



The Construction Specifications Institute

CSI KNOXVILLE CHAPTER MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE FLOOR: POLISHED CONCRETE & THE POWER OF WORDS

Presented By: by Chris Bennett, CSI, and Keith Robinson, RSW, FCSC, FCSI,
This particular course carries one AIA/HSW credit and is provided by the National Center
for Education and Research on Corrosion and Materials Performance (NCERCAMP) at
University of Akron.

1 AIA/
HSW
CEU



CSI Knoxville Virtual Meeting!

During this time of quarantine, we would like to offer our members and non-members the opportunity to earn their much needed credits.

Topic: "Polished Concrete & The Power of Words"
Presented by Chris Bennett and Keith Robinson

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ORGANIZED SEPTEMBER 1958 - CHARTERED MAY 1959

THE KNOXVILLE CHAPTER MEETS ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH. GUESTS ARE WELCOME!



CSI KNOXVILLE IS A MEMBER OF THE CSI GULF STATES REGION

THE SPECK Editor

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THE SPECK is published monthly by the Knoxville Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute. Readers are encouraged to submit articles and images of the construction industry interest for our membership. All submittals should be sent via e-mail in a typical file format, such as .pdf, .docx, or .jpg Please verify the accuracy of the information such as correct dates, spelling, and grammar. Deadlines are the 25th of each month.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2020

02 CSI Board Meeting - Tuesday, June 2nd
Meeting from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Location: ZOOM MEETING

09 CSI Chapter Meeting - Tuesday, June 9th
CSI Knoxville Virtual Meeting!
Time: 11:30 AM EST - 1:00 PM EST

Topic: "Polished Concrete & The Power of Words" Presented by Chris Bennett and Keith Robinson

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KNOXVILLE CHAPTER: JUNE 2020

- 47 PROFESSIONAL**
- 1 EMERGING PROFESSIONAL**
- 2 STUDENT**
- 2 EMERITUS**
- 2 RETIRED**

- 54 TOTAL**



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CSI VIRTUAL LEARNING

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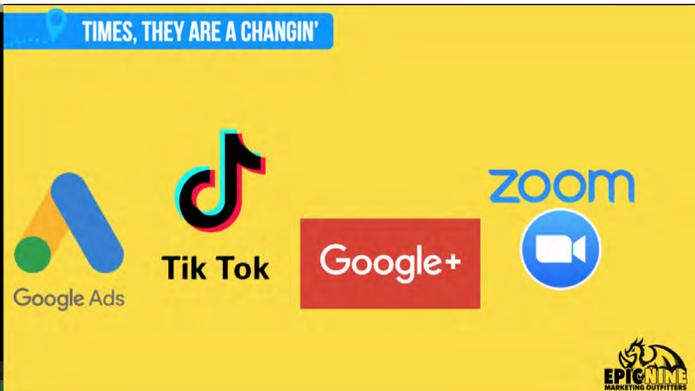
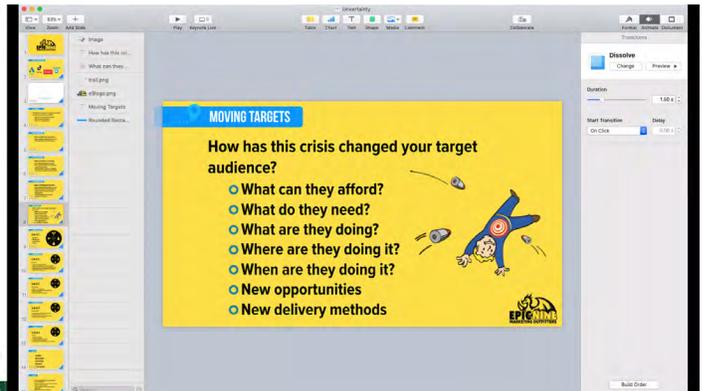


May's monthly meeting was again held over a video call. We had Jeremy LaDuke from ,Epic Nine, speak to us about how we can market ourselves digitally during the pandemic. He offered ideas and advice on how to use LinkedIn to continue to social network since it has not been responsible to do so in person like we are primarily used

to. I'm glad he took the time to talk with us. It is always nice to have a business/marketing presentation about once a year so that we can stay relevant in the industry.

