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the Grand Valley Specifier

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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

- Lunch Seminar Oct 15/14
Door Hardware 101
- Lunch Tour Nov 12/14
Carpet Mill Tour
- Christmas Lunch Dec 10/14
Details to Follow
- Lunch Seminar Jan 21/14
HVAC Seismic Design
- Lunch Seminar Feb 18/15
Design w/ Cross-Lam'd Timber
- Lunch Seminar Mar 11/15
Working at Heights Legislation
- Lunch Seminar Apr 15/15
Spec'ing Large Format Tiles

CSC 2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEDERHOSEN, DIRNDLS, AND POLKA... OH MY!

PS... Nice Hat Cathie ;)



CSC's Grand Valley Chapter co-hosted the 2014 CSC National Conference with the Hamilton/Niagara and Toronto Chapters, held in Kitchener, Ontario in May of 2014. Combining the spirit of Oktoberfest with a passion for Specifications gave rise to the fun "Spektoberfest" theme, with the slogan appropriately, and cleverly, coined as "Tapping the Future".

Thanks to the incredible efforts of many people including a focused vision from our very own Chapter Chair, Cathie Schneider, the conference truly did live up to the meaning of the slogan with the creation of the CSC Design Competition for university and college students.

The conference featured several respected speakers and entertainers as well as engaging and enjoyable activities for those in attendance.

The 2014 conference was considered to be a great success, proving that members of a small chapter can help accomplish great things! We definitely couldn't have done it without the collaborative efforts of our fellow members from the Hamilton-Niagara and Toronto Chapters – or the stellar support from the association staff; Nick Franjic, Clifton Fiola and Brad Noble!

We wish the Winnipeg Chapter much success as they now get down to the nuts & bolts of planning Conference 2015!!

CSC Grand Valley Chapter

CSC (Construction Specifications Canada) is a national multi-disciplinary, non-profit association with chapters across Canada. CSC is committed to ongoing development and delivery of quality education programs, publications and services for the betterment of the construction community.

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We are looking for a few members to join the executive to help develop and maintain activities with construction related groups to advance the goals of CSC within our industry.



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CATHIE'S CHATTER MUSICAL CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Wow! What a conference! We had the great fortune of co-hosting the 2014 National Conference "Tapping the Future" in May. By all accounts, it was well attended and well received. We rocked the fest hall Concordia, held the inaugural "Tapping the Future" Design Competition which showcased young design professionals, featured technical sessions second to none, met new friends and reconnected with old ones. On all fronts, it could not have gone better.



I take my little red Bavarian hat off to all the amazing volunteers, the incredible support of the Head Office team, the terrific hotel staff and of course, our co-hosts: Toronto and Hamilton chapters. What seