

Invitation

Volume 49

October 2008

Issue 10

Monthly Newsletter of the New Orleans Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute

New Orleans Chapter CSI
presents

“Lighting Protection 101”

presented by

**Robin Scheile of Bonded Lightning Protection in
cooperation with the Lightning Safety Alliance.**



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2008
5:30 Networking 6:30 Dinner
Cost: \$30.00

1CEU/1AIA
Learning Unit

Andrea's Restaurant
3100 19th Street (at Ridgelake)
Metairie, La 70002

Please R.S.V.P. via Evite or contact Eric White (504) 234-1014
Robert (504) 401-7653 or Claudia (504) 236-0497



*Advancement of
Construction Technology*

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President's Column

October 2008

Hello CSI Board, Members and Friends,

October is upon us and Christmas is right around the corner.

We are accomplishing all of our goals, so far and CSI New Orleans is deeply involved in planning some events that you will all remember. We have the 50th Anniversary Party coming to Restaurant August next year but before that we have:

Christmas in October – October 18, 2008
CSI Golf Tournament 2009 – Audubon Golf Course on October 31, 2008
And Halloween Costume Contest
CSI Year End Seminar – November 14, 2008
CSI Christmas Party – December 16, 2008
CSI Annual Product Show – April 2009
CSI 50th Anniversary Celebration – May 2009



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Thanks to all of you volunteers in making each CSI event a huge success.

As we prepare for the Christmas in October event, I would like to express my sentiments regarding our participation in this event. I am very proud of you all but specifically those who are willing to give up their time to help others. I personally find great satisfaction in trying to do good deeds and I am so proud of you, the membership, for giving up your time to accomplish a good deed. I would like to thank Robert Conescu and Barry Triche for their efforts towards coordinating this event.

As the stock market plummets and the impending election is on the horizon, I ask you all to go out, let your voice be heard, express your opinions and VOTE. Your vote could make a difference (in theory).

Back to CSI Matters..... Remember, you can make a difference in this organization by taking on a leadership role and volunteering!!!

Thanks in advance for all you do and please pray for our troops,

CSlingly Yours,
Robert Louis Alfonso, CSI

how do you tell
someone about the
value of CSI?



MISSION STATEMENT

CSI

“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.”



Knowledge for Creating
and Sustaining
the Built Environment

CSI



The Lightning Safety Alliance

24 Lanson Drive
Winsted, Connecticut 06098
Phone (860)379-5946 Facsimile (860) 738-1326
Lightningsafetyalliance.org

Registered Provider Program Summary

Program #: LSA101 **Length:** 1 Hour

Credits: 1 AIA Learning Unit
 .1 CSI CEU

Program: Lightning Protection 101

HSW: Yes

Description: A review of proper lightning protection system design and application as conforms to UL and NFPA lightning protection requirements.

A/V Needs: Electrical power and a screen. The instructor supplies a laptop and projector.

Target Audience: Architects, engineers, owners and other design professionals involved with commercial, industrial and/or residential markets. The ideal audience can range from one to over 50 participants. The program meets every experience level and encourages questions and answers.

Learning Objectives: Participants will gain a general understanding of how lightning protection systems work including the five essential elements of effective lightning protection systems. At the end of the program participants will be aware of the considerations that should be made during project planning to specify effective, attractive and low-maintenance lightning protection systems for all types of structures.

Instructor Qualifications: Lightning Safety Alliance instructors are trained on AIA and CSI guidelines and presentation skills. They are actively involved in the lightning protection industry with extensive experience in lightning protection system design, installation and standards interpretation

How taught: LSA instructors use a PowerPoint presentation to provide an in-depth overview of:

Costs: There is no cost to bring this program to a firm or organization chapter.

- the risks lightning poses to unprotected buildings
- the five essential elements to a proper lightning protection system
- the standards that lightning protection systems should meet
- non-conventional methods of lightning protection
- considerations to take into account when designing lightning protection

**For additional information, contact
Michelle Kilmer 800-950-7933 ext. 1254 or
mkilmer@bondedlp.com**

LSA instructors encourage questions and discussion throughout the presentation to ensure that participants gain an in depth understanding of lightning protection.



"It is a mistake to try to look too far ahead. The chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time."

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)
English Politician and Author



TECH TALK

TABLE TOP INCLUDES: 6 foot display table to be set up for the entire meeting. Product literature & samples are encouraged.

