



# ALLENTOWN CHAPTER

Allentown, Pennsylvania

**APRIL  
2007**

www.csiallentown.org

ALLENTOWN CHAPTER

**THE BUILDING CONNECTION**

**EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT**

If you know of someone who is not receiving the newsletter in their email, have them sign up on our website at [www.csiallentown.org](http://www.csiallentown.org). Also, we are now putting the Board Meeting minutes on the website instead of including them in the newsletter.



## This Month's Meeting

### April's Meeting

### "EXPO 2007—Product Show"

at Day's Inn Conference Center  
Allentown, PA  
(Intersections of Routes 22 & 309)

### *Its' Not Easy being "Green"?*

- Educational Seminars at 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM.
- AIA LU's and CEU's will be provided!
- Over 60 Exhibitors.
- Continental Breakfast at 9:00 AM.
- Buffet Lunch starting at 11:00 AM
- Ice Cream Bar starting at 3:00 PM.
- Wine & Hors d'oeuvres starting at 5:00 PM.

### *Wednesday, April 18th, 2007*

Day's Inn Conference Center ~ Routes 309 & 22 ~ Allentown

9:00 AM: Product Show Opens      6:00PM: Show Closes

QUESTIONS? Call Brad Teeters 610-428-2740  
Or use the website, [www.csiallentown.org](http://www.csiallentown.org)

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#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MAY** ~ 5/16/07 ~ IBC Code Review Process for Design Professionals

**JUN** ~ 6/20/07 ~ The New NPDES Regulations

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUN** ~ 9/27/07 ~ National Convention—Baltimore, MD

**SEPT** ~ 9/27/07 ~ Region Conference—Charlotte, NC

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CHARTERED MAY 1963

INCORPORATED MAY 1970

PUBLICATION DEADLINE

When ever the Editor is Good and ready!

# President's Message

EXPO on your mind? I hope so, since Spring is arriving and our Chapter is aggressively working on the final details for EXPO 2007.

I feel we have great seminars planned along with a variety of product representatives from many companies that are willing to educate you about the various products they have available. The EXPO is being held on the third Wednesday in April.

Please plan to attend this fine event that our Chapter holds each year. You are the beneficiary, and I know you will not go away disappointed if you make the effort to come for all or part of the day.

In addition our Program Chairman has future programs that should be of interest to you as we continue our meetings through the coming months as we head toward summer.

We have a variety of interesting topics that are sure to be of interest to you in whatever part of the construction industry you are employed, or whatever part you or your company is involved in the construction industry.

We look forward to seeing you at the regular monthly meetings. I urge you to mark your calendar on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, and get into the habit of attending the meetings. After all this is your Chapter for your benefit. You certainly can expand your horizons from attending the meetings while networking and hearing our educational programs each month.

It is also a good time to become reacquainted with the other members in the industry, and the opportunity to network with each other.

*John D. Sweigart, President*  
Allentown Chapter

## Mark Your Calendar

The Allentown Chapter of CSI will be hosting the Middle Atlantic Region Conference on **September 25 through 28, 2008!** Location: Bear Creek Mountain Resort in Macungie. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Sal Verrastro or Mitch Miller.

## Allentown Chapter CSI—Mission Statement

The Allentown chapter of CSI strives to provide opportunities for education, and the exchange of knowledge and information for its members and the construction community by using the available resources through its diverse membership and relationships.

## ADVERTISING

If you are interested in advertising on our CSI website, either contact Brad Teeters at [csi.allentown@verizon.net](mailto:csi.allentown@verizon.net) or follow the link at the top right corner of our website's main page, [www.csiallentown.org](http://www.csiallentown.org).

# From the Editor

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## The Importance of the Allentown CSI Product Show: An Opportunity!

Why would anyone want to attend the CSI Product Show? Well an opportunity awaits. Why would anyone willingly want to spend almost an entire day, usually bored, being non-productive for the most part, when they could be behind a desk, playing golf, or anything else but attending this product show? No, I am not referring to the design professionals who could attend the show, I am referring to the exhibitors who do participate in the show. They are the ones who sacrifice their time and devote their skills in educating Design Professions and other attendees. They are the ones who have to put in the grueling hours of “entertaining” and “attracting” Design Professionals while they parade by the booths like customers at a carnival. But in this show, there is no cost to the Design Professional and frankly nothing to lose by attending. As for the exhibitors, they are taking a chance just by displaying their products. They could possibly walk away from this event with nothing to show for it. No sales, no leads, nothing. We as design professional have it made. We pay nothing for admission, someone else buys us lunch, drinks and dessert and if we aren’t careful we might just learn something.

Seriously, what really does impress me as much as the exhibitors dedication to this chapter and CSI is those in the design community who support this product show year after year and see it for it’s original intention: An educational opportunity! Those who attend realize that there is no place locally where one could find the amount of knowledge and this degree of enthusiasm under one roof. Not even on the almighty Internet. For those of you who choose not to attend, all that I can say in advance is, you missed an opportunity.

Sal Verrastro

## May 2007 Allentown CSI Meeting

**Topic:** International Building Code Review with Matt Walter with Barry Isett & Associates, Engineers. This is a joint meeting with the local **AIA**

### **Chapter!**

This program is a primer for all Specifiers, Architects and Engineers who have ever done code review work for a project. Mr. Walter will lead you through a typical code review that could open your eyes to what you may or may not be doing correctly. Join us for a factual evening.

**Location of Dinner:** *Sheraton Jetport, Airport Rd.*

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Contact the newsletter editor for information !

For updates to the above information, please contact Sal Verrastro at Spillman Farmer Architects

# CSI Polo Shirts



## Style 102

- 3-button
- 100% cotton shirt with the logo and the wording Construction Specification Institute embroidered on the chest of the shirt.
- Sizes L/XL/XXL/XXXL
- The trim and bodies of the shirts are available in red, black, hunter green and cornflower (blue).

To Order Polo shirts from the Allentown Chapter of CSI

**Contact: Sal Verrastro, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA**

**Tel: 610-865-2621 Fax: 610-865-3236**

**Cost/each: \$26.00 plus \$5.00 shipping**

## Style 101

- 3-button, cream colored body
- 100% cotton shirt with an embroidered logo and trim
- Available in either hunter green or burgundy
- Sizes M/L/XL/XXL/XXXL



# **CSI POLO SHIRTS ORDER FORM**

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	<b>Green</b>
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# Allentown CSI Product Show Exhibitors—2007

## Exhibitor's Name & Booth No.

Access-Ability - 12	Keith Bush Associates - 48
Acoustical Spray Insulators - 1	Koroseal Interior Products Group - 4
Advance Glazings - 40	L&M Construction Chemicals - 77
Amstar Rubber Products - 47	Lutron Electronics / Penn Lighting - 67
Anchor Concrete Products - 41	M.A.B. Paints - 70
Architectural Resources - 44	Manning Materials Company - 35
Associated Builders and Contractors of Eastern Pennsylvania - 20	Mid-Atlantic Agents - 51
ATAS International, Inc. - 13	Modern Precast Concrete - 71
Beavertown Block Company, Inc. - 38	Modernfold of Reading - 7
Benjamin Moore & Company - 15	Modernfold of Reading - 8
Beth Hanover Supply - 10	Morris Black and Sons, Inc. - 76
C.H. Briggs Hardware - 53	National Gypsum Company - 69
Capricorn Industrial Sales - 2	Oshkosh Architectural Door Company - 16
Centria - 28	Patterned Concrete of Pennsylvania - 34
Certainteed Ceilings - 54	Pella Window & Door Company - 25
Construction Sales Group - 50	Performance Roofing Associates - 63
Corbett, Inc. - 19	PPSI, LLC - 33
Corporate Environments - 29	Quality Reps - 31
<b>CSI Membership Booth - 26 &amp; 27</b>	Reed Associates, Inc. - 62
Dal-Tile Corporation - 37	Roland & Roland, Inc. - 5
Dal-Tile Corporation - 36	Rulon Company - 79
Delaware Valley Green Building Council - 59	S & S Resources, Inc. - 6
Diener Brick Company - 52	Santana Products, Inc. - 78
Donia & Associates - 66	Sherwin-Williams Company - 72
E. P. Henry - 65	Simpson Strongtie - 18
Engelman Construction - 11	Siplast / ICOPAL. - 61
Epic Metals Corporation - 68	STO - 56
Exeter Supply Company - 14	Super Enterprises - 74
Fenner & Esler Insurance - 64	Superior Walls by Advanced Concrete Systems, Inc. - 57
Fessenden Hall, Inc. - 42	Tnemec Company - 49
Garden State Tile Distributors - 55	Tower Windows - 75
Garland Company - 39	Trenwyth Industries - 60
General Supply Company - 3	USG Building Systems - 45
Glen Gery Brick - 9	W. R. Grace & Company - 43
JF Associates - 73	Wildlands Conservancy - 23

# Mr. Wolfe goes to Washington

## *Redundant repetition*

Communication may be our most important skill. It doesn't matter how fantastic or useful a design may be if we can't explain the idea to the people who have to build it. When we're dealing with construction documents, we know the value of the standards developed by CSI, and we acknowledge the value of the four Cs - clear, complete, concise, and correct. But when it comes to electronic communication, it's easy to forget that e-mail and discussion forums also benefit from clear, concise statements.

