



VERMONT CHAPTER
PO Box 64902
Burlington VT 05406



Green Mountain Specifier

April 2002

THIS MONTH:

APRIL PROGRAM

Luncheon Seminar, Panel Discussion & Tabletops on: **WINDOW TREATMENT**

Sun Control-View-Privacy-Sound-Insulation-Security

SPEAKER

Gordon Clements, CSI
Gordon's Window Décor

TIME/DATE

Thursday, April 11, 2002
11:00am-2:00pm

LOCATION

The Burlington Sheraton
Williston Road, I-89 Exit 14

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

2 HSW AIA/CES credits

SUMMARY

Our feature speaker, Gordon Clements, will address a number of technical and construction issues related to windows. A discussion panel will talk about issues and answer questions from attendees. Tabletops are planned that include Window Treatment, Window Systems, Glass Technology, Daylighting, Energy Conservation, Controls and more.

COSTS

CSI & AIA Members	\$25
Non-Members	\$35
Students	\$10

RSVP

By no later than noon, Monday, April 8th to Jonathan Miller, (802) 865-4579
campsi@earthlink.net
Questions? Contact Jonathan Miller, or Gordon Clements at (802) 655-7777 or gwddecor@aol.com

April 11th Program

Window Treatment

This month's event will be an in-depth discussion on different ways of dealing with sun control, controlling views, maintaining privacy, providing additional sound control, beefing up R-value insulation, and dealing with security issues of windows.

Please join us for another in-depth discussion of an issue that many of us have lost touch with regarding current technical theory.

'FIVE' CSI National Awards to be Presented to the Vermont Chapter !

"2nd Chapter Cup"

"2nd Outstanding Chapter Commendation Award"

"Publication Award" for the Green Mountain Specifier

"Commendation Award" for an Outstanding Region Conference

"Environmental Sensitivity" for the Region Conference Technical Program

By Jonathan M. Miller, CSI, CCS, CCA, AIA, NCARB

The Vermont Chapter is proud to receive one of the two "silver" Chapter Cups awarded for 2001...and for the second year in a row ! Our 17 new members gave us a 29.6% increase in membership. The Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter won the other cup with 22 new members. *(If we had gained 6 more members last year we would have won BOTH Chapter Cups !!!)*

With an amazing increase of over 55% in achievement points over last year, we have won an "Outstanding Chapter Commendation Award" for the second year in a row !

WE WANT YOU ...

...to make a contribution to the Green Mountain Specifier – ideas, articles, letters, advertising or other relevant material (if you're polite, maybe we'll even take irrelevant material). Contact:

Chris Eling, CSI, Editor

chris@pmarch.com

Peter Morris Architect

8 Roundtree Way

Vergennes VT 05491

phone: (802) 877-3830

fax: (802) 877-3972

The Institute has agreed with the chapter's opinion that our Editor, Chris Eling, has done a wonderful job with our E-Newsletter, the "Green Mountain Specifier," by awarding an *Institute Publications Award* !

Last October's Northeast Region Conference was such a resounding success that we believed that the other CSI regions needed to know what the Vermont & Boston Chapters had accomplished together. CSI national agrees and has given a *Commendation Award* for this singular outstanding accomplishment, which promoted the mission of the institute.

Last October's "Green & Sustainable in Vermont" Technical Program at the Region Conference also proved to be an award winner. The Institute will be recognizing Jonathan Miller with an *Environmental Sensitivity Award* "for promoting or fostering environmental awareness in the construction industry."

Awards are scheduled to be presented at the *CSI Convention in Las Vegas* from June 26th-30th. Jonathan will be there, accepting the awards on behalf of the chapter.

LAST MONTH:

CSI & THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Industry & Chapter Orientation and Networking Event

TIME/DATE

Tuesday, March 19, 2002
4:00pm-6:00pm

LOCATION

The Clarion Hotel
Williston Road, I-89 Exit 14

SUMMARY

Last month's Chapter Orientation was a platform for a number of announcements and presentations. First was an encore presentation of a promotional video given by Larry Mills of the Rhode Island Chapter, for this year's upcoming North East Region Conference in Providence RI from September 19-22.

