

# "THE SCOPE"

Buffalo/Western New York Chapter – Chartered 1958  
Incorporated 1966 Chapter Website: [www.csibuffalo.org](http://www.csibuffalo.org)

Construction Specifications Institute, Inc. Website: [www.csinet.org](http://www.csinet.org) **NOVEMBER 2011**

## Lunch/Program Meeting

**Date:** Thursday – November 10, 2011  
**Time:** 12:00pm – Registration  
12:15pm – Lunch/Presentation  
01:15pm – CSI Chapter Board Meeting  
**Topic:** "Aesthetically Designed Architectural Door Openings."  
**Sponsor:** ASSA ABLOY  
**Presenter:** Deane M. Fox  
**Credit:** 1 AIA/CES Learning Credit  
**Location:** Ramada Hotel & Conference Center  
2402 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY

### Please Indicate Choice of Lunch With RSVP:

1. Pulled Pork Ciabatta Sandwich W/Side Salad
2. Grilled Turkey Reuben Sandwich W/Side Salad
3. Chicken Caesar Salad
4. Angus Burger W/Side Salad
5. Grilled Portobella/Asiago Sandwich W/Side Salad

### Costs:

- No Charge for CSI Members
- \$5.00 Registration for Non Members

### Description:

An overview of the importance and choices available to improve the aesthetics of architectural door openings. Emphasis will be on the newest available door opening designer solutions and how to improve the the aesthetics of door openings through specifications.

RSVP WITH DONNA ONLY OR HER VOICE MAIL AT 875-4627

GIVE YOUR NAME AND FIRM OR COMPANY

NO E-mail RESERVATIONS

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 4:00 PM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2011

AFTER CLOSING DATE YOUR NAME WILL BE RECEIVED

BUT YOUR MENU WILL BE POT LUCK

(CANCELLATIONS NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM TUESDAY, OR NO SHOWS WILL BE BILLED)

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PICONE CONSTRUCTION

## NFSA MEETING

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"THE SCOPE" is published as the official Newsletter of the Buffalo-Western New York Chapter Construction Specification. It may also be used to exchange information and opinions. Contributions of articles from readers are welcome when proper sources are identified, but neither the Editor nor the Chapter assumes responsibility for the validity of accuracy of such articles. Any part of this newsletter may be reproduced by other CSI chapters, giving proper source identification. The appearance of any article, advertisement, product, service, names, picture, opinion or assertion does not constitute endorsement by the Chapter or its members. Contributions should be in the Editor's office by the second Friday of the month.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2011

3:30 PM

TOUR OF LAFAYETTE HOTEL  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TOUR  
COCKTAILS AND HORS D'OEUVRES

AT

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Don't you hate getting all the daily junk mail and email forwards from your friends and family? But isn't it just such a guilty pleasure to forward it on when you get a really GOOD one? Well, here is a really good one I thought I'd do my due diligence in spreading out to as many people as I can, here goes:

Warren Buffett, in a recent interview with CNBC, offers one of the best quotes about the debt ceiling:

*"I could end the deficit in 5 minutes," he told CNBC. "You just pass a law that says that anytime there is a deficit of more than 3% of GDP, all sitting members of Congress are ineligible for re-election"*

The 26th amendment (granting the right to vote for 18 year-olds) took only 3 months & 8 days to be ratified! Why? Simple! The people demanded it. That was in 1971; before computers, e-mail, cell phones, etc. Of the 27 amendments to the Constitution, seven (7) took 1 year or less to become the law of the land...all because of public pressure.




Warren Buffet is asking everyone to forward this message to a minimum of twenty people on their address list; in turn ask each of those to do likewise.

Soon most people in The United States of America will have the message. This is one idea that really should be passed around.

### \*Congressional Reform Act of 2011\*

1. No Tenure / No Pension.
2. A Congressman collects a salary while in office and receives no pay when they are out of office.
3. Congress (past, present & future) participates in Social Security.
4. All funds in the Congressional retirement fund move to the Social Security system immediately. All future funds flow into the Social Security system, and Congress participates with the American people. It may not be used for any purpose.
5. Congress can purchase their own retirement plan, just as all Americans do.
6. Congress will no longer vote themselves a pay raise. Congressional pay will rise by the lower of CPI or 3%.
7. Congress loses their current health care system and participates in the same health care system as the American people.
8. Congress must equally abide by all laws they impose on the American people.
9. All contracts with past and present Congressmen are void effective 1/1/12. The American people did not make this contract with Congressmen. Congressmen made all these contracts for themselves. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, so ours should serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

Cordially,  
Your Chapter President  
Elisabete Godden, CSI

			<p>Christopher M. Picone CSI, CDT, LEED AP</p>
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by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI, CDT  
Cincinnati, OH

The truth be known, we are tied to the documents we produce. And unfortunately they are perceived to be anything from necessary evils, to unneeded, fee-sucking clap-trap that does nothing for the project but add cost and confound progress.