- Approximately 5 minute product presentation to the general membership.
- One meal included in cost for night of presentation.

CSI meetings are typically on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Call to discuss available time slots. Monthly time slots are generally assigned on a first come, first served basis. Cost: Members \$125.00 Non-members \$225.00. Check payable to CSI New Orleans Chapter.

Send Application and Deposit to: Chuck Hite, CSI, AIA, Eskew+Dumez+Ripple, 365 Canal Street, Suite 3150 • New Orleans, LA 70130 • 504-561-8686
 Fax Application to: Bob Kleinpeter, CSI, 504-522-2253

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ CSI Member yes no

Products to Display: _____

Certification News!

CSI's Certification Program is gearing up for the next round of exams in Spring 2009.

Registration is now open for spring CDT & advanced certification exams!

The Spring testing window for all exams is March 30 thru April 4, 2009. The early registration deadline is January 31, 2009 and the final registration deadline is February 28. Register now!

Advanced exams now computer-based:

In March 2009, the CDT and advanced certification exams will be offered at Prometric's approximately 400 computer-based test centers throughout North America. Candidates register for exams through CSI. Candidates will receive their scores within minutes of completing an exam.

More Information

Go to www.csinet.org/certification, which includes a lengthy FAQ, or contact Member Services at csi@csinet.org or 800-689-2900.

What to Study?

The Project Resource Manual, formerly the CSI Manual of Practice contains subject matter for all certification programs. It may be purchased from the Institute through the web-site and will be a valuable resource in your office.

AIA A201 - 2007 - General Conditions of the Contract for Construction. Copies of this are available from the American Institute of Architects, reproduction companies or run copies from most Project Manuals for building construction projects. Start studying this document now while waiting for the Resource Manual to arrive.

Once registered, a "Study Guide" will be sent by the CSI Institute. This is a "question and answer" review of the subject matter that you have been studying.

Prior to the Exam, the CSI New Orleans Chapter will conduct "Study Sessions" to "re-cap" the subject matter. However, those that desire to take the exams should start studying now.

For those who participate in the Study Sessions and take the exam, CSI and AIA agreed on standard hours and program numbers for CSI Certification Program. 15 Contact Hours for CDT and 20 for CCS, CCCA and CCPR.

Contact the following:

Bob Kleinpeter RA, CSI, CCS
Certification Chair and Instructor
561-8686 Ext.319 Fax 522-2253
bkleinpeter@studioedr.com



*Advancement of
Construction Technology*

by *Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI*
Cincinnati, OH

When you go home tonight, by which door will you enter your house? Yes, I realize that some of you merely go through the tent flap!!! Or like me, close the lid on the pasteboard box.

Like many of you, perhaps, in my previous life, Mom said we come in the back [kitchen door] and not through the front or living room door! Didn't care to have the mess from dust off the ball diamond to mud from just slogging, to snow and ice dripping off the galoshes [remember them?] In the kitchen with linoleum on the floor, the clean up was easier.

'Course all of guests came through the front, be damned the conditions they dragged in.

At my Aunt's the entry was the side door [again not the front] into a little entry way that led to either the downstairs apartment [where Grandma lived] or upstairs to my Aunt's "place".

When we went to the speak-easy we entered by the "green door"—but that is another story for another time. Also, it was far easier to enter by the rear door coming home from a 3AM date and not having to travel through the entire house to sneak into you bedroom.

Yes, all this trivia does have a point.

It is that when you are part of a group [like you are part of your immediate family] you do things differently than when you are a "guest", or relative once removed. Seems to me that this is a consideration that we might explore,

We bemoan the bleak future of our profession [spec writing, that is] and the non-existent pool of "spec-writers-in-waiting". We well know the lack of attention in most college curricula to even mere mention of specifications, much less any pilot light to ignite interest that would produce a newbie— even eventually!

Aren't we using the back or side door of our organization and projecting an unenterable facade to those who might—just might—have some meager interest. Hey, those are our "guests" and I suggest they deserve some attention; some welcome; some outreach; some very open and attractive initiation to "come on in"!

Like our families, old and new, we are comfortable, and function easily and well, but guests and outsiders still are in a standoffish position. We may have a rich and fulfilling life, comforts, and accomplishments within our family, but all this may well be hidden from outsiders, Even some relatives you see only during the holidays or at funerals are almost foreigners in our homes [but they do enter by the front door, due to our invitation—don't they?] And it is all those "on the inside" garner and benefit from the goodies, the closeness and the rewards not open to others.