Ev Howard of Pizzagalli and Victoria Rickert of Best Tile were presented with their new CSI pins. David Shippey from Duncan Galvanizing was recognized as a new Vermont Chapter member (even though he is a New Hampshire home Chapter boy.)

Peter Morris then discussed our chapter officers / committee structure. The ease and value of being a chapter officer, by joining us for a free lunch once a month, was a myth breaker. Not everyone needs to volunteer as hard as JM, PM or CE do! Every little bit of input or timely effort helps the chapter and the construction industry.

Peter and Jonathan also announced that the chapter has batted 1.000 with our award submissions and will be nationally recognized with FIVE institute awards at the June convention in Las Vegas. See the article on page 1 for more information.

Jonathan then showcased a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed changes to MasterFormat, and what is the OCCS or Overall Construction Classification System. (See the related articles on pages 3-5.)

Great thanks to member Jeff Caird for providing the AV equipment and expertise!

The President's Corner

ghost/guest-written for Peter D. Morris, CSI, RA by the editor

April Fools, Happy Easter, and Opening Day !

I hope everyone managed to make it through April 1 relatively unscathed – it's a Halloween for the springtime, with Easter baskets supplying the treats. And there's no bigger sign of spring than the first baseball games of the season. Try and catch a Montréal Expos game while you still can.

National Recognition

We have been officially notified that all four of our CSI awards submittals have resulted in Institute Awards ! Along with the silver Chapter Cup (for the greatest percentage membership growth during fiscal 2001) this makes for a total of five trophies and plaques that Jonathan Miller, our Membership Chair, will accept on behalf of the chapter at the CSI National Convention in Las Vegas in June.

We are thrilled and honored to be recognized this fully. Congratulations go out to Jonathan Miller, Chris Eling, and everyone who has helped our chapter flourish. We have a good start on doing this again in 2002, and we need your help.

Program Events

April's program should be a good one, covering nearly all aspects of window openings and options. Meanwhile, our May program arose out of recent discussions at our monthly board meetings. Members have volunteered some good program ideas, and we can use more input. Please contact Jonathan Miller or myself if you would like to help out and put in your two cents.



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NEXT MONTH:

MAY PROGRAM

Luncheon Seminar on:

PHYSICS OF WALL DESIGN

Preventing Leaky and Sick Buildings through Proper Use of Flashings and Air / Vapor Barrier Placement

SPEAKER

Leonard Anastasi
Lennel Specialties Corp.

TIME/DATE

Thursday, May 9, 2002 [TBVerified]
11:00am-2:00pm

LOCATION

The Burlington Sheraton
Williston Road, I-89 Exit 14

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

2 HSW AIA/CES credits

SUMMARY

Next month's program topic is the highly debatable topic of building envelope integrity. Leonard actually holds the revolutionary belief that buildings should not leak, and they should not be poisoning the air we breathe within the building. Our seminar and ensuing discussion will cover many issues, including through-wall flashing, air barriers, vapor barriers, housewraps, insulation types, EIFS walls, and more. Be sure to bring along any questions you might have.

COSTS

CSI & AIA Members	FREE
Non-Members	\$20
Students	FREE

Costs for all CSI and AIA members will be generously underwritten by Trowel Trades and Leonard Anastasi of Lennel Specialties Corp.

MasterFormat™ Revisions Approved ***New Divisions to Address Industry's Needs***

[Editor's Note: as a way to summarize last month's presentation, this article is returning for an encore; see www.csinet.org for more details on the changes.]

The Construction Specifications Institute's (CSI) Executive Committee recently approved a concept for revising and expanding the organization's flagship document, the 16-division MasterFormat specifications system, based on a recommendation from CSI's MasterFormat Expansion Task Team. MasterFormat, last revised in 1995, is the nation's most widely used formatting standard for specifications concerning nonresidential building projects. MasterFormat, which functions as a "Dewey Decimal System" for the commercial construction industry, provides the organizational framework of the written instructions for construction of commercial buildings.