I would like to remind everyone that CSI is still a community even though things have changed. If you have any questions or concerns about the industry I am hoping that you will reach out to your fellow CSI members to talk about them so that we can all stay informed. Like always, if there is anything you want to learn about, anyone you want to hear speak at a meeting, please let us know. We are always looking for new ways to educate our members and those ideas come from our members.

Mr. Geoffrey Cavalier, CSI, Assoc. AIA, NCARB
CSI Knoxville Chapter President
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JUNE PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Polished Concrete & The Power of Words: Building a Sustainable Future

Polished concrete provides a multitude of benefits to an owner, but how do you deliver what is promised? What if you discovered that the language you are using to design, describe and specify polished concrete is instead encouraging different floor finishes that cost more, expose the project team to risk and increase the material and carbon footprint of a facility? This AIA/HSW course, provided by The National Center for Education and Research on Corrosion and Materials Performance (NCERCAMP) will explore new ways to provide solutions for these problems.

Learning Objectives:

- 1 Redefine polished concrete
- 2 Overview of polished concrete and coefficient of friction influencers
- 3 Case study reviews examining success and failure through lens of language
- 4 Reduce polished concrete project carbon emissions by changing two simple words

Presented By: Chris Bennett, CSI - Bennett Build

Contact for webinar link: chris@bennettbuild.us

503.522.5319

<http://Prez.is/concrete>

View portfolio at: <https://bennettbuild.us/projects>

<https://www.constructionspecifier.com/polished-concrete-not-just-shiny/>



Chris Bennett, CSI, is the owner of Bennett Build, a network of construction professionals and researchers dedicated to helping organizations understand and solve concrete and flooring problems. He can be reached via e-mail at chris@bennettbuild.us.



Keith Robinson, RSW, FCSC, FCSI, is an associate at Dialog in Edmonton, Alberta. Robinson also instructs courses for the University of Alberta, acts as an advisor to several construction groups, and sits on many standards review committees for ASTM and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). He can be reached at krobinson@dialogdesign.ca.

THE FUTURE OF CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION

By Ms. Susan Davis, RA, CSI, CDT, PMP
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While at CONSTRUCT 2019, I attended a learning session titled The Future of Construction Administration given by JoAnn Brooks, AIA, CSI of Perkins Eastman. While I disagreed with many of Ms. Brooks' opinions, her talk was thought provoking.

I have a unique perspective on our industry given my diverse experience as architect, owner, and contractor. One of my colleagues referred to those who have held all of these roles as "unicorns." So what do us unicorns have to offer in the way of knowledge and experience that others may not be aware of?

1. I have never worked with anyone who had malicious intent towards the other parties to the project. Believe it or not, this is something that we can tend to forget. We villainize others and think that they are out to get us or they are only in it for themselves. I'm not saying that there are no unethical people in our industry- only that most people are truly in this business to achieve the best outcome in the end. While an architect may be thinking, "Why is this contractor trying to butcher the design?" the contractor may be thinking, "Why is the architect wasting the owner's money on this?" Both parties are interested in what is best for the owner, but they have different perspectives based on their roles. Communicate, communicate, communicate.

2. If someone disagrees with your opinion, that doesn't mean they are not proficient at their job. This also sounds simple but can be a tough pill to swallow. We tend to get our egos bruised and think, "Well, that guy's an idiot anyway." Be self reflective. Understand your own shortcomings and weaknesses. Ask questions to those who disagree or criticize. Remember that these people have a different experience than you so they may have an insight you could benefit from. If the contractor criticizes a detail as "un-buildable," ask them why. Explain the parts of the detail that are important to you and ask how they

would achieve it. If the architect says that the contractor doesn't understand the design intent, ask them to explain it. Asking this question achieves several things:

- It opens up the possibility for you to learn something new
- It shows the other party that you respect his/her thoughts and experience
- It gets buy-in from the other party. If they help create the solution, it is difficult for them to criticize it.

3. Understand the methods of your team mates. What software shapes how they operate? Would life become easier for everyone if you were to adopt a different project management software? How is their project team structured? Will you be dealing with a project manager's assistant daily? Understanding how their team is structured will also help you fill in the gaps. If a contractor submits an RFI with a multi-part question and part of that question needs to go to the engineer, the entire RFI may take a little longer to get back. If a change order has to be priced by multiple subs, it may take longer to coordinate. By knowing this, you can either break your requests up so they can be addressed by each party or you will at least understand the delay in getting an answer.

