam Associates.

Peter Morris, as the Vermont Chapter's *Director* to the North East Region, and I, as *Region Technical Chair* and *Co-chair* of this year's region conference, are attending the Spring Board Meeting at the Sagamore Hotel on Lake George. *James Wentworth, CCCA*, our new Institute Director-Elect will be reporting on our strategic alliance with Division 17 to create a website gateway to communication information. Speaking of Division 17, the Institute Board is considering blessing the Division 17 concept at the June Convention meeting in Dallas, Texas. Peter and I will follow up with you next month on the region goings on.

Lastly, the Vermont and Boston Chapters are co-hosting the region conference this year from October 11-14 at the Basin Harbor Club near Vergennes. For an update I am ecstatic to report that we have just sent the region conference registration packet draft to the printer for layout. Printed packages look to be ready to mail out sometime in June. For a quick look at our promo check out the region website at www.neregioncsi.org . If you are interested in helping out, please contact me at 864-2598. Stay tuned !

ENTER YOUR FIRM'S NAME HERE

THIS COULD BE YOUR ADDRESS, E-MAIL, PHONE #, AND FAX #

This could be your advertisement!

Our VT chapter Newsletter is published monthly and distributed to over 140 local contractors, architects, product reps, engineers, and other CSI members.

Rates TBD

For more information contact the Editor.

Scan a business card ! Create your own graphic design !

Remember that our smaller banner is half the cost of this one, but you'll have to use smaller type like this and what kind of an impression will you make on your potential customers if they get an eyestrain headache from reading your ad? from The Original Audacious WorcesterShare Source, Worcester CSI chapter newsletter; Ed Healey, editor.

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Member-Sponsor-A-Member-Campaign

Qualify to win great prizes while providing a mentor to new CSI members. Reward yourself, your chapter, your association and your industry by sponsoring new members in this year's campaign! Go to:

<http://www.csinet.org/member/sponsor01.htm> to find out how.

Who's gone fishing? See how your fellow members and chapters are doing with recruitment efforts in this year's Member-Sponsor-A-Member Campaign 2001. Hurry--campaign ends April 30, 2001.

Sell Your Boss on CSI!

Many employers already know the benefits of CSI. But if yours is not one of the 70% of CSI memberships which are paid for by your employer, use the [CSI Employer Brochure](#) we've prepared to show your boss how your participation in CSI can benefit the company--and the industry! This brochure validates what you have been telling your employer all along about the value of CSI. It explains CSI's organizational focus and special opportunities that only members can receive. Go to <http://www.csinet.org/member/memhome.htm> to order your copy(s) today!

Hail To The Chief

In case you hadn't heard yet, the results of the CSI Northeast Region came in, and a new director has been elected!

Congratulations to James Wentworth, CSI, CCCA, of the Rochester NY CSI chapter, who will assume his duties as of July 1, 2001. High praise also to the runner-up, Jerry Cicciari, for his efforts.

Our outgoing Region Director of the past three years, Mike Owen, CSI, CDT, of the Rhode Island chapter, did not seek another term, as he was too busy with a campaign to become the Institute Vice President – a bid in which, unfortunately, he was not ultimately successful. See if you can't seek him out and thank him for a job well done.

Your new Region Director should be in attendance at the Region Conference in the fall; maybe he'll outline some of his plans for the future of CSI in our region. Make sure to come and see!

THIS SPACE FOR RENT

Alternate Dispute Resolution in Construction

By Matthew Boomhower, CSI, CDT

All of us in the construction industry have heard horror stories about projects that ended in litigation.

Unfortunately, a number of us have also lived through a project that has gone this route. The reality of the situation is that we live in a litigious society, and that in construction disputes will often arise. The good news is that there are a number of ways that litigation can be avoided and that disputes can be settled.

The first method of dispute resolution that people call to mind is litigation. The process is long, expensive, and often leaves one or both parties dissatisfied with the outcome. At the CSI National Convention this past summer, in a seminar on Construction Dispute Resolution, the presenters Glenn Spencer and Harry Griffin made the comment that Litigation is a process only a lawyer could like. They would know; they are both lawyers. The good news, and the focus of their seminar, is that there are alternatives to litigation that can be used to settle construction disputes. These other dispute resolution techniques are referred to collectively as Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR).