"The current revision, part of CSI's regular review and revision of its flagship product, is especially significant because of all the changes that have taken place in the construction marketplace since the last revision in 1995," said Dennis Hall, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, Chair of CSI's MasterFormat Expansion Task Team. "When completed, the new MasterFormat will improve the process of creating and sustaining the built environment across a much wider spectrum of the industry.

"At the same time, current users of MasterFormat need not be concerned about major changes, because those who use MasterFormat will be able to continue using it in much the same way as they do now," Hall added.

Under the concept approved by the Executive Committee:

- Divisions 3-14 will remain largely intact.
- Divisions 15 (Mechanical) and 16 (Electrical) will be eliminated, and their content will be divided among a proposed group of new divisions containing expanded content for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing.
- Two new divisions, covering Communications and Life Safety and Facility Protection, will be created. The Communications division will address many topics in the so-called "17th Division" advocated by some stakeholders, although not necessarily using the exact structure or language submitted. Life Safety and Facility Protection will address some additional topics related to low-voltage systems, as well as some subject matter already covered in other locations in the current edition of MasterFormat.
- Divisions 15 through 20, and other divisions throughout the proposed expansion, will be left blank as placeholders for new divisions dedicated to topics that may arise in the future.

In developing its proposed revisions, the Task Team sought input from more than 500 AEC industry organizations. In addition to a desire for a "17th division," many parties expressed interest in expanding the types of projects covered by MasterFormat divisions so as to aid in the organization of specifications for roads, bridges, utilities, and other heavy civil engineering projects, as well as industrial construction projects.

"With the proposed changes, MasterFormat will provide civil and process engineers with the specifications tools they need to help them do their jobs," Hall said. "As an integrator for the entire industry, CSI wants to make MasterFormat better not just for its current users but also for professionals who up until now have not been able to realize the benefits that effective specifications formats can provide."

continued next page

**CSI Vermont Chapter:
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Revision will broaden the base of potential users of MasterFormat, providing effective specifications formats for heavy civil engineering projects and industrial construction.

The MasterFormat Expansion Task Team's plans call for publishing the revised MasterFormat in late 2003, although many factors could change the publication date.

In the interim, Hall said, CSI plans to reach out to key construction industry organizations that have a stake in the publication to begin the process of educating them about the proposed changes and getting their feedback. The Task Team also plans to solicit additional information from the CSI membership, as well as non-member specifiers and architects who are current and experienced MasterFormat users, and to hold two symposia (dates and places to be determined) for extensive face-to-face discussion between CSI and affected parties.

"We're going to work hard to make the revised MasterFormat something that both current and prospective users will be comfortable with," Hall said.

reprinted from www.csinet.org



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Our VT chapter Newsletter is published monthly and distributed to over 200 local contractors, architects, product reps, engineers, and other CSI members.

Rates: for 10 issues, full-size ad (1.5"x3.8") \$80; half-size ad \$50

What Is the OCCS ?

There is an unmet need for a classification system to organize the enormous amounts of data created during the life cycle of any built environment. Having recognized this need, a group of volunteers from organizations and firms representing a broad cross section of the construction industry has agreed to work together to develop the Overall Construction Classification System (OCCS).

The OCCS will eventually be used by all industries involved with creating and sustaining the built environment -- from conception through demolition, and will be the basis for organizing, storing, and retrieving information, and deriving relational applications.

A Common Language:

The increasingly widespread use of computers only serves to highlight the fragmented way that building projects are commenced, designs created and realized, construction carried through to completion, and buildings maintained, renovated, and ultimately demolished.

All too often lost information and miscommunication complicate these operations. Activities like those carried out by the architecture, engineering and construction industry, where each project is performed independently by unique collections of individuals, need a common language, especially in the interconnected economy that all businesses operate in today, or disorder will prevail, leading to inefficiency and increased costs.

The OCCS can help to provide a common language.

