



The Orange County Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute

Invites you to the White House for our Annual Holiday Dinner

On Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Join us for a wonderful dinner at the Anaheim White House Restaurant, a national historical landmark, in the West Wing Dining Room. We are thrilled to return to this rebuilt one of a kind restaurant. This is the only restaurant in the World that serves 4000+ free dinners to homeless children every night through Caterina's Club. For many years, our chapter has supported this charity, and we dedicated a section of our website (<https://occcsi.org/caterinas-club.html>) to their work. We will be "passing the hat" for donations to Caterina's Club at this dinner.

The dinner menu includes the White House Salad and a choice of three entrees. The entrée choices are
Hanger Steak
Chicken Tarragon
Salmon Signature Dish

Our dessert will be the Jackie O Assortment. Our entertainment will be Yester Year with leader, William McLaughlin. You may know him from the Retail Design Collaborative.

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM Social
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Dinner

Location: Anaheim White House Restaurant
The West Wing Dining Room
887 S. Anaheim Boulevard
Anaheim, California

Directions: Take the 5 Freeway and exit at Harbor Blvd. Go north on Harbor Blvd, then east (right) on Ball Road. The second signal is Anaheim Boulevard, go left again. Pass the first signal, which is Vermont, and the restaurant is the second building on the left.

Parking: Valet Parking

Dinner Cost: \$65.00 per person by check or
\$70.00 on the website

MAIL YOUR CHECK with your entrée choice TO: OCCCSI, Post Office Box 8899, Anaheim, CA 92812. Reservations MUST be with your check and received at our Post Office Box or website by November 29, 2018. For questions, please call Dana Thornburg at 714-907-3981.

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SAVE THE DATE

2019 Products Show

NEW Exclusive Format

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FEBRUARY 12, 2019

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dana Thornburg, CSI



The Kairos Korner
(For a Time Such as This.....)

Let me begin this message to you by saying that I sincerely hope that you enjoyed your Summertime Activities with relaxation at the forefront of all your efforts. The time goes by much too quickly. And now that Fall has arrived, we can begin to enjoy the cooler month's ahead and begin to enjoy those delicious "Pumpkin and Peppermint Bark Lattes" from your favorite coffee shop.

One of the benefits of being an Architectural Representative in the Construction Industry is the cultivation and harvesting of new Contacts and new Friendships. This occurs when one joins and participates in groups and organizations like OCCCSI and other networking groups. The biggest benefit to you and to the organization is for you to be present and participating in the gatherings offered by those affiliations.

Our Annual Holiday Party returns to the Anaheim White House on December 4th. It will be exciting to see all the new detail work on how the structure was rebuilt after the devastating fire. Please join us for an evening of fun, laughter and music by Yester Year with leader, William McLaughlin of Retail Design Collaborative.

Looking ahead to next February 12th, 2019, we have changed the format of our Product Show. In 2019, we will be at The Chuck Jones Center for Creativity in Costa Mesa, California. This move will ensure Architectural attendance and will bring new life to our show.

This new Format is now being done at three other CSI Chapters in the West and is a sellout every year for them. More information on the event will be coming as it develops – Stay Tuned!!

Keep your sweaters handy and enjoy the cooler weather! Looking forward to seeing all of you at the OCCCSI Holiday Party on December 4th.

Dana

Gary M. Kehrier, CSI, CDT
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WREN'S WESTERN OUTPUT

David & Goliath

By Annette Wren,
FCSI, CDT

Let your life shine as an example! It is that time of year again when you are reminded of this concept. This year, SCIP is an example of providing a great example. SCIP is conducting business with intelligence, dignity and grace.

Let me digress:

David: SCIP

Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice (SCIP) is an international technical resource organization which assists design firms, owners, and manufacturers in acquiring professionally written construction specifications from qualified independent and employed specifiers. They have approximately 200 members. Most of our wonderful independent specifiers belong to this organization.

