



The Summer Addendum



The Newsletter for the Metropolitan Chapter of the Construction Specification Institute, Inc. Volume 52, Number 12, August 2004



Truly Theater in the "Round"

by Bill Hohlfeld, NYL&P Consortium Rep.

One evening, an architect by the name of Duncan Hazard of The Polshek Partnership was enjoying a production of "The Iceman Cometh," at the Brooks Atkinson Theater. When the performance was over he emerged from the theater, looked across 47th St., and saw the ailing Biltmore Theater. That was just about the time the Manhattan Theater Club was searching for a larger space to make it "Tony Eligible." The rest, as is often said, is history.

The Biltmore, originally constructed in the 1920's had seen better days. It had been shut down since 1987 when a fire broke out in the orchestra pit. In an effort to control the fire, fire fighters were required to chop a hole in the roof, and flood the theater with water. After that, it lay open to the elements. Had it not been saved by its Landmark status, it would have fallen prey to the wrecking ball.

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July Golf Outing at Van Courtlandt Park

The day was overcast, but the smiles were wide. Free beer with lunch will do that to some people. We had 71 golfers signed up and paid and over 60 of them made it to the course. Several others showed up for dinner. .

One of the biggest items in making the golf outing successful for the scholarship fund is the participation of the many sponsors of the event. We will have the complete story in our September issue.



Summer Events

September 1, 2004
Board Meeting
Gensler Associates, NY, NY

September 8, 2004
General Meeting
Annie Moore's Restaurant
50 East 43rd Street
New York, New York



The Officers for FY 2005

- Rick Allison - President
- Mary Hosley - 1st Vice President
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- Dennis Italia - Secretary
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- Arnold Kravitz - Director 2006
- Micheal Craig - Director 2006
- Hank Siemers - Director 2005
- Cliff Marvin - Director 2005
- William Dubois - Immediate Past President

June Renewals

Renewed Members for June 2004

- Parvis Afnant, CSI 7 years
- David Belt, CSI 4 years
- Edward Corbett III, CSI 6 years
- Thomas Cusa, CSI 7 years
- Bill DuBois, CSI, CCS 13 years
- Miriam Eldar, FCSI 28 years
- Stephen Falk, CSI, CCS 40 years
- Steven Gaetano, CSI 1 year
- Carl Galioto, CSI 8 years
- Martin Geraghty, CSI 41 years
- Bohdan Gerulak., CSI 18 years
- Michael Greenberg, CSI 37 years
- Andrew Hlushko, CSI 1 year
- Peter Hoyle, CSI 21 years
- Bruce Jabbonsky, CSI 11 years
- William Jacquette, CSI, CCS 11 years
- Niko Kallas, CSI 5 years
- Jan Kouzmanoff, CSI 4 years
- Michael Lengel, CSI 1 year
- Eugene Mack, CSI 10 years
- David Mahler, CSI, CCS 12 years
- Michael Pucci, CSI 15 years
- George Rosamond, CSI, CCS 25 year
- Thomas Scriven, CSI, CCPR 9 years
- Daniel Sesil, CSI 16 years
- Gorden H. Smith, CSI 18 years
- Richard Southwick, CSI 8 years

Continued - Renewals

Continued from page 1 - Lath

So the need of the Theater Club came together with the vision of an architect and the 19 month long restoration of the Biltmore was undertaken. No mean task, excavation was necessary for new foundation work. It was decided that the exterior wall on 47th St. would need to be moved forward several feet for the sake of sound attenuation. . This innovation, of course, changed the pitch of the balcony which was being revamped to provide stadium style seating. Further improvements included the addition of service bars, and the lowering of the stage by 20 inches.

Perhaps the greatest artistic challenge of all, however, was the restoration of curved walls and domed ceilings constructed of lath and plaster. This departure from the sharp and easily attainable angles found so often in more modern designs called for a specialist. Enter – Metallic Lather Foreman, Frank Mc Alonen, who, with his crew, painstakingly restored, not only the structure of the theater, but its beauty.

Mr. James Grausum, who serves as Assistant Production Manager of Capital Projects at the Biltmore, has a series of photos which show the devastation the theater suffered before renewal began. He also keeps a series of photos documenting the restoration efforts. It's among those, one finds shots of Frank and his crew on their scaffolds using tin snips, rulers and nippers to create what can only be described as art.

Mr. Grausum was careful to point out low elevations to me as we climbed stairs which led above the balcony and state-of-the-art control room to catwalks from which we could view the lath skeleton of the central dome of the theater. From this unique perspective, it was easy to see why Mr. Grausum, Mr. Mc Alonen and everyone involved in the project are as pleased as they are to have been a part of it.

If you would like to learn more about the possibilities the use of lath and plaster create, call the New York Lath and Plaster Consortium @ (718) 267 0468.

Continued - Renewal

- Linton Dunn Stables, CSI, CCS 9 years
- Robert Stahl, CSI 23 years
- Robert Upton, CSI 2 years
- Joseph Valentino, CSI 3 years
- Norbert Young, Jr., CSI 6 years

A True Floating Bridge



Don't tell me you this sight, it's the 3rd Avenue bridge being brought up the East River to, where else, 3rd Avenue. This is the replacement structure for the existing bridge

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promise you that if your programs speak directly to the design professionals needs and self-interest, their interest in your products will explode. As I have said many times, programs must be about SOLUTIONS, NEVER about products.

Design firms must take charge of the continuing education process and demand quality presentations on topics that provide their members with USABLE knowledge, not just a bunch of useful information. Endeavor to make education programs directly applicable to day-to-day design operations and it will transform your firm into a truly learning organization.