Organization for your data:

Digital design and web-based communication systems make some tasks easier, often give the outward appearance of order, and promise to keep everyone on a project informed about the status of every undertaking, but the underlying information still must be addressed, used, and communicated precisely by the people involved. The storage and effective use of this information throughout the structure's life cycle is extremely hampered, even in the most sophisticated networked project-focused communication environment, if it isn't arranged or accessed using a meaningful taxonomy.

The lack of a coherent organizational structure and vocabulary results in inevitable disconnects during all phases of the life cycle of a built environment, with varying levels of cost associated with each of these disconnects. A hierarchical classification system and an accompanying thesaurus or controlled vocabulary is the most efficient means by which the interests of information storage and delivery, and effective simultaneous communication amongst all the parties involved in any construction project can be ensured. The OCCS will provide this structure.

Where We Are Now:

Work is just beginning on the OCCS. Changes are being made daily to the OCCS in the Committee's online work environment. Join the Committee now and get in on the ground floor, provide your skilled input, and make sure that your needs, and those of your colleagues and coworkers, are met by this rapidly developing standard.

The members of the OCCS Development Committee have been working for the last year towards the development and publication of the Overall Construction Classification System. Now available for free download on our website (www.occsnet.org) is the result of this work, "The Overall Construction Classification System: A Strategy for Classifying the Built Environment."

This publication is a preliminary draft for public review and comment. The OCCS is envisioned as a constantly evolving, flexible standard. The Committee plans to continue to develop the OCCS as an industry-derived, open standard that meets the needs of all who design, construct, and maintain the structures that comprise the built environment. This will be accomplished through the commentary and participation of interested individuals and organizations. The commentary and input of all potential users is sought; the methods for collecting this commentary and for volunteering to join the OCCS Development Committee are contained within the document and on the website.

If you are interested in contributing to or learning more about this effort, contact Greg Ceton at the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), gseton@csinet.org

The OCCS Development Committee looks forward to receiving your commentary.

Ken Guthrie

OCCS Development Committee co-chair
The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)

Gary Beimers

OCCS Development Committee co-chair
The International Alliance for Interoperability (IAI)

reprinted from the OCCS website, www.occsnet.org

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WHY ARE WE HERE?

**The Construction Specifications Institute's core purpose is:
To improve the process of creating and sustaining the built environment.**

TechNotes

Avoiding Responsibility

If manufacturers don't stand behind the information they distribute, why would you want to use their products?

Design professionals rely on manufacturers and suppliers for the information necessary to design a project, and to specify materials and procedures those manufacturers' products. Advertisements, specifications, and performance data distributed by manufacturers are the primary source of information used by design professionals to determine if a product will meet the requirements of any given project. This information is often supplemented by discussion with the manufacturer's technical staff, distributors, suppliers, and installers, but the written documents are about the only things that reliably can be used to justify the way a product is used.

It is not unreasonable, then, to expect that a product advertised for a particular use is indeed suitable for that use. Consider a company that produces a group of products, and calls them wood doors. The company's literature calls them wood doors, it specifies them by standards used for wood doors, and it shows pictures of the product being used as wood doors. An architect should be comfortable choosing this product for use as a wood door; a specifier should be confident that it can be specified as such; and the owner should have no doubt that it is, indeed, a wood door, with all that implies.

If manufacturers do not stand behind their products, if they do not accept responsibility for the technical information they furnish, then the design professional, the contractor, and the owner must decide on their own what products to use and how they should be used - often with no experience on which to base their decisions.

Assuming that you agree with the previous arguments, you wouldn't use products from a manufacturer that wanted to absolve itself of all responsibility for its products. Or would you? Consider the following statement, found in a well-known manufacturer's product binder located in many specifiers' libraries:

It is the responsibility of both the specifier and the purchaser to determine if a product is suitable for its intended use. The designer selected by the purchaser shall be responsible for all decisions pertaining to design, detail, structural capability, attachment details, shop drawings and the like. [Company X] has prepared guidelines in the form of specifications, application details, and product sheets to facilitate the design process only. [Company X] is not liable for any errors or omissions in design, detail, structural capability, attachment details, shop drawings, or the like, whether based upon the information prepared by [Company X] or otherwise, or for any changes which purchasers, specifiers, designers, or their appointed representatives may make to [Company X]'s published comments.