So what are these other processes? I'm glad you asked. I currently am involved with a project that is going through a dispute resolution process that will never go to litigation. The contract between my employer and the Owner has a clause calling for any dispute to be settled either by Mediation or Binding Arbitration. Mediation is a process by which the parties to the dispute select an independent Mediator to hear each side of the story and help the parties see the strengths and weaknesses of their case. This usually leads one or both parties to modify their demands until a negotiated settlement can be reached. According to Spencer and Griffin, the American Arbitration Association (AAA) has very favorable statistics from participants in Mediation. According to AAA 90-98% of participants find the process satisfactory. The down side to this method is that both parties have to want to settle and the decision is not binding unless legal documentation is prepared and signed by both sides.

The other ADR process is Arbitration. There are two types of Arbitration, binding and non-binding. The difference is fairly straightforward, binding arbitration is enforceable by the courts, non-binding is not. The arbitration process involves each side agreeing to hire a certified arbitrator, who listens to each party's case and then renders a judgment. The arbitrator's decision is final; there is very little chance for appeal. Again the AAA finds that 60-70% of participants find the process to be favorable. One misconception I had about arbitration was that it ended up being a "splitting of the baby." Spencer and Griffin

debunked that theory by providing more AAA statistics showing that 60% of arbitration judgments are either 0-20% or 80-100% of the claim amount. The major disadvantage to arbitration is that it may still be as grueling as litigation, due to depositions, discovery of information, and the actual hearing(s).

The good news is this: More and more construction industry disputes are being settled outside litigation. In the end, this trend should prove to be valuable as it saves time and resources and allows us to get on with the business of creating the built environment.

Read Any Good Specs Lately?

by Sheldon Wolfe, CSI, CCS, CCCA, RA

During eight years in the public sector, where I represented the owner during design and construction, I reviewed project manuals from most of the firms in my area; few of them came close to the standards established in CSI's Manual of Practice.

Among CSI's basic tenets are "say it once" and "clear, concise, complete, and correct." The Manual of Practice develops these ideas, carrying the logic into every aspect of the project manual. All CSI documents express various aspects of a comprehensive, consistent system for organizing, preparing, and interpreting construction documents.

There are often good reasons for departing from the "true path," but most departures are a result of misunderstanding or neglect. I make no claim to perfection; I can rattle off excuses along with everyone else. I often wonder, though, can't we do a better job?

I suspect most of our professional members have a copy of the MOP, and all certified members must have had some acquaintance with it to pass their examinations. Yet, despite our education and professed adherence to CSI's principal document, the average specification falls far short of compliance with our own standards.

This column is a forum for discussion of the art of writing specifications. If you want to argue the case for a better way to write, or want to find out why something is done a certain way, let me know.

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on the web at www.NorthStarCSI.com

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waiting to be utilized!***

You could even link directly to your website:
<http://www.csinet.org/>

contact The Editor

CSI Member Log ON

For the Online Bookstore

Let CSI be your one stop resource for a large selection of publications geared to your business and informational needs. Our offerings are ever expanding. If you don't find the topics you are interested in let us know! Your membership allows you to take advantage of some great discounts we have been able to negotiate with publishers. Click the link below and take a stroll through our library!

<http://www.csiwebapp.org/scripts/mgrqispi.dll?APPNAME=WEBTEST&PRGNAME=MEMBERS&ARGUMENTS=-N50,-A>

Architectural Terms

And What They Really Mean

by David Marshall

sense of entry: the front door is big and far away

skewed grid: the design looked too boring with a regular grid

contextual: is surrounded by a lot of other buildings the architect couldn't tear down

project: nobody in their right mind would ever consider building the crazy thing

theoretical: (see project)

seismically designed high-rise: in an earthquake, structure will not collapse, but will drop all of its glass and stone panels into the street turning pedestrians into a stew-like mush

less is more: designer ran out of ideas

urban site: they sell crack around the corner

pedestrian oriented: doesn't have enough parking

jury: firing squad

sense of place: good spot to scope the babes/hunks during lunch

classically proportioned: traced out of a book of Roman architecture

post-modern: traced out of a book of Roman architecture

design review board: failed architecture majors

human scale: less than 400 feet tall

signature building: you can't afford it

international style: no country will take responsibility for it

deconstructivist: the backhoe ran into it during construction – and they liked it

architecture student: egotistical-masochist with no money

Magical Membership Milestones

by Jonathan Miller

A little over a year ago **Roger Marshall, CCS, AIA** relocated himself, his wife and his business (*Roger Marshall, AIA - Architect*) to Springfield, Vermont, from down Boston Chapter way. (Northwestern Connecticut I believe.) Being halfway between us, Roger debated between joining either the New Hampshire Chapter or VT and, to my delight, decided to be with us. He has been to almost all of the VT programs since and to my surprise I soon found out that Roger has been a member for **20 years** and will later this summer be eligible to be made a CSI Emeritus. Please congratulate Roger the next time you see him and ask him how he managed to stay a member after all those years.