Doesn't it follow, then that those on the Student Affiliate Committee have it right. They work with students and have reached out to create interest, to open the lines of sight to the good within and to send out invitations to those who just might "come our way". The student activities at the June "gathering" last year were marvelous affairs—rewarding to those close to it, and from their expressions [verbal and non-verbal] most interesting and valuable to the students.

When you have a minute, check www.naab.org for a list of all of the accredited architectural schools, and know there is a scant few who "mention" specs. Then add the engineering schools, community and vocational colleges, technical institutes and even the directly construction oriented classes, who may well have some interest too.

These, ladies and gentlemen, are untapped resources to which no door is visible much less open and inviting, on our facade facing them! We have so much good to offer, but we largely keep it to ourselves— the "comforts" and benefits with our "family"— and don't readily open our door and offer it to others outside.

Why not?

Is there something we can [and should] do?

Robert Swan, CSI, AIA
Construction Administrator
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New Orleans, Louisiana
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Phone: 504 586 9303



Green industry fertile ground for construction suits

Dick Dahl

As LEED projects proliferate, lawyers foresee an era of green-construction lawsuits.

Eight years ago, the U.S. Green Building Council launched a voluntary program called Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design to encourage conservation. Project owners and builders can achieve LEED certification - certified, silver, gold or platinum - by earning points in different green-building categories.

Beyond the environmental benefits, the certification offers marketing opportunities for building owners and the chance to make, or lose, a lot of money.

"If you're selling this thing to your senior management because it's good for the environment, it's good for the community and it's the right thing to do, then when you eventually get beyond the love affair, this thing better produce," said Donald Murano, a plaintiffs lawyer in St. Louis who serves on a risk-management task force with the Green Building Initiative, a nonprofit organization in Portland, Ore. "Over the next five or 10 years, you'll see an exponential growth in litigation. "

Lawyers expect more lawsuits as building owners realize a green stamp of approval translates into good public relations, higher rents and tax breaks. When contractors or design professionals fail to deliver, owners may seek pay-back.

Frank Musica is a risk-management lawyer with Victor O. Schinnerer & Co. Inc., the largest underwriter of professional liability insurance in the country. He said green-related claims are increasing against architects and engineers insured by his Chevy Chase, Md.-based company.

"When a developer has a problem with a project, he's going to claim a number of things," Musica said, "including, 'You told me I'd get a certification, and I'm not getting it. '"

In the last two years, Musica compiled a list of green-claims cases against Schinnerer policyholders. He would not identify the people or companies in the cases.

One is a lawsuit filed against an architect by the owner of a LEED silver office building. A tenant demanded a rent rebate after one year. The suit alleges that promises of healthier indoor air quality proved untrue, as sick days increased, production lagged and employees complained of eye strain and drafts.

Another LEED-related case involved a developer who sued an architect after the architect guaranteed LEED gold certification. Budget and time constraints prevented the project from achieving gold, but in marketing the office building, the developer had emphasized the anticipated LEED certification to attract tenants at higher rents.

Both cases remain unresolved.

Daniel K. Slone, a partner in the Richmond, Va., office of McGuire Woods, which has been the USGBC's outside coun-

sel for about 12 years, doesn't expect the legal web to ensnare the building council.

In the LEED-certification review, he said, "The building owner has paid the USGBC to go through a process, and in the absence of fraud or something that might be a direct contractual sort of claim, we have not seen any liability for the USGBC. "

Slone said one type of dispute that has arisen has been brought by tenants who use the LEED certification as a basis for their decision to move in, and, presumably, pay higher rent than in a non-LEED building.

"But you, as a building tenant, don't have a contract with the USGBC," he said. "You don't have any basis on which you can say - because the information you relied on was incorrect, or something slipped up in the process or there's some aspect of this performance that doesn't match up to your expectations - that you have a right of action against the USGBC.

"You may have a complaint. You might have issues about the reliability of this process, but you don't have a right of action. "

The process of achieving LEED certification is akin to filling out a checklist, said Brian D. Anderson, an attorney with Axley Brynelson in Madison, Wis. But acquiring LEED points doesn't necessarily translate into a green building, he said.