Gives you a nice, warm feeling, doesn't it? There's more: Other manufacturers of similar products use similar disclaimers, and products of this type have been the subject of a lot of legal action and bad press. Without written certification of acceptance of details and specifications used for this product, why on earth would it be used?

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swolfe@bwbr.com ; on the web at www.CSI-MSP.org

Mark Your Calendars, Part I

North East Region CSI FY 2003 Conference

Next Year's Conference is being Hosted by the Rhode Island Chapter CSI, September 19-22, 2002 at The Westin Providence. Industry members may want to check out booth opportunities at the Renaissance Faire Exhibition. Now is the time for 2002 budget planning! Get a Sponsorship Brochure from Jonathan Miller and/or give Co-Chairman Mark Weiner, CSI a call at (781) 933-0027 x104 or e-mail mark.t.weiner@sherwin.com .



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**Scan a business card !
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Remember that our smaller banner is roughly 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? (this ad idea from The Original Audacious WorcesterShare Source, Worcester CSI chapter newsletter; Ted "O!" Argyle" Healy, editor.)

Special Request Announcement

We are looking for a few good people to take some of the burden from overextended members like Jonathan, who is still doing too much and really needs your help....give him a call ! Every bit of contributed effort can help.

CSI Certification

Exam Time !

The next exam dates for CSI Certifications are June 26th in Las Vegas and September 19th in Providence. Six members have just finished Certification Chair, Adam Bortz's CDT Study Sessions in preparation for the April 6th exams. They are going for their CDT and when they pass the exam, they will be able add this professional certification to their résumé and business cards !

For more information, or to sign up for the study course next year, contact Certification Chair Adam Bortz at 802-864-5953 or adambortz@aol.com

Mark Your Calendars, Part II

The CSI Show & Convention

Next June 26-30 is the Construction Specifications Institute Convention being held this year in Las Vegas, Nevada .

Advance registration runs from March 1 – June 7 for \$325 / Member and \$505 / Non-member and buys a complete registration package. Online registration begins March 1st at www.theocsishow.com or call 1-800-689-2900.

Monthly Program Ideas

What Do You Want To See?

The Vermont Chapter is always looking for suggestions of events, issues, or themes for our monthly seminars. If you have a request, an idea, or would like to offer to host a program, please contact Program Chair Jonathan Miller or Asst. Program Chair Gene Pawlikowski (contact info on p.4). Come to our April 11th program or the monthly Board meeting and share your ideas !

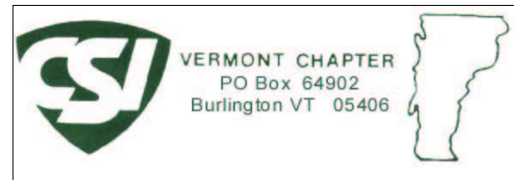
EDITORIAL POLICY:

The Green Mountain Specifier is published as the official newsletter of the Vermont Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute. Neither the Editor nor the Chapter assumes responsibility for any alleged errors, and opinions stated are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Chapter's members or leadership, or the Institute.

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome, and should be submitted to the editor by the 24th of the month in order to be included in the next issue. Contributions may need to be edited for, among other things, clarity, filesize, and length.

New Chapter Logo Needed

This is the logo that the Vermont Chapter CSI currently uses (also shown in the upper left-hand corner of the first page of every Green Mountain Specifier):



A little tired and/or ordinary, no ? Therefore we are soliciting entries and ideas for a new logo.

The only requirement is that the CSI shield be included somewhere in the logo. For printing purposes it should be possible to print the logo in black and white. Any text should still be legible when reduced to roughly the size of the current logo above.