Dennis Frehsee, AIA is an architect and partner in firm of *Williams & Frehsee, Inc.* down in Brattleboro. This January Dennis passed his **10th year** as a member and we congratulate him and hope to see him at one of our programs someday. (Well I can hope, even if it's a good 4½ hour drive one-way.)

Jonathan M. Miller, CCS, AIA It's not polite to toot your own horn but I'll just mention that I too have been a member for over **10 years** now. I first joined the *Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter* in 1990 where, before I left four years later, I was on the board of directors as the VP of Technical. In 1994 my wife and I relocated to Connecticut where I joined the *Hartford Chapter* and was the Technical Chair for a while. We moved up to Burlington on a magically snowy day in January of 1997. I jumped into the *Vermont Chapter* and have been overactive ever since. I thank *Freeman French Freeman* for being supportive of my efforts to fulfill a need in the professional community that is CSI Vermont.

Stephen Monroe of the Sterling Hardware Group has been a CSI member for **5 years** now, and, even though he is really a *Worcester County Chapter* home member, I'd like to congratulate him on reaching number five.

2001 Vermont Chapter CSI Events

- January 11** “Specifying & Designing Lighting”
Donna Leban, AIA
- February 8** “Code College 2001”
Bob Patterson, Asst. State Fire Marshal
Stan Baranowski, Asst. State Fire Marshal
- March 15** “CSI Certifications” at the Windjammer
Jonathan Miller, CSI, CDT, CCS, AIA
- April 12** “Paint and Coating Systems”
With tabletops at the Clarion Hotel
Sponsored by Sherwin-Williams Co.
Shance Burchill, CSI, ASID
- May 9** “Fireproofing and Firestopping”
with tabletops at the Clarion Hotel
Sponsored by W.R. Grace Co.
Robert Montanaro and George Guanci
- June** Joint ASHRAE/CSI Awards Banquet
- July 12** Membership Meeting & CSI Convention Debrief
Jonathan Miller, CSI
- August 9** “Vermont Brick - Factory Tour” Highgate, VT
Sponsored by Vermont Brick & Trowel Trades
- September 13** Membership Meeting & NERCSI Conf. Update
- October 12** North East Region CSI Conference – Oct. 11-14
Basin Harbor Club, Ferrisburgh, VT

“Green and Sustainable in Vermont”
Friday Technical Theme [Open to Non-Members]
Up to 8 hours of HSW Learning Units offered.
Jonathan M. Miller, CSI, CCS, AIA
NERCSI Conference Co-Chair
- November 8** Concrete & Construction Methods
Herman G. Protze, III, ASTM, ASCE, ICRA
- December 6** Division 17 – Communications
Impact on Vermont Construction
Michael Kirick

New Members Welcome !

The Vermont Chapter CSI welcomes the following new FY2001 members:

March 2001

Christopher Eling, CSI
Peter Morris Architect, Inc.
JoLanna King, CSI
Compass Flooring Solutions

February 2001

Timothy Witt, CSI
Riser Management Systems

January 2001

James E. Pulver, CSI, AIA
Breadloaf, Inc.

December 2000

Wendy Blakeman, CSI
Freeman French Freeman
Shance Burchill, CSI, ASID
Sherwin Williams Co.

November 2000

John Gant, CSI, AHC
HCI Craftsman

October 2000

Dashka Gorzynska-Kurjanowic, CSI
Tamgor Design Studio
Stephen R. Huffaker, CSI, RCDD
Riser Management Systems

September 2000

Jerry L. Bowman, CSI
Riser Management Systems
Bruce Jacobs, CSI
Don-Vac, Inc.
Victoria C. Rickert, CSI
Best Tile of Vermont
Dennis B. Webster, CSI, AIA
Wieman Lamphere Architects

August 2000

Leo Carl Berliner, CSI
Morris Switzer Associates
Stephanie J. Conrad, CSI, AIA
Freeman French Freeman
Rolf Kielman, CSI, AIA
Truex Cullins & Partners
John P. Ostrum, CSI, CDT, RA
Buildings & General Services
Matthew Tibbits, CSI
Duncan Galvanizing
Pamela Wood, CSI
Creative Materials Corporation