Goliath: Informa PLC / Informa Exhibitions US, Construction and Real Estate

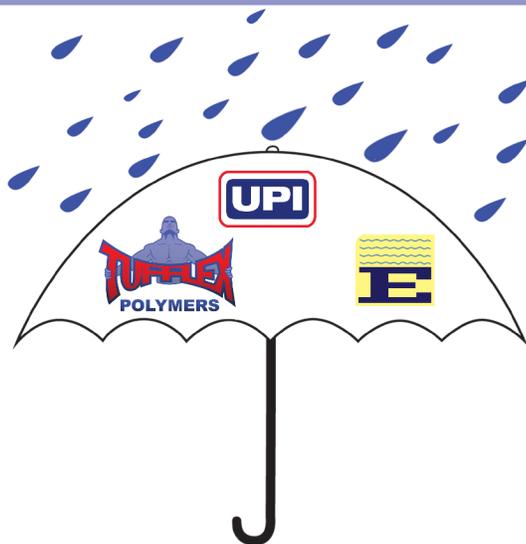
Informa purchased Hanley Wood in November 2014. The acquisition added 17 construction and real estate events to Informa's portfolio WHICH INCLUDES Construct (the national CSI show). Informa has offices in 43 countries and around 6,500 employees. The portfolio includes World of Concrete and Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, which ranked. The membership of CSI is about 8,000.

David vs. Goliath

In October, at the Construct trade show, Informa notified SCIP that they are no longer welcome at Construct. Informa does not like that SCIP meets for a few days prior to the Construct show conducting seminars and a small tabletop display show. Informa is "threatened" by their seminars and tabletops. Informa believes that exhibitors are diverting their attention to SCIP. Furthermore, SCIP's seminars are quite remarkably superior. Goliath has thrown down the gauntlet! SCIP may not hold their next conference anywhere near Construct. Informa controls the hotels. The hotels will not take a reservation from SCIP. SCIP members may individually attend Construct without any SCIP recognition. SCIP may hold their conference in a nearby state.

What? You may suggest that CSI should do something. Guess what? CSI has NO BARGAINING POWER with Informa. History: CSI sold their trade show to Hanley Wood. Hanley Wood changed the name of the show WITHOUT any CSI mention in the title. The powers to be at CSI during that sale never thought to stipulate that CSI remain in the name of our show. One of my articles addressed that fact years ago. Informa acquired the show from Hanley Wood. They are compromising the Construct show in terms of quality. Goliath can do what it wants!

SCIP is conducting their business with professionalism. They will have their next conference just before Construct next year. They will have a fantastic event, which will serve its members. Construct, the CSI trade show on the other hand, is under the



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WOLFE'S HOWL

By Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC

Haystacks: Do construction documents do what they're supposed to do

The purpose of construction documents is simple: They tell the contractor what is needed to complete a project.



How best to do that has been a subject of debate for a long time, even though a basic set of rules has been used at least as far back as the 1940s. In his "The Case For the Streamlined Specification", published in the July 1949 Construction Specifier, Ben John Small referred to a book titled "Specifications" that was written in 1896; the older book apparently discussed some degree of streamlining.

That's fine as far as it goes, but if the intent is to clearly communicate with the contractor, are we doing as well as we could? Architects and specifiers have a nice collection of rules for organizing information, but do they make sense for the contractor? Our rules are fairly consistent, and they are generally accepted by design firms, but can they be improved? A large project many take a year or more to complete, yet we still have inconsistencies and conflicts. Is it fair to expect a bidder, who typically has only a few weeks to figure out what we want, collect subcontract bids (many of which are incomplete or include qualifications), decide how much to include to cover the inevitable problems, and arrive at a competitive price?

Can we do better than asking contractors to find the critical information in a haystack of information that is less important?

Let's start with what works. Streamlining is the practice of removing many of the words we would use in ordinary conversation, but which add nothing to construction documents. A big step toward simplification is achieved by a simple change of mindset; if you understand that specifications and drawings are instructions written to the contractor, rather than a disinterested explanation of what is to happen, the rest will be easier. When teaching certification classes, I tell the class to write as if they are talking directly to the contractor. If you are talking with a contractor you won't say, "The contractor shall fill the bollard with concrete." Instead, you would say, "Fill the bollard with concrete."

As noted, this is a big first step, one that will automatically eliminate the "shall be" phrases that still are far too common. But even more can be done to reduce the length of specifications without losing critical information. While some things may need something approaching a complete sentence, most requirements can be reduced to what amounts to a checklist. Each item begins with a subject, followed by a colon (defined to mean "shall be" or similar term), followed by the relevant property. For example: Air

(continued on page 14)

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PASTATHON IS DECEMBER 7TH!