Other than that, everything else is fair game. Use the outline of the state, a profile of Camel's Hump (a la the Vermont quarter), or anything else symbolic of the state or its construction industry. A CSI motto can also be included, like "Creating and Sustaining the Built Environment." This is a quote from CSI's Mission Statement, which is:

"The Construction Specifications Institute advances the process of creating and sustaining the built environment for the benefit of the construction community by using the diversity of its members to exchange knowledge."

If you have any graphic design ideas for a new and improved logo, contact Jonathan Miller or Chris Eling (see page 4 for contact information).

As a chapter, Vermont CSI is growing rapidly (just look at our consecutive Chapter Cup awards), and is becoming more and more valuable to the construction community at large. Help us put our best foot forward.

Stay tuned for details on what the winning logo entry will receive as their prize !

The logo features a green silhouette of a mountain range. Below the silhouette, the words 'Efficiency Vermont' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Efficiency Vermont

Call 1-888-921-5990 for details on all our energy efficiency services for commercial and residential customers

2001-2002 Vermont Chapter CSI Events

- July 12, 2001** “Doors, Frames & Door Hardware”
Basic & Electronic Hardware
William D. Lawliss, CSI, CDT – Essex Industries
- August 9** “Vermont Brick - Factory Tour” Highgate, VT
Sponsored by Vermont Brick & Trowel Trades
- September 12** “Codes & Door Hardware for Schools”
at the Burlington Sheraton
Shelley Hudson, CSI, CCPR – Ingersoll-Rand Co.
- 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 12** Concrete & Construction Methods
Herman G. Protze, III, ASTM, ASCE, ICRA
- December 6** Division 17 – Communications; and its Impact on
Vermont Construction, Burlington Sheraton
Michael P. Kirick, CSI, PE, *Kirick Eng. Assoc.*
Jim O’Reilly, *Archi-Technology*
Andy Montroll, *Riser Management*
Jerry Johnson, *VT Telecom Advancement Center*
- January 17, 2002** “Construction Management...Benefits & Pitfalls”
William Alexander “Sandy” Feed, Esq.
followed by a Discussion Panel
- February 13-14** Building Solutions 2002 Conference
Efficiency Vermont & VT Dept. of Public Safety
Co-sponsored by the Vermont Chapter CSI
- March 19** CSI & the Construction Industry
at The Clarion Hotel in South Burlington
- April 11** Window Treatments
Gordon Clements, CSI, *Gordon’s Window Décor*
Tabletops and a Discussion Panel too !
- May 16** Physics of Wall Design [TBVerified]
Leonard Anastasi, *Lennel Specialties Corp.*
- June 6** CSI Awards Banquet
Vermont Chapter Awards Presentation & Social
4–10 PM at the Basin Harbor Club
- July** Quarry Tour [TBVerified]
Gene Pawlikowski, CSI, *Trowel Trades Supply*

New Members Welcome !

The Vermont Chapter CSI welcomes the following new 2001-2002 members:

March 2002

Bob Pustis, CSI
Holophane Lighting

February 2002

Ev Howard, CSI
Pizzagalli Construction

January 2002

David Shippey, CSI
Duncan Galvanizing

December 2001

Robin Lawson, CSI
Swaney Taylor Lighting Associates

November 2001

John Hausner, CSI
Homestead Design, Inc.

October 2001

Steven Benjamin, CSI
Wilsonart / CT Plywood Corp.
Gordon Clements, CSI
Gordon’s Window Decor
Daniel Maxon, CSI
Energy Efficiency Vermont
Sandra Vitzthum, CSI, AIA
Vitzthum Studio

August 2001

Kevin Grenier, CSI
E.H. Danson & Associates

July 2001

Jerry Wolff, CSI
Parex, Inc.

Interested in Joining CSI ?

Contact any of the chapter officers and we will put you on the road that can connect you to the rest of the construction industry and explain the benefits of chapter membership. You can also check out the institute’s website at www.csinet.org and the region’s website at www.neregioncsi.org for information, links and much more.

Take advantage of the institute’s program to reward each new member that another member sponsors with a \$25 CSI Buck Certificate. CSI Bucks are applicable to any institute publication or event. Contact Membership Chairman, Jonathan Miller, for more information.