Yea, sure! But we'll see you in court when something goes awry, and big trouble is afoot; then let's see who and what documents "save your bacon"! How does the downtrodden, heel of the shoe, obstructionist, confounder come riding to the rescue?

This, dear fellow specifications writers, is the challenge we face, must deal with, and resolve!

The incongruity of this is both strikingly unfathomable, and silly. Are we, each, a true professional replete with insight, knowledge, experience, resourcefulness, drive, dedication and of worth to our office and each project therein? Are we not basically "company people" always watching out for the good of our firm as well as the interest of our clientele?

Do we not contribute in a rather unique fashion, augmenting and enhancing the content of the documentation process and directly influencing the success of each project?

Are there not others involved with the projects of whom the same might be said? What of the designer? The Project Architect? The Lead Engineer? The Project Manager? The Principal or Associate in charge? The CAD xxxxxxxxxxxx?

So OK, similar performance should yield equality or pecking order?


Well, folks, we ain't all equal-- that's for dang sure!!! We, spec writers, are not even equal to the graphics guys—the CADiks, the ITers, the delineators [several factors contribute to this].

We sure aren't in the same league with the designers. And of course, every project has a hierarchy that runs and monitors the project in its various phases.

So what of equity? Are we equal to anyone else? Is our worth, information, insight, broad knowledge and skill equal to that of anyone else? Are we "above" some; below many?

What's our "fit", and why?

- Well, fellow spec writers I guess if we toot our own horns, we will be egoists and rabble-rousers. But really we have a daunting chore-- elevate the status of our work, its impact on project work, and its worth overall to illustrate the inherent value of both document and writer. We seek no accolades, but simple inclusion and respect would be very nice. Equity would be great when coupled with those truly equal in project contribution.

<p>(716) 836-2110 Fax (716) 836-0264</p> <p>1-800-886-4682 <a href="http://www.easternenergycontrol.com">www.easternenergycontrol.com</a></p> <p><b>EASTERN ENERGY CONTROL CORP.</b> <b>WINDOW FILMS</b> Amherst, New York 14226</p> <p><b>George C. Stelgauf</b> Owner</p> <p><b>3M</b> Authorized Dealer Energy Control Products</p> <p><b>ASID</b></p>	<p><b>Turner</b></p> <p><b>Steven A. Perrigo, LEED AP</b> Project Manager</p> <p><b>Turner Construction Company</b> 50 Lakefront Blvd. Suite 200 Buffalo, NY 14202 phone: 716.853.1900 fax: 716.853.1924 mobile: 716.725.9661 <a href="mailto:sperrigo@tcco.com">sperrigo@tcco.com</a></p> <p> Building the Future</p>
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by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI, CDT  
Cincinnati, OH

Not to distract from the continuing sky-high star bursts of MasterFormat 2004 as it is implemented, but what is the direction or goal for the next Task Force effort?

Certainly if you poll the members they will return a zillion ideas, most of which have validity and present new value to CSI. Does each and every one require or demand a Task Force? Probably not. Maybe that is the next Task Force task-- sift, collate, and categorize member input and ideas. Look into and at information about CSI, specifications writing, etc., on and in other sources.

Maybe the task is to examine what CSI really needs to do that it is not doing now. You know—what are we doing? What are we doing well [and not so well]? What really needs to be done [outside the box and beyond the horizon we seem to written]? We need to expand???? How [and not laterally, but forward, as in looking to new areas, new efforts and things never attempted.

How can we become better servants to the industry and better providers to all workers in the field in their proper purview and vision? Visionaries? Status quo [why?] Better? New and different ways of doing some things. Just a plain old *objective* review, in lieu of the too overly cautious, rut-bound tendencies-- they're the easiest right???

Maybe it is to create a pattern and matrix for outreach programs, aimed at heretofore [isn't that a great specs word?] unapproached organizations and groups, who are or should be embraced and made part of the CSI interface—other disciplines, students, the public, facility owners and managers, etc.

How about re-energization of slumping chapter programs? Renewal of interest, services to, and new outreach efforts by chapters? New efforts and opportunities garner new faces and greater prestige and regard.

A Task Force could also look into the whole of CSI communications-- web site; publications; discussion boards; member oriented news outlets-- looking to improve what is in place, and to create new outlets that staff or members have thought about or planned.

Hey, what about a Task Force to overview the whole of the CSI image—to get out of the box, and then look back, from other perspectives to see what others see or don't see, to see where unfair and unjustified distortions may occur; to set new eyes on the where, how and what of CSI.