Save the Date for this year's KFI AM 640 PastaThon benefiting Caterina's Club!

WHEN:
December 7, 2018

TIME:
5:00AM to 10:00PM

WHERE:
Christ Cathedral (Crystal Cathedral)
13280 Chapman Ave.
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Our 8th Annual PastaThon is coming! We will have a live broadcast with all the KFI hosts at Christ Cathedral as we work hard to raise money, while also collecting pasta and sauce to help us feed the motel kids! The live broadcast is not only fun to attend, but you can meet and greet with the KFI hosts too!

If you are unable to attend the event you can still donate pasta and sauce at drop-off locations (TBD) and/or donate online at:

// DONATE TODAY TOWARDS THE PASTATHON! //



HELP US FEED THE KIDS!

Currently, Caterina's Club feeds 20,000 kids a **WEEK** at over 80 locations in 26 cities.

100% of your donation goes to Caterina's Club to help feed the motel kids of L.A., OC, and San Diego County, to help those families get back into stable housing, and to help teach kids the skills they need to get a stable job in the hospitality industry through Sir Chef Bruno's Hospitality Academy program.

Last year's PastaThon was a phenomenal event with a one-day total of more than \$460,000 and 100,000 pounds of pasta and sauce. To date, KFI's amazing fans have donated more than \$1.8 million and 340,000 pounds of pasta and sauce for Caterina's Club.

WE WILL beat that number this year!

A big thank you to Smart & Final, for their amazing support from their stores in California, Arizona, and Nevada! See a cashier at Smart & Final stores between November 16 thru December 7 and donate \$10 to their "Feeding the Caterina's Kids" program. **Your generous \$10 donation will feed 14 children!**

In addition, some local businesses are taking part by serving as 'alternate drop-off locations' for pasta and sauce donations from November 12th through December 6th. If you're interested in taking part as an alternate drop-off location, please email Michelle Kube from KFI at michelle@kfi640.com and she can give you the details on taking part.

Either way, join us out at the #KFI PastaThon on Friday, December 7th! More details about the event will be available on our website as well as on KFI's website soon!

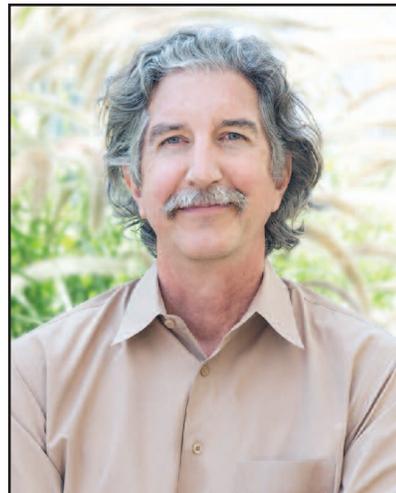
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WHITE HOUSE
ITALIAN STEAK HOUSE

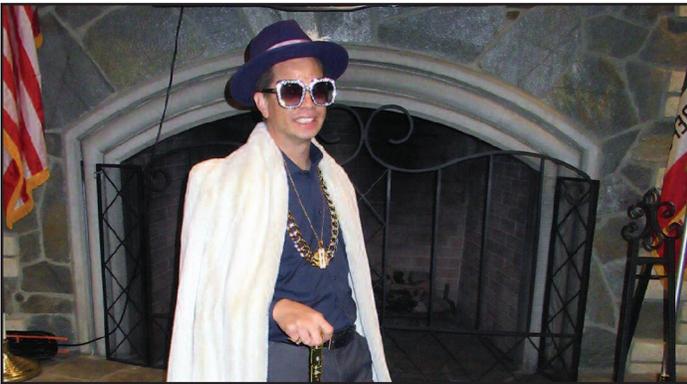
OCCCSI September Meeting

(Photos by Dana Thornburg, CSI)



OCCCSI October Meeting

(Photos by David Brown, CSI, CCS)



OCCCSI October Meeting

(Photos by David Brown, CSI, CCS)



