

Orange County Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute

June 2023 Volume 56, No. 3

The Orange County Chapter, CSI

Announces

Our Installation & Awards Banquet

At

Elks Lodge Emerald Room 1751 S. Elk Lane Santa Ana, California

On July 12, 2023

Appetizer: 6:00

- 6:00 7:00 PM
 - · Cheese and cracker display with dried fruit, candied nuts and crackers
 - Tomato, basil and mozzarella skewers with balsamic drizzel

Salad - Chopped and tossed Wedge Salad fresh baked warm rolls and butter

Entrée - BUFFET

- I) Kansas City Strip Steak topped with maître d' herb butter, lyonnaise potatoes, fresh vegetables.
- 2) Grilled Wild Copper River Sockeye Salmon, lemon caper butter sauce, Rice pilaf and vegetables
- 3) Gluten Free Penne with tomato sauce and vegetables

Dessert - warm toffee butter cake

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 PM Dinner

8:00 - 9:00 PM Installation

Parking: Plenty of Free Parking

Dinner Cost: \$60.00 per person

Reservations a must! Pay at the door. Reserve by July 8th at 90742aw@annettewren.com or reserve and pay online at occcsi.org

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See our website, occsi.org, for further disclaimer information.

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JULY 12, 2023

OCCCSI EVENT

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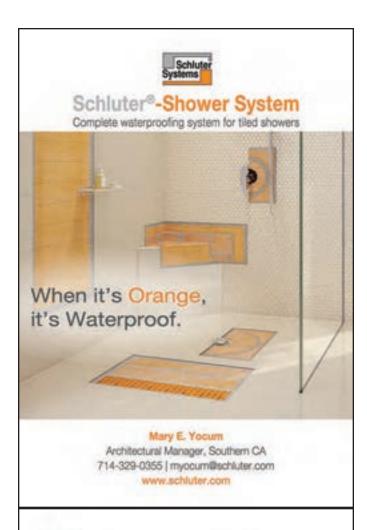
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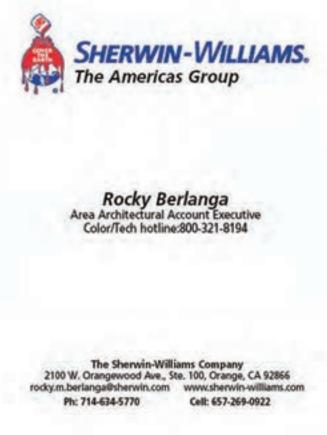
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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joseph Esquer, CSI, CCS



Warmest Greetings! Fellow CSI Orange County Chapter Members on behalf of your Board of Directors.

We are all turning the calendar pages from 2023 into 2024, and what personal stories this year has been for us. We recollect with pride and gratitude the dedicated work of those before us to continue the mission of the CSI Orange County Chapter Charter since its founding in May of 1965.

That same CSI spirit will be celebrated by those in attendance at the next Installation Dinner Meeting of the new CSI Orange County Board of Directors at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge 794 on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

I hope you all will attend for lots of camaraderie.

Please consider investing a few hours to help the CSI OC Chapter Committee Chairs, such as our Product Show, Hospitality, or Education. Let us re-build our CSI OC Chapter resources to foster architect and industry partner relationships. The CSI OC Chapter Membership Dinner Meetings will continue to offer Continuing Education Units from the most interesting design industry speakers.

Let us look forward to rewarding future events for our CSI OC Chapter Membership, like the exciting 2023 Annual Holiday Dinner Party at the Anaheim White House and the 2024 CSI OC Chapter Product Show at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge 794.

The Santa Ana Elks Lodge 794 provides lots of space for tabletop displays, elbow room for Social Time, and the tastiest Elks Lodge cuisine, and traditional CSI OC Chapter Membership hospitality. Several OC Chapter members now belong to Elks Lodge 794, which creates a valuable bond between us.

Your CSI Orange County Board of Directors and I encourage all of you to offer your ideas to improve Membership Meeting's activities, interesting tours, and enjoyment. Your CSI OC Chapter Board is eager to deliver more in '23 - '24. Thank you.

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try cheer somebody else up!

Mark Twain

My best regards, loe

WREN'S WESTERN OUTPUT

Credit - Where credit is way overdue!

By Annette Wren, FCSI, CDT

Yes! Credit to The Irvine Company for their exceptional standards in building and maintaining their properties is way overdue from me. I leased 3 units in multi-family properties as my second home in the same development from them over the years. All the units I leased were not new. They were always in great condition when I moved in. My experience was that the property was always maintained to the highest standards. There was real value to leasing from The Irvine Company - Credit where credit is due!

Some of you have been involved in The Irvine Company properties with design and construction. Your plans and specifications have brought quality to their properties. Your quality of construction has been appreciated. The plans and specifications for The Irvine Company projects have always been available. As a member of OCCCSI, I am proud that some of you are our members. The documents you created provided a standard of care and value.