The current continuing education opportunity in the United States is being squandered by both manufacturers and design firms due to competitive self-interest and lack of emphasis on professional development. I encourage everyone in the construction industry to raise their professional education standards and to demand the same from those who provide continuing education to the industry.

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Architectural Services Manager

Lafarge North America is the United States' and Canada's largest diversified supplier of construction materials. The Gypsum division is in need of a Architectural Services Manager in the Northeastern United States. The position is responsible for establishing

product representation within the architectural community.

This would be achieved by establishing relationships and obtaining specification of Lafarge products on various construction projects. The Architectural Services Manager will also be responsible for conducting CEU seminars and other technical presentations to the A&D community.

Internal to Lafarge, the Architectural Services Manager is the liaison to the sales force on job tracking and also serves as a technical resource to the sales force. This may include some interaction with the contractor community. Overnight travel is required.

Submit all responses to:

John Ruhmann

800-804-8800

John.Ruhmann@wsacorp.com

PROFITING FROM CONTINUING EDUCATION

Michael D. Chambers FAIA FCSI CCS, MCA Specifications

Continuing education is a significant marketing, networking, and professional development opportunity for every members of the construction industry.

Unfortunately, very few industry members are taking advantage of it. Certainly, manufacturers are providing hundreds of hours of programs, and design professionals are getting plenty of seat time, but is anyone really profiting from continuing education?

Unfortunately, the program topics and quality of the majority of programs I have attended are very poor or at best limited to products or systems rather than usable design strategies and tools. I have attended programs at national conventions, local chapters, and firms; and most suffer from the same malaise. The presenters think you want to hear what they have to say, when in reality, what is really needed are knowledge and skills that can be applied directly to daily design and construction tasks.

It is interesting to note that the most popular programs tend to fall into several categories. One is personal or professional development such as presentation skills, contract negotiating, or sketching. Another is leading edge technology or design strategies such as accessibility, way-finding, day-lighting, sustainability, or seismic resistant structural systems.

Design professionals are adult learners and adult learners respond directly to educational topics that speak to their self-interest. The notion of "WIIFM", "what's in it for me?" is critical to developing successful professional education programs. Unless current continuing education providers begin to find out what their audiences want to know, they will continue to produce the same tired product-centered programs that are boring the industry into a catatonic state.

Manufacturers are a key source of industry knowledge and expertise and they need to focus on their expertise rather than their products. In doing so, they can produce continuing education programs that are truly professional development rather than thinly disguised product sales programs.

On the other hand, design professional firms are just as much to blame for the sagging quality of education programs available. While many firms are moving away from manufacturer programs and developing their own from in-house resources, the majority of firms do not have those kinds of resources.

To try and stay current with AIA/CES requirements and the nearly 28 states that require continuing education, firms are allowing manufacturers to offer poor programs with little to no educational value. Oh, of course, the free lunch is another key, but conversations with manufacturers and reps from around the country indicate a rising resentment towards design firms whose first priority is lunch and second education.

Design firms need to take charge of continuing education and transform it into effective professional development. First, design firms should become AIA/CES providers. It is a simple process and very inexpensive. By becoming providers, design firms can develop and report their own in-house continuing education programs. Additionally, by becoming providers, firms will understand the larger CES program picture and become aware of how manufacturers should be operating within the system.

Second, find out what your firm members and principles want and need to accomplish their personal and professional development goals. Identify a firm member to be the CES coordinator and empower that person to direct the firm's professional development program. Most importantly, firms must develop and deploy a firm-wide continuing education programs with clearly defined goals and objectives.

Third, never accept a manufacturer's education program at face value. Always review the program with the local representative and make certain that the program complies with the firm's CES goals. I rarely allow manufacturers to present their standard programs for the reasons stated above. I review their program topics and then develop a customized list of issues that I want addressed. The manufacturers scream and say the program is approved by AIA and they can not change it. Baloney, AIA does not approve anything. They review a manufacturer's initial program and then

randomly audit programs. Any manufacturer can modify an already registered program under a new title as long as it is done 2 weeks prior to presentation.

Several years ago, when I was working for a large design firm in the mid-west, I asked a manufacturer to modify its program by showing us examples of drawings and details that caused them problems in manufacture and installation of their product. They were initially afraid to do so because they thought we would react negatively to the implied criticism. I insisted, suggested they sanitize the examples so no one would know who did them, and to tell us how we as design professionals made the project more difficult.

The program was a tremendous success. The manufacturer presented issues that really caused them grief and demonstrated, quite professionally, how modifications to drawings and specifications would benefit the owner, us, and themselves. The members of the design firm were impressed with the manufacturer's insights and immediately negotiated changes in detail and process with the representative. It was an incredible hour of education and enlightenment for both parties and transformed an already good relationship into a great relationship.

Unfortunately, I have had opposite results in requesting program modifications from manufacturers. On one occasion, a personal friend of mine requested to present a program. I provided a detailed outline of the issues I wanted covered. I also advertised the program to the 150 members of the firm and had a large response including 6 of the 10 architectural principles. The representative presented the manufacturer's standard CES program, completely ignoring my requested issues. After the program was over, each one of the principles personally confronted me and asked why the program was not as advertised. Suffice it to say I was extremely unhappy and a key manufacturer relationship was heavily damaged.

Manufacturers must discover what their audiences need to learn in order to successfully use continuing education as a successful marketing tool. I can

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Supporters of the 11th Annual CSI Golf Outing

We would like to thank our sponsors for supporting this years golf outing. All of us in the Metropolitan NY Chapter CSI should remember those who support our chapter and its events.

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Door Prize	TEDDY BEAR	ICI Paints	Mary Hosley	973-204-0357

The scholarship fund profit was over \$3000
THE BIGGEST WINNER!!!

Other winners will be published in our September Issue of the Addendum.