*Basically, this is going back to the CSI FORWARD thing of time back and giving it some ink and push, in what appears to be a time of transition, and a course correction[?]- a way to bring member input to the fore, not as a coup, but as a valid, important and highly valued source of energy. Also, thought of a TF for exploring new revenue sources.*

*How about a number of mini-task forces - just 3-5 people - on each of these tasks? because you're right; now that MF04 is done, we need a purpose! Use "skirmish lines" or "search and review teams" since 3-5 people is too small for a task force even a mini one!*



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by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI; Cincinnati, OH

It's well passed the time to get real-- to grip reality! To simply realize that things, professionally, aren't on a path to getting better. Also to understand that reality does not exist in simple changes in software. We live in a world—construction—of our own choosing, and with good cause. We believe that what we care about doing is valuable and worthwhile. Why else would we engage the drama and trauma of day to day operations? But our vision, perspective and dedication is NOT prevalent and part of the vision of every prospective and indeed every budding and emerging professional. We all are NOT on the same path!

For a minute let us look at reality. Whether in-house or consultant, each of us has a clear view of what the design professions are and are not. We well know what the academia of each is producing and what, indeed, they are not producing. We rail over the fact that we collectively may approach 55 years of age, and hear no footsteps behind us, pushing to take our jobs [in fact, looking back along our career paths, the streets are empty]. Yet day by day we are bedeviled by those who do not know; those who do not know they do not know; and those who know they know everything-- and it must be done their way!

The lack of whole profession orientation is both frustrating and most bothersome. More and more the schools crank out design professionals who do not know their own professions in total, and many who really don't care to find out. This is both travesty and tragic-- devastating!! Face it, we all will not be around to always save the behinds of these people who are convinced that good, creative, innovative, and flamboyant design is built by the wave of magic wand that produces the project, complete, in a wispy cloud of smoke! Who needs construction knowledge? Who needs to understand detailing? Who needs to know about specs? Who needs to know about contracts; delivery systems; observation; liability; standards of care; ability to decipher good from bad construction? Who?

In a scenario similar to a parent telling a child, "This is for your own good", we, each of us, and CSI, need to pick up the opportunity to address our perspective and our product. Whether wholly accepted or not, we need to engage, on creative terms, every school, program, curriculum and course that will benefit from our message. And that message, oddly enough, smacks of the start of the entire message that desperately needs to be discussed in the schools-- understanding with depth what one's profession involves in total. Unpopularity needs to be confronted and while we cannot "push" our way in, we need to create some sort of format to engage the professional students, as early-on as possible and plant the seeds of understanding. Most of those students really need an awakening to everything they may see and work with in their careers, without prejudice toward one aspect or another. Design, for the architects, needs to be translated into real terms, and how creativity simply has to go through a process of commensurate documentation, and then conscientious construction.

A top-level CSI program can and should get to this, as our profession is being dragged down by what is not happening elsewhere. A true service can be rendered to many if for no other reason than to open some eyes and clarify. Obviously we cannot cure all ills, but talking about specs can easily be extrapolated into need for construction knowledge, proper documentation [not addressed academically usually], enforcement and observation and at least a little about practice overall [simply can't get to everything about running a practice, administration etc.]. We need to "reach" so others can "grip the true reality"!

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**TOM VULLO** is a CSI Emerging Professional who is an Account Executive with **EMPLOYEE BENEFIT CONCEPTS INC.** EBC is a firm that has access with all insurance companies to provide the best plan tailored to your needs regarding health insurance, life insurance, dental and eye care, etc. for your employees. EBC is located at 1900 Ridge Road, West Seneca, NY 14224.

Tom is an avid golfer, and recently he and his wife, Beth, became the proud parents of a baby boy, Charles.

Tom can be easily reached at his office, 716.674.7900; by Fax: 716.674.9350, or by his cell phone (home): 716.397.7193. You can go to his web site: [www.ebcinc.net](http://www.ebcinc.net) or send an email: [tvullo@ebcinc.net](mailto:tvullo@ebcinc.net).

## JANUARY 2012 SEMINAR

Our Chapter Program Chairman, Ted Czajkowski, is working on a seminar for January 12, 2012 at the Ramada Inn. The Seminar will offer 4 AIA Credit Hours. Two programs have already been signed up for the event. Reserve this date for an all day seminar.



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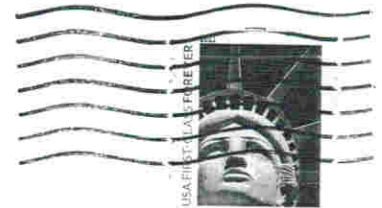
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