E-mail is one of the great communication innovations. Fast and easy to use, it allows us to send information to each other almost with hardly a thought. It is also one of the great communication curses of the modern world. Fast and easy to use, it allows us to inundate each other with endless chain letters, jokes, annoying messages, and forwarded mail.

In the good old days, when we wrote letters with pen and ink, or with a typewriter, we usually wrote to a single person. Writing to more than one person at a time was possible, but re-writing or reproducing a letter, addressing envelopes, affixing postage, and getting it all in the mail made it an uninviting chore.

With e-mail, we can respond immediately, and just a few clicks can send a message to several people. The "reply to all" feature makes it possible to respond to the sender *and* to everyone else who received a copy of the first message, and by adding a distribution list of your own, the message can be sent to people who weren't involved before.

Most of us have received jokes that have been forwarded countless times. Sometimes there are so many names of previous recipients that the original message is lost. I once received a joke that, printed out, would have run to more than a dozen pages, the payoff being a two-paragraph joke on the last page.

Jokes and chain letters are one thing, but business correspondence is entirely different. The purpose of serious mail is to convey important information. As long as we write to a single person, or a carefully selected group, all is well.

Unfortunately, pressing "reply to all" is so tempting that we often pass on information that is significant to only a few of the people that receive it. When this becomes common within a group, it is not unusual to receive copies of the same letter from several people, each of whom replied to all.

The recent e-mail discussion of the governance recommendation clearly illustrates the need for more thought when sending or responding to e-mail. The sad result of the enormous quantity of endlessly forwarded e-mail was that it discouraged many members from reading their e-mail, thereby negating its purpose. Just like junk mail in your snail-mail inbox, much of it went right into the garbage without being read.

When sending mass e-mail or responding to a message with several names in the "to" or "copy" fields:

- Take the time to select recipients who are interested.
- Check the previous distribution, and do not send to people who have already received the message.
- If the subject of the original mail is something like "What's a good time to meet?" reply only to the sender.
- If all you have to say is "I agree" think twice about how important that is to everyone else.

And please - don't use those cute signature blocks that include your entire life history and that clever company logo. Same thing goes for that lovely background image.

Better yet, post your comments to a discussion forum, and when you get e-mail about a posted subject, tell the person who sent it to use the forum. Using a forum will make your comments available to all, avoid confusion about who said what, and eliminate a lot of clutter from our mailboxes.

Finally, when writing that terribly important message that you simply can't wait to send, go ahead - get it all out. Then save it, set it aside, and read it again the next day. You might be surprised how often comments made in the heat of the moment don't sound quite so reasonable in the light of another day.

*Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA*  
*Institute Director, North Central Region, CSI*

# Going Green News

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## Making Sense of Water-Efficient Products

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched a new labeling program designed to help consumers identify water-efficient products. WaterSense, a voluntary EPA program, aims to help consumers save money on utility bills and reduce water consumption. The program launched in June 2006, and WaterSense labels are expected to start appearing on products as early as January 2007.

Residential-plumbing fixtures, such as showerheads, faucets, and toilets; and commercial- and residential-irrigation systems will be the first products to carry the label. In addition, irrigation professionals will be offered WaterSense certification programs.

To carry the WaterSense label, products are expected to be about 20% more water efficient than those now on the market. Toilets will use less than 1.3 gal. of water per flush as opposed to the 1.6-gal. - per flush standard set in 1994 by the National Energy Policy Act. Most residential fixtures have a flow rate around 2.2 gal. per minute, which means a WaterSense faucet would run at about 1.76 gal. per minute.

WaterSense is a lot like the EPA's Energy Star program. Both programs seek to conserve resources and save money. Unlike Energy Star, however, WaterSense uses third-party testing to ensure customer protection. WaterSense also

will partner with Energy Star to certify home appliances.

For more information, log on to the EPA's WaterSense website at [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense) to see a list of approved products.

Source: Ashley Pedersen, [Fine Home Building](#), p. 18

## ASHRAE gets into the sustainability game

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers is creating a new certification program focusing on sustainability. "By offering certification, ASHRAE members will be more valuable to the industry," said Terry Townsend, P. E., ASHRAE's president. "Certification from ASHRAE will add professional credibility to their work as well as provide resources for designing and operating buildings that are more efficient." The program is expected to launch in the summer of 2007. To learn more about the new program, go to [www.ashrae.org](http://www.ashrae.org).

## How many legislators does it take to unscrew 50 million lightbulbs?

California Assemblyman Lloyd Levine has introduced the How Many Does It Take to Change a Light Bulb Act? The bill calls for a state-wide ban on the use of incandescent light bulbs by 2012.