Orange County CSI Chapter

October Meeting

Dress for Halloween

Program: Specifications for the Other 99%

Speaker: John Raeber, FAIA, FCSI, CCS
Independent Specifier





Orange County Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute

2019 Products Show

**NEW Exclusive Format
By Invitation Only**

FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Chuck Jones Center for Creativity

Costa Mesa, California

Trade Show:	4:00 to 6:00 pm
Dinner:	6:00 to 7:00 pm
Keynote Speaker:	7:00 to 8:00 pm

Keynote Speaker:

Tim Totten - The Genius of Frank Lloyd Wright





Keynote Speaker:

Tim Totten - The Genius of Frank Lloyd Wright

Master storyteller Timothy Totten takes you on a whirlwind tour of the life and work of America's most famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. With insightful architectural analysis, photos and dozens of intimate stories, Totten weaves a tale of love, adultery, murder and the Emperor of Japan to illustrate the genius and personal foibles of the man the American Institute of Architects has called "The Greatest American Architect."

Totten has studied the life and work of America's most celebrated Architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, for 30 years, visiting more than 300 Wright designed buildings across the United States. As a master storyteller, Totten has shared his passion for the artist and his seven decade career with art museums, libraries, community groups, theatre audiences and at Frank Lloyd Wright symposiums across the country, often to standing room only crowds.

Timothy Totten is a serial entrepreneur, master storyteller, historical presenter, architectural enthusiast, and non-profit race creator and director. Totten has brought his energetic storytelling style to packed rooms at Art Museums, Libraries, Theatres and Frank Lloyd Wright buildings across the United States.

Totten's easygoing humor, coupled with an encyclopedic command of the material, makes for a relaxed and interested audience experience. Using his considerable skills as a Master Storyteller, Totten weaves together a story that rivals anything William Shakespeare ever concocted, while employing brilliant and insightful architectural analysis to illuminate Wright's unbelievable artistic accomplishments.



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the Construction
Specifications Institute**

2019 Products Show

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Costa Mesa, California***

**Trade Show: 4:00 to 6:00 pm
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**Keynote Speaker:
Tim Totten
The Genius of Frank Lloyd Wright**

**MEMBERSHIP
REPORT**

*By Joe Esquer, CSI
Membership Chairman*

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BUCH NOTES

From Bauhaus to Our House by Tom Wolfe

By Ed Buch, FCSI, CCS, AIA,
LEED AP

One of my favorite writers, Tom Wolfe, died earlier this year so I thought it would be good to reread his 1981 book on architecture.

Even if you don't know *From Bauhaus to Our House*, some of you will remember Wolfe's popular books from the 1960s and '70s; "The Right Stuff" reporting on the Mercury Seven astronauts, or his "Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test" about Ken Kesey's Merry Pranksters. Not knowing very much about either of these topics when I read them, I took them to be accurate portrayals of the subjects. However, after reading his views on architecture in *From Our Bauhaus to Our House* I'm not so sure anymore.

Wolfe's portrait of American architecture since WWII is at extreme variance with the way most of us view this period in architecture. He doesn't like it at all, and he likes the architects even less. His characterizations of the most famous architects of the 20th Century are almost mocking in tone and his descriptions of their buildings are peppered with ridicule and tinged with sarcasm. Like all of Wolfe's writing, it's colorful and fun to read but, but should we believe it? It's something to think about nearly 40 years later.

Wolfe traces the origin of mainstream modern architecture back to Walter Gropius and the founding of the Bauhaus in 1919. He describes the Bauhaus as a communal, spiritual movement based on socialist ideals and focused on an architecture to benefit the "workers". It was anti-bourgeois and rejected all ornamentation in architecture, furniture, and art. Functionalism was the starting point for a new architecture that was labeled the International Style. It was to have shear facades, flat roofs, and structure expressed on the exterior. Mies van der Rohe and Marcel Breuer were two of the early practitioners. The results, says Wolfe, were buildings that mostly looked the same regardless of their function. Similarly at about the same time in Paris, LeCorbusier started to attract a following among architects and students with his writing and drawings since he had completed only a few buildings.