I am a witness to the quality that The Irvine Company provides. For multi-family properties, they provide middle to highend quality construction products. I never truly realized that fact until I observed my semi-custom home being constructed by Grand Homes in Texas and compared it to my Irvine Company apartment. My apartment had cubboards that were aligned properly with cured paint on the wood. The cubboard doors opened smoothly and were hung correctly. The drawers had slides that were installed appropriately. The microwave in my last unit was newer than the one in my Texas home. All of the doors in my apartment opened, locked and shut unlike my new so-called "Grand" home. The windows were properly installed with appropriate waterproofing materials. The tile and other flooring materials were installed properly. Unlike my new Texas home, the Irvine apartment was constructed appropriately. Thank YOU, Irvine Company!

When I left my Irvine Company apartment this past April, I was in tears. A majority of the tears were for the loss of my wonderful experience with the property and neighborhood. Some of the tears were for the new home I purchased in Rockwall, Texas. Let me put it this way: The Irvine Company wants high quality at a low price in construction. My builder, Grand Homes, has low quality at a low price. In addition, I received a single 8 I/2" x I I" piece of paper when I requested the plans and specifications for my new home. What? The founders of CSI and AIA are flipping in their graves!

Credit where credit is due! One major component of The Irvine Company's success is their employees. The maintenance is always critical. My experience was that the maintenance was of a very high standard. Many other construction companies can learn from their example. Thank you!

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Speaker Victoria Kastner



Rustoleum - Jay Allred



Victoria Kastner signs her book



Dana Thornburg introduces our speaker Victoria Kastner



Greg Farinsky (Specifier) wins Grand Prize presented by Dana Thornburg.





Victoria Kastner & Dana Thornburg with the topic of Victoria's book, Julia Morgan, " overlooking them".



BUCH NOTES

By Ed Buch, FCSI, CCS, AIA, LEED AP3 Two Very
Different
Ceramic Tile
Makers

Batchelder & Guastavino

This report will describe two short books on architectural ceramic tile. The late architectural historian Robert Winter's book, Batchelder Tilemaker, presents the tile-as-artwork of the well-known Pasadena, CA tile maker, Ernest Batchelder. The second book, Immigrant Architect, Rafael Guastavino and the American Dream, is an introduction to Gaustavino and his patented, tile ceiling system, found in many buildings in New York City and elsewhere. Taken together the books describe two important, but two very different kinds of ceramic tile developed at the turn of the 20th Century.

Ernest Batchelder's tile making process was rooted in the philosophy of the 19th century Arts and Crafts movement that prized handmade products over those manufactured by industrial processes. Starting in 1908 in Pasadena and continuing until his extremely successful company, Batchelder-Wilson Co., closed its doors in 1932, Batchelder's soft-colored tiles, many with geometric or figurative designs, can be found throughout the US, mostly in residential fireplace surrounds.

Rafael Guastavino's path to success in tile making was very different from Batchelder's. First in New York City and eventually across the US, Guastavino focused on ceramic tile ceilings in public buildings. After a successful career as a builder and tile maker in Spain, he emigrated to the US 1881 bringing with him a technique for constructing large, vaulted, ceramic tile ceilings. This was during the late 19th century building boom when buildings were concerned with "fireproof" construction. The Gaustavino Fireproof Construction Company, used its patented tile system to build shallow vaulted ceilings in over 1,000 projects in the US and several foreign countries. Patented in 1885, his system consists of multiple thin layers of glazed terra cotta tile set in mortar to create a self-supporting, interlocking tile system for vaulted ceilings.

1889, McKim Mead and White commissioned one of Guastavino's vaulted ceilings for their Boston Public Library. Following that, Guastavino had success In New York City where there are over 400 of his ceilings, including those at the Cathedral of St. John the Devine, (his largest project at 100 feet in diameter), Grand Central Terminal, and, in 1917, the Great Hall in the immigration station on Ellis Island. Elsewhere he worked on the tile ceilings at the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina in 1890 and, perhaps his most magnificent work was the polychromatic dome, completed in 1931, above the rotunda in the Bertram Goodhue designed Nebraska State Capitol building.

Akoustolith, a patented, porous ceramic material was developed in 1911 by Guastavino and Wallace Sabine, the famous

BUCH NOTES

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acoustician of Harvard University, to reduce sound reflections from vaulted tile ceilings. This tile incorporated pumice particles into the clay mix and provided small voids in the tile surface that reduced sound reflections. After Rafael's death in 1908, the Guastavino Fireproof Construction Co. was led by his son until it closed in 1962.

At the same time Guastavino was having success in New York City, Ernest Batchelder was busy on the West Coast. Batchelder was born in 1876 in New Hampshire. He was raised by an uncle in Nashua after his mother died and his father remarried. He left for Boston in 1893 to study art and become an art teacher. He moved to Pasadena, CA in 1901 to teach at the Throop Polytechnic Institute which, at the time, was a trade school based on the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement and the theories of its leader, William Morris.