"Incandescent light bulbs were first developed almost 125 years ago, and since that time, they have undergone no major modifications," Levine says on his website. "Meanwhile, they remain incredibly inefficient, converting only about 5% of the energy they receive into light." The remaining 95% is converted to heat.

Compact-fluorescent bulbs are much more efficient, wasting 70% less energy, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. With 1 of every 5 watts that flow into California's 12 million households going to lighting, this efficiency boost could have a significant effect on large-scale power consumption. According to Levine's website, California Edison finds it cheaper to give away compact-fluorescent bulbs than to fuel existing power plant. The state of Connecticut is moving even faster. Rep. Jim O'Rourke and others are working on a bill to authorize the commissioner of environmental protection to place inefficient bulbs on a "do not sell" list, giving retailers a year to clear their shelves.

Source: NE Homebuilding

# Going Green!

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## Green Indoor Environments

Do your buildings create a healthy environment for their occupants? The building industry is increasingly focused on making its building greener, which includes using healthier, less polluting, and more resource-efficient practices. Indoor environmental quality (IEQ) refers to the quality of the air and environment inside buildings, based on pollutant concentrations and conditions that can affect the health, comfort, and performance of occupants - including temperature, relative humidity, light, sound, and other factors. Good IEQ is an essential component of any building, especially a green building.

Creating a better indoor environment can help building owners, managers, occupants, architects, and builders to minimize or eliminate the negative health effects, liability, bad publicity, and costly renovations and repairs often associated with IEQ problems. Improving IEQ involves designing, constructing, commissioning, operating, and maintaining buildings in ways that reduce pollution sources and remove indoor pollutants while ensuring that fresh air is continually supplied and properly circulated.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is tackling the problems associated with maintaining building IEQ through a collection of cutting-edge voluntary and informational programs. The EPA's indoor Environments Program promotes the use of integrated, whole-building approaches to protect occupant health while saving energy and money. The program focuses on major building types including offices and institutional buildings, schools, homes, as well as major cross-cutting indoor air quality issues like mold and moisture. The EPA offers resources from informational pamphlets to interactive CD-ROMs on how everyone from builders to homeowners can improve their indoor environment.

A portion of the EPA's website ([www.epa.gov/opptintr/greenbuilding](http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/greenbuilding)) is a gateway to information on many different EPA programs to improve the environmental impacts of building and development. These include Energy Star, Water Efficiency and Stewardship, Sustainable Development, Waste Reduction, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing and more.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov))

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## *Maximize Daylight and Energy Savings With Translucent Skylights and Wall Panels*

The short definition for daylighting is the planned use of daylight to illuminate the interior of a structure in order to reduce artificial lighting needs. Daylighting has the potential to offset energy use in the building, thus reducing the use of fossil fuels and helping improve the negative impact on the air quality.

According to a study for Pacific Gas & Electric by Energy Design Resources, a California consultant, the average grocery store may save \$16,000 per year, or 32 cents per square foot, in energy cost through daylighting; a typical school can save \$7500 per year, or 23 cents per square foot.

Skylights and wall systems using translucent panels offers diffused lighting to provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, and they are compatible with most aesthetics of the building. A skylight brightens and enhances the interior of a building through natural light.

Translucent Skylights come in many combinations of shapes, sizes, glazing, framing systems and insulation details. Skylights allows three times more light than a vertical window of the same size.

Translucent fiberglass reinforced panels can be insulated or non-insulated. They provide excellent energy efficiency. When comparing the Energy Star guide rating of .35 for standard insulating glass, a translucent panel with a .24 U factor / 28 grams of insulation has a 46 percent better U factor than insulating glass.

The advantage of translucent is diffused light offers no glare and no hot spots, which provides for a comfortable environment. The light transmittance values of 28 to 75 percent is available, depending on the occupants needs.

Almost shatterproof, translucent panels are very durable and virtually unbreakable. They are also lightweight and virtually maintenance free. And, translucent systems are more economical than most glass skylight systems.

Daylighting is recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® rating system and Green Building Initiative as a source to achieve multiple points toward LEED credits in several categories. Starting in October 2005 LEED version 2.2 has made some specification changes. Updated information is available at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

Dan L. Donihoo, CSI, CCPR

Product Manger; Skywall Translucent Systems; The Vistawall Group / A BlueScope Steel Company

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*When you have a change in address, telephone number, or email address, you are the only person who can contact the Institute and change or correct the roster. The Chapter depends on the Institute data for sending emails, mailing postcard notices about meetings, and special events. If your information on the Institute roster is incorrect, you will be cut off from the flow of information about the Chapter, Region, and Institute events.*

*Act now! Make sure that you stay in contact with CSI!*

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