In the period between the two world wars, American architects were drawn to Europe and the design theories of the Bauhaus even if the Bauhaus's social and political roots were less relevant here. An exhibition in 1932 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, organized by the young American architect Philip Johnson, introduced America to the Bauhaus and its International Style. It was viewed favorably and heralded as the first great style since the Renaissance. But while the International Style grew from the Bauhaus social movement in Europe, in the US it was promoted, not by a bohemian group of avant-garde architects and artists, as it had been in Germany, but by the wealthy businessmen and their wives who headed the Museum of Modern Art. In America, this was this just another style, a new fashion, Wolfe suggests.

The International Style took hold here in the 1930s due in

part to the fact that many German Bauhaus refugee architects were teaching in American architectural schools. As a result, the works of architects such as Louis Sullivan, H.H. Richardson, and even Frank Lloyd Wright receded into the background. By the 1960s everything was in glass, steel, and concrete, and Wolfe contends they all looked pretty much the same. The "Yale Box" prevailed. He hits a little too close to home for me with his mocking description of the standard, architect designed interior spaces; white walls, sisal rugs on the floor, track mounted down lights, a plant in the corner, and furnished with uncomfortable architect designed and totally unaffordable chairs. Ouch! We were slaves to the fashion of the day and it was ironic for Wolfe, who only dressed in white suits, to criticize all-white interior spaces.

He doesn't have much good to say about the architecture of Louis Kahn, (the exposed concrete interior of his Yale Art Gallery addition has the appearance of a parking garage), or of Meis's Illinois Institute of Technology, (the glass and steel boxes have the appearance of an LA carwash). Even Meis's Seagram Building doesn't escape criticism where Wolfe describes the bronze WF elements on the exterior as "decoration" in clear violation of the tenets of modernism. (See BuchNotes #54, "Building Seagram" for a different point of view on this building.) Wolfe goes on to describe how Eero Saarinen, Frank Lloyd Wright, E. D. Stone, and John Portman were too parochial to be part of the International Style "club" of architects and, therefore, out of the mainstream of late 20th Century architecture.

The last two chapters of the book take us up to the 1980s. Wolfe gets on his high-horse in his take-down of Robert Venturi's architecture and his book, "Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture"; his architecture was modernist in contrast to the theme of his writings. Wolfe also provides a detailed description of the war, on paper, between the "New York 5", or the "Whites" as they were called, and the "Grays". Architects Peter Eisenman, Michael Graves, Richard Meier, Charles Gwathmey, and John Hejduk, were the "Whites, and the "Grays" led by Venturi and included Charles Moore, Robert Stern, Jaquelin Robertson, Allan Greenberg, and Romaldo Giurgola. The "Whites" were slaves to Modernism, according to the "Grays". The "Whites" wrote about their architecture in incomprehensible jargon, ("archivable" is the term used today), understood by only those in the "club". Wolfe cites several examples but one from Peter Eisenman stands out; "Syntactic meaning as defined here is not concerned with the meaning that accrues to elements or actual relationships between elements but rather with the relationship between relationships." Talking about architecture? Maybe that had something to do with why the "Grays", who became the Post-Modernists, won that war. Further evidence of the "Gray" victory, for the time being, was the design for the ATT tower in New York City by Phillip Johnson, who was up to that time one of the most devoted Mieslings. He capitulated from his modernist roots with his design of the high-rise tower in the

(continued on page 15)



Jerry L. Pozo, CSI, CDT, BS

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WREN'S WESTERN OUTPUT

(continued from page 4)

control of Goliath.

As a Fellow and longtime member of CSI, I am personally offended that my SCIP friends are being ostracized. My intention is to support them and participate in whatever way my company may be invited to participate.

This article is dedicated to John Regener, SCIP, CSI, CCS. John is a Past President of both SCIP and Orange County Chapter CSI. John passed away in May of 2017. During our many previous visits and CSI meetings, John would talk about how SCIP will surpass CSI one day. He said they will be a strong, viable trade association. **AND, THEY WILL HAVE A**

SUCCESSFUL TRADE SHOW. John, I know you were brilliant and perhaps clairvoyant.

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WOLFE'S HOWL

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content: 5 to 8 percent. Insulation: ASTM C578, Type IV.

Note that this checklist approach translates very well to properties found in BIM objects.

It's fairly common practice to eliminate the articles a, an, and the. In most cases, this works well, but I retain the article when referring to the Architect, the Contract, the Contractor, and the Work, to take care of those situations when those terms occur at the beginning of a sentence. Otherwise, there is no way to differentiate between the contractor identified in the agreement (Contractor) and a contractor working on the same building but under a different contract.