4. Youth may not mean ignorance. While us folks getting a bit longer in the tooth can generally concede that we are maybe not as proficient at certain technologies, we tend to be dismissive of younger people's experience and insight when it comes to the project. I've met some incredibly bright people that really knew their stuff. I am very impressed with those graduating with a Construction Management degree. We need to understand that there is a gap in demand and those able to fill it. I think these CM degrees are a great way to start bridging that gap. Architecture programs are also improving in including practical knowledge. Several emerging professionals gave seminars at CONSTRUCT 2019 that were wildly successful.

- Michael Riscica of The Young Architect spoke on passing the ARE
- Erica Kennedy, Overcash Demmitt Architects, and Jeffrey Parnell, HBG Design, spoke on succeeding as a young professional

We need to understand that we will be dealing with an increasingly younger workforce. By being dismissive of what these people bring to the table, we are missing an opportunity to help them fill in what gaps we can help them with.

5. Be timely in your responses. I heard the statement, "I received an RFI about a spacial conflict with some



CSI MEMBER BENEFITS

As a CSI member, you are part of a team of construction-building professionals committed to improving the organization, management and communication of construction information. Our members bring together their technical expertise and experience to provide real world solutions to the construction-building issues facing you each day.

Ways to realize your full professional potential:

Advance Your Career As a part of the CSI community, you have added resources to earn your certificate as a Construction Document Technologist ([CDT](#)) or an advanced CSI certifications ([CCCA](#), [CCPR](#), or [CCS](#)). Be confident in your role in the construction project, and earn your employer's confidence in your skills and knowledge.

Connect with Colleagues

Continue to engage with colleagues on our new website www.csiresources.org, join an online [community](#) and your [local chapter](#)! You know how valuable it is to be a member of a community of professionals from every facet of the industry.

Stay Up-To-Date

CSI brings you the best in construction building communications. CSI's monthly peer-reviewed magazine, [The Construction Specifier](#), discusses the latest trends in construction building and design (also view it in digital form). The [CSI Weekly](#), our weekly-newsletter, keeps you up-to-date on issues and events affecting your profession and the industry.

Drive the Industry

CSI volunteers develop the [standards and formats](#) that guide construction communication. They create [MasterFormat](#), the [Practice Guides](#), and many other projects and programs vital to the construction community. As a member of CSI, you can volunteer and drive the industry.

Access Member-Only Benefits Pricing

Your CSI membership gives you access to discounts on orders in the [CSI Store](#) and access to [MasterFormat.com](#), things you need to get your job done.

If you have questions regarding your membership, please contact CSI Member Services at 800-689-2900 or csi@csinet.org

(Construction Administration... Continued from Page 5)

pipng. When I answered the RFI two weeks later, the contractor had already figured something out." Did you think that both subs were going to stand there waiting for you to respond two weeks later? Yes, in a perfect world, contractors would submit all of their questions well ahead of needing the answers. Keep in mind, though, that in a perfect world, the drawing set would already have the answers. Be understanding of what is timely to other team members.

6. Be diplomatic and understand what others are trying to achieve in their communications. RFIs are the only legal way that an architect can give direction. Meeting minutes are not a legal document. Neither are submittals. This is why architects will receive a RFI after discussing a problem on site. The contractor is not trying to waste your time by asking the same question, they are simply following up in a legally recognized format. Also, if you receive an RFI that seems to have an obvious answer, take a moment to think about why the contractor spent the time to send it. Is there something they are asking without coming right out and saying it? In writing or in front of the owner is not a good time to call someone out as having missed something or having made a mistake. If you think this may be the case, pick up the phone and discuss it first.

Did you know that, generally, 25% or less of RFIs should be converted into change orders. If there are more, this could be a sign of negligent design. And, currently, CA accounts for 10-20% of the design fee but as more happens in the field, that could increase to 20-25%. Personally, I don't think that's a bad thing. That means we are increasing the interface between the designer and the builder. I'm sure we have all been reminded of how simple drawings used to be and how there was much less litigation. Could this have been because the architect was on the jobsite to answer questions and to work out solutions directly with the builder?