Throop evolved to become Cal Tech and Batchelder departed. Batchelder was chosen to select native American baskets and other artwork articles from California for display at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition to be held in St. Louis in 1904. Batchelder had difficulty finding any high quality, recently made native American work so he turned to selecting furniture, jewelry, and housewares made by Arts and Crafts artists.

Batchelder taught art and design at a summer school in Minneapolis from 1905 to '09. He traveled in Europe 1905 studying techniques used to teach in the Arts and Crafts movement. While in England he had every intention of returning to Minneapolis but when he was made the director of Throop's art department he decided to return to Pasadena. Soon after returning, Batchelder decided to give up his position at Throop and in October 1909 he set up his own school of art, based on the Arts and Crafts methods, and started a commercial tile making business.

As an educator, Batchelder wrote 2 books on design. The Principals of Design in 1908 and Design in Theory and Practice in 1910. These focused on graphic designs incorporating geometric shapes and shapes from the plant and animal kingdoms.

To manufacture his ceramic tiles, Batchelder started with small-scale drawings and then enlarged the images on paper before tracing them on slabs of damp clay. The slabs were then cut into small tiles ready for the kiln. By 1910 Batchelder was producing small batches of hand-made tile in his backyard kiln and in 1911 he was producing 54 different tile designs for such architects as Charles and Henry Greene. His wall tiles typically included figurative or scenic designs in relief based on medieval subjects using muted colors in a matte finish.

Much of Batchelder's work centered on tile for living room fireplaces. Batchelder saw the fireplace as the architectural focus of its room. The tiles for each fireplace project were laid out specifically for that project. Tiles were numbered and shipped with a layout drawing for use during installation. He shipped his carefully packed tiles to projects in many states, there are known



to be 58 Batchelder fireplaces in Wichita, KS alone.

His first commercial project, in 1914, was a store in downtown Los Angeles for the Dutch Chocolate Shop. It resembled a bierstube, extensively tiled using scenes of Dutch life and including tiled, vaulted ceilings, tiled walls, and floor tiles. His finest commercial project, and one that can be seen today, is the ground floor lobby of the Fine Arts Building on 7th St. in downtown Los Angeles. This was completed in 1925 in the Spanish Revival style.

By 1925 the Batchelder-Wilson Co. had grown to 125 employees producing up to six tons of tile per day. Batchelder had drifted away from the handmade approach of the Arts and Crafts movement. However, to him the "dignity of labor is of the mind and heart, not of the hand alone". Batchelder had come to see machinery as useful so long as it served men in their work rather than men becoming slaves to machines.

By the mid-1930s Batchelder moved on from ceramic tiles to making slipcast ceramic bowls, cups, vases, and other decorative pieces for table-top use. In 1936 he set up a small kiln and shop with only four or five workers. Batchelder Ceramics continued to produce and sell slipcast items until his wife's death in 1948. At that time he retired from business and his Pasadena civic engagements. Batchelder died in 1957 in Pasadena.

(continued on page 13)



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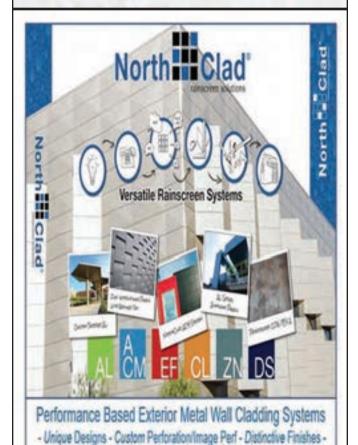


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BUCH NOTES

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Batchelder Tilemaker was written by Robert Winter. It was published by Balcony Press in 1999. It has 112 pages and includes many color photographs of his tiles, tile projects, historical photos of Batchelder and, interestingly, pages from the Batchelder-Wilson Co. tile catalogue.

Immigrant Architect, Rafael Guastavino and the American Dream was written by Berta de Miguel, Kent Diebolt and Virginia Lorente and was also beautifully illustrated by Virginia Lorente. It was published by Tilbury House Publishers and includes 60 illustrated pages.

OCCCSI 2023 Product Show Exhibitors

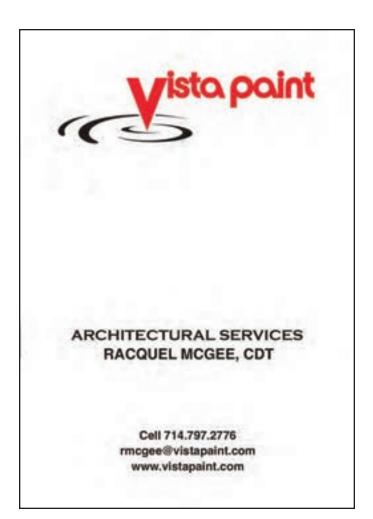
photos by Annette Wren



Mark Niese (KAL) Vice President OCCCSI







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Solatube



















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MEETING SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

Make reservations by the Friday preceding the meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

July 12, 2023 OC

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OCCCSI MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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