Even though streamlining is relatively easy to do, many firms and even commercial guide specifications - do not use it as much as they can. Another common problem is lack of coordination: specifications that conflict with each other and with drawings, drawing notes that appear to have been written without any understanding of what's in the specifications, and drawing notes that ignore the basics of writing specifications. If that's the best we can do, and it appears that it is, we haven't made much progress in the last hundred years.

The Heretic Specifier suggests rearranging the haystack

Consider these words of wisdom regarding PageFormat, and consider applying them to everything we do:

The first concern of the Page Format is an improved and clearer presentation of the construction message. ... The writer and the reader were put before the typist, the printer, the equipment manufacturer, but without placing unreasonable demands upon any of them. ... The Page Format should then exhibit a reasonable amount of text density, providing visual recognition of the Parts and lesser levels, and arranging the subject matter in a logical, efficient and versatile page.

— excerpts from the CSI Manual of Practice, June 1974

Although specifiers can have an influence on drawings, let's look at how specifications can be changed to improve communication with the contractor. Let me start by saying that there is no excuse for contractors who don't look at the documents; "We don't do it that way" is a non-starter. On the other hand, it's not uncommon to hear "I didn't see it!" as an excuse for non-conforming work. It's easy to point to our rules and principles and say, "Too bad for you!" but in doing so, are we ignoring the problem? There is no doubt that some contractors just do what they're gonna do, but there are many occasions when I can't help but sympathize with a contractor who's trying to do a good job, but doesn't understand the way we do things.

A couple of responses are possible. We can go out of our way to educate contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers about the intricacies of our various formats and standards, but other than saying contractors should join CSI, not much of that happens. And, truth be told, many in the design professions, including our own members, don't follow the very principles we espouse.

Another approach is to reconsider how we do things. At a recent convention, Nashville, perhaps, there were a number of

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presentations that took this approach. There was healthy discord and disagreement about the proper use of the "Section Includes" article, and about other aspects of writing specifications, as well. Unfortunately, as far as I'm concerned, those discussions did not continue.

Why isn't this concept applied to all construction documents? Until the day that a significant number of contractors are not just CSI members, but CDTs, we can't just sit back and expect the rest of the construction team to understand what we do. If we're interested in progress, if we truly believe in improving communication, shouldn't we consider changing what we do for the benefit of the rest of the team?

This will be a bit off-subject, but bear with me. How many of you use what appears to be a standard format for meeting agendas and minutes? You know, the one with a lot of blank space at the top for the date and subject, followed by a list of those invited or those who attended, which can run to two or more pages, followed, finally, but the information you're really interested in?

If you think about it, that's a dumb way to organize agendas and minutes. The day after the meeting, will you really care who was there or who wasn't? Especially if the agenda or minutes were sent out under a transmittal form, which duplicates the same information?

Why do we write specifications in the same manner? Instead of starting with the important stuff - what's in the section - we ramble on for a page or so, talking about procedural items, then sandwich the good stuff between that and the how-to information. I know, the "Section Includes" article usually has a generic comment or description, but is that what a contractor is looking for? In most cases, the title of the section tells the contractor about as much as the "Section Includes" article.

What if we rearranged things to make it easier for contractors? Keep "Section Includes", but state what's in the section, including basis of design products; then go on to talk about performance standards, options, and the other stuff that directly affects the contractor, subcontractor, and installer. Follow that with special instructions regarding installation (shouldn't be much unless you know more than the manufacturer), then end with an appendix of information about submittals and other procedural matters.

If it's easier for contractors, it should make life easier for architects and specifiers.

What memories do you have of CSI? Leave your comments at <https://swconstructivethoughts.blogspot.com/2018/08/memories-teamcs-and-mwgtw.html>

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BUCH NOTES

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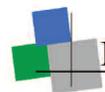
form of a Chippendale highboy cabinet. Apostasy!! cries Wolfe.

From Bauhaus to Our House was published in 1981 by Pocket Books. It appeared originally as a two-part series of articles in the June and July 1981 issues of Harper's Magazine. It has 128 pages and includes only a few photographs.

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