*Ms. Susan Davis, RA, CSI, CDT, PMP
CSI Knoxville Chair: Bylaws and Operating Guide*



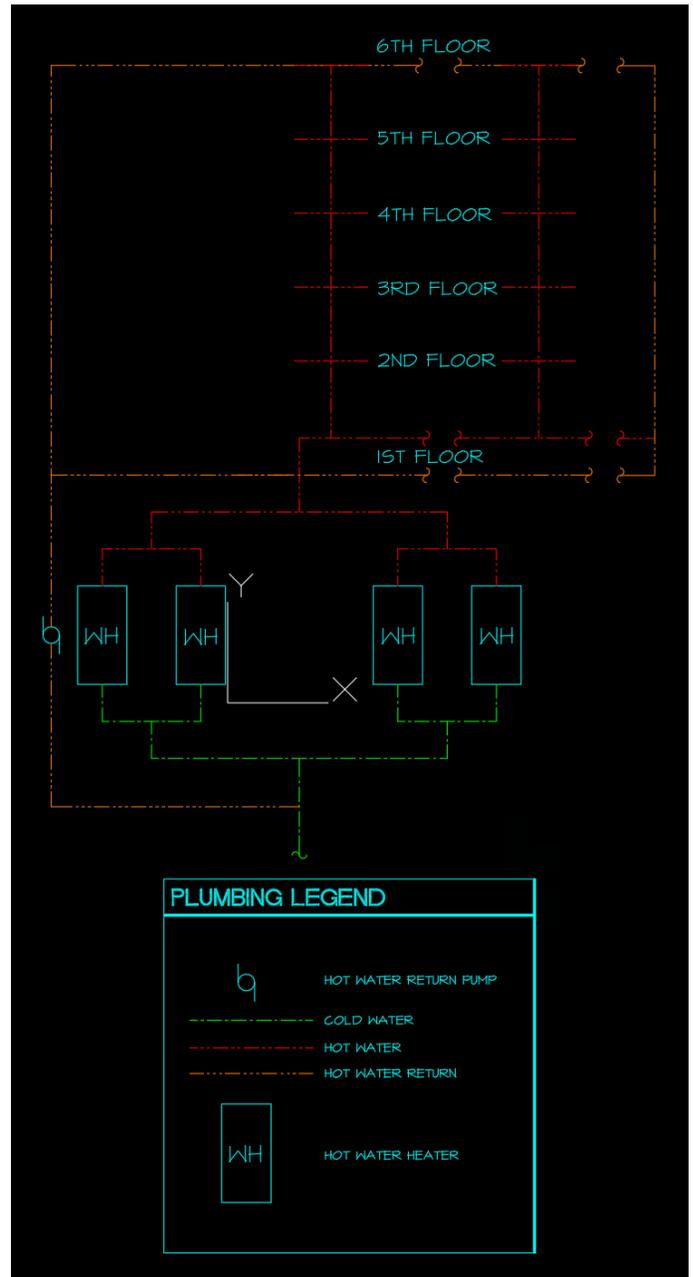
WHAT I LEARNED FROM CSI... *HOTEL HOT WATER*

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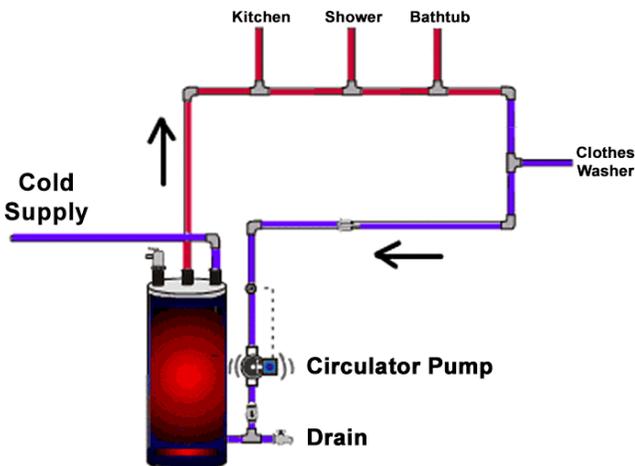


In the pre Covid 19 days, many of us stayed in hotels and used the hot water in the shower and lavatory without a second thought.... But how many of us think about the number of water heaters required and how the hot water is delivered to the hotel room without waiting several minutes? The hot water in a hotel is usually furnished by several water heaters and a hot water recirculating system with a hot water recirculating pump.