"It's dangerous to make a claim that because your building has achieved a certain level of LEED certification that it's going to produce these specific benefits," Anderson said. "There are a lot of exaggerated claims. As an attorney reading through these things, I think, 'Oh my goodness, somebody's going to get sued. '"

Environmental claims related to occupants in LEED-certified buildings are particularly suspect, Anderson said. Such claims essentially say workers in LEED-certified buildings are healthier and more productive. But Anderson said the research to support those conclusions is lacking, "and once plaintiffs lawyers get a hold of these kinds of claims they'll rip them to shreds. "

Another area for potential litigation, Anderson said, is shareholder action. He said he understands LEED has a pilot program in which large companies can "bulk certify" many buildings on the basis that they share the same design. Broad-scale investment to achieve LEED certification will require public companies to disclose those investments to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"And anything that it submitted to the shareholder and to the SEC can enter the very fertile ground of securities litigation," Anderson said.

Dick Dahl is a staff writer for Lawyers USA, a sister publication.

Submitted by,
Robert Louis Alfonso, CSI

New Orleans Chapter CSI 2008 Golf Tournament

The CSI Annual Golf Tournament is currently scheduled for Friday October 31st at Audubon Golf Course.

In the spirit of Halloween, all golfers and non-golfers are encouraged, if not demanded, to attend in costume for laughter and prizes.

Special awards will be given for best costume and best group costumes. The tournament will be scheduled for the late morning and anticipated to wrap up early afternoon. (This should provide ample time for you to attend other personal Halloween festivities.) Details on sponsorships and early bird registration rates will be provided in the next newsletter.

See you there.

Kevin J. Morris

AIA, CSI, CDT, CCCA

541 Julia Street, Suite 201

New Orleans, LA 70130

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www.kmostudio.net



Commercial Construction

Commercial construction costs continue to rise

Washington Business Journal

Commercial building costs rose 1.77 percent in the third quarter over the second quarter and nearly 6.5 percent over the third quarter of last year, according to **Turner Construction Co.**'s Building Cost Index. The index, which projects domestic commercial building construction costs, found that construction costs are rising faster than the Consumer Price Index.

The increase is due in large part to price hikes for steel, non-ferrous metals, petroleum-based products and energy.

Wage and benefit adjustments also are generally higher than a year ago, "reflecting the continuing strong demand on the skilled labor workforce," said Karl Almstead, the Turner vice president responsible for Turner's Building Cost Index.

However, increasing trade contractor competition in many market areas is offsetting some of the material and labor increases, the report found.

Turner has prepared the construction cost forecast for more than 80 years.

Submitted by,
Robert Louis Alfonso, CSI



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CSI New Orleans 2008 Year-End Seminar **- November 14**

The annual Year-End Seminar – affectionately referred to as the “Life-Safety Seminar” – is scheduled for Friday, November 14, at Delgado Community College. More specific information is contained in the Seminar Registration Form reprinted in this very newsletter. It will also be e-mailed to everyone on the planet, so watch your in-box.

This is an 8 hour seminar, offering 8 CEH for your continuing education needs, which many find themselves scrambling to fulfill this time of year. (Don't forget that continuing education credits can be carried over into the coming year as well). The cost at \$150 (\$125 for CSI members) is a real bargain at half of what I am seeing in the mail for other seminars this time of year. And the material is being forwarded even as you read this for prior approval from both the AIA and Teeny Simmons herself.

We try to make this annual seminar focus on code related issues, and this year is no different. The subjects and speakers this year are aimed to help you kRobert Louis Alfonsonow what's coming up with new developments in the International Building Code, and to get the most mileage out of working with the code requirements we all know and love –

FIRE SPRINKLER OPTIONS IN THE IBC - Gene Endthoff, CBO

- Review need for increased fire safety
- How active fire protection can improve design
- Using active fire protection to control costs
- How to know where sprinklers are required
- How to select egress design options
- How to understand the sprinkler trade-up concept

ENERGY CODE UPDATES - Kevin Powell, LEED AP

- Program administrative changes
- Codes , implications and requirements
- Overview of energy efficiency
- Energy star
- ResCheck
- ComCheck

IBC 2006-CURRENT ISSUES - John Chumba, CBO, MCP, Assoc AIA

- Overview of IBC and Plan sbmittal requirements
- Occupancy groups and Types of construction
- Coastal construction issues
- High wind construction
- Soils and foundations

GREEN BUILDING UPDATES FOR IBC 2006 - Kevin Powell, LEED AP

- Codes, implications and requirements
- Energy efficiency-IBC Chapter 13
- About Green Building
- Smart growth
- Relationship between building code, zoning, planning and sustainable development

We are excited to have this program to offer and look forward to seeing everyone there. Don't forget that this is one of our main fund-raising tools for the year, so put the word out to your colleagues who may not be members – post a copy of the registration forms in your office – go out and button-hole the next architect/engineer or contractor you see on the street. We'll see you at the seminar!

Chris Young

CSI New Orleans Product Show Seminar Returns in 2009

Scouring the land for the best and brightest to speak at our Year-End Seminar also led to our being able to put a program together for the return of the 3-hour Product Show Seminar, so we are excited to announce that we will have a program for 3-hours of CEU which will be priced attractively and timed to get you out just as the Product Show opens up.

Watch for details before the end of the year on this program and mark it on your calendars now. Proceeds from this event have been earmarked for helping to defray the cost of our 50th Anniversary Banquet in May.

Chris Young, CSI

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Construction Specifications Institute

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Gulf States Region Website.	http://www.csiwse.org/en/1426716	

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Industry	M. Keith West, CSI, CDT Tel: 601-982-1601/Fax: 601-982-1684	keith@westarchspec.com



2008 Year-End Seminar **Working with the International Building Code**

Friday, November 14, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Maurepas Room, Second Floor, Student Life Center,
Delgado Community College

Continental breakfast and box lunch are included in registration (Aramark Catering).

-
- **Fire Sprinkler Options in the IBC**
 - Gene B. Endthoff, CBO, National Fire Sprinkler Association
 - **Energy Code Updates**
 - Kevin Powell, LEED AP, Institute for Building Technologies and Safety
 - **IBC 2006 - Current Issues**
 - John Chumba, CBO, MCP, Assoc AIA, Louisiana IBTS
 - **Greenbuilding Updates for IBC 2006**
 - Kevin Powell, IBTS

Co-sponsored by
Delgado Community College Department of Architectural Design and Construction Technology
Prof. Victor Mirzai – Department Head

Limited seating
Program subject to change

8 Health, Safety & Welfare CEH
Registered with LA State Board of Arch. Examiners, AIA/CES, and CSI/CEN
CSII/New Orleans is a registered provider for AIA/CES and CSI/CEN

Registration: \$150 / CSI members \$125.

To register, contact Katharine Jung at 504-799-3000 or Chris Young at 504-799-3009, or return a copy of this form with payment to: CSI Seminar, 650 Poydras St., Suite 2800, New Orleans, LA 70130.

Name: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

AIA Membership No.: _____ CSI Membership No.: _____





*Advancement of
Construction Technology*

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Founded in 1948, the Construction Specifications Institute is a non profit technical organization dedicated to the advancement of construction technology through communication, research, education and service. **CSI** serves the interest of architects, engineers, specifiers, contractors, product manufactures and others in the construction industry.

The New Orleans Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute was Chartered on May 3, 1959. The Invitation is the newsletter of the New Orleans Chapter CSI and is distributed free of charge to all chapter members and other interested parties in the construction industry.

This publication does not approve, sanction, or guarantee the validity or accuracy of any data, claims, or other opinions stated in the articles or advertising. The information is presented with the understanding that the institute, the Chapter, and its members are not engaged in rendering legal or their expert professional services in the newsletter.

Please post and/or pass on the others who may be interested.



New Orleans Chapter CSI
P.O. Box 55309
Metairie, LA 70055
Chartered May 3, 1959
48 years strong

Dates to Remember

**Annual
October 28, 2008
Meeting**

October 28, 2008

New Orleans Chapter CSI
Chapter Meeting 5:30 p.m.
Andrea's

October 31, 2008

New Orleans Chapter CSUI
Golf Tournament
Audubon Park Golf Course

November 5, 2008

New Orleans Chapter CSI
Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Sun Ray Grill

November 14, 2008

New Orleans Chapter CSI
Year End Seminar
Delgado Community College

November 25, 2008

New Orleans Chapter CSI
Chapter Meeting 5:30 p.m.
Andrea's

November 27, 2008

Thanksgiving Day

December 2, 2008

New Orleans Chapter CSI
Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Sun Ray Grill

December 16, 2008

New Orleans Chapter CSI
Christmas Party
Colonial Country Club

April, 2009

New Orleans Chapter CSI
Products & Trade Show
Delgado Community College

May 9, 2009

New Orleans Chapter CSI
50th Anniversary Celebration