We had a recent call on a multi-story hotel we designed in 2005 which was reported to have hot water issues. This 112-room hotel was equipped with four 119-gallon gas water heaters. The lack of hot water in the guest room showers was causing the hotel management to provide rooms at no charge to several customers. Since there were no problems reported in the first 10 years of operation, we suspected some changes were made that caused the problem. The hotel manager reported problems seemed to be in guest rooms at the end of the hotel where the fitness center was enlarged, and the guest laundry was relocated across the hall. A quick look above



Hotel hot water recirculating system diagram



<https://www.plumbingsupply.com/recirculating-systems-explained.html>

Simple home hot water pump explanation

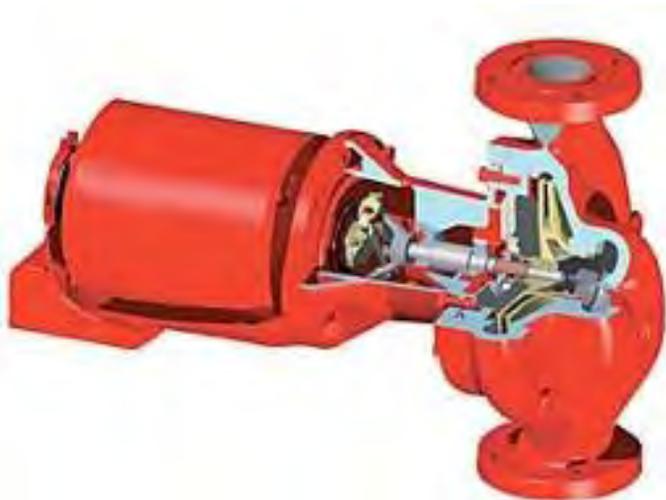
the first-floor guest laundry ceiling revealed no obvious discrepancies. The hotel manager and plumber offered to remove most of the ceiling tiles on the first and sixth floor to better observe the domestic water piping system. After the tiles were removed, we observed several problems. The cold water (CW), hot water (HW) and hot water return (HWR) lines were not labeled as specified. The 140-degree HW and HWR were extended to the first-floor commercial laundry and food prep areas, but the 140-degree HWR pump was turned off. The 120-degree HW and HWR serving the guest rooms were labeled sporadically and extended to the first-floor guest laundry and to the sixth floor of the hotel. The balance valves in the sixth-floor ceiling intended to regulate the hot water

return flow were, in some locations, in a completely closed position and in other locations in a completely open position. Usually, the balance valves located closest to the pump and water heater room are partially closed. The balance valves located at the farthest end of the hotel from the pump and water heater are almost fully open. We suspected during the guest laundry renovation; the balance valves were adjusted by someone unfamiliar with the balance valve position concepts.

Normally, after construction is completed, but before the first hotel guest is booked, a test and balance contractor is normally hired to adjust the balance valves in the domestic hot water system. This ensures that all guest rooms and other hotel areas receive hot water in a timely fashion. We recommended to the owner that

any defective balance valves be replaced, and a test and balance contractor be hired to balance the system. If you want to know more about these systems and other design and construction issues, come to the next CSI chapter meeting to discuss them.

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Hot water recirculating pump external view



CSI MEMBER SUPPORT PROGRAM

As the economic realities caused by COVID-19 are unfolding, CSI is creating ways to support members at your time and place of need. Beginning today, CSI is launching a Member Support Program to offer a three-month dues deferment to individual members who are experiencing financial hardship.

To apply for the Member Support Program, you must be:

- An active member of CSI with an expiration date on or after March 31st, 2020
- Undergoing financial hardship due to the economic crisis

A member who wishes to apply must contact CSI to begin the process. Email memberservices@csinet.org or call 1-800-689-2900

Please note: Chapters can opt-out of participating in this program. If a Chapter does not participate, a member will be responsible for 3-months' worth of their Chapter(s) dues before the deferment begins.

Looking forward, CSI continues to evaluate how to support its members during this unprecedented time. If changes or extensions to the program are made, CSI will communicate with members as soon as possible.

[Click here](#) for an FAQ with more program details.

HINDSIGHT

PHOTOS FROM TUESDAY, MAY 12TH CHAPTER MEETING

Photos By Ms. Stacy Colbaugh, CSI, CDT, AIA



CSI GULF STATES REGION LEADERS – 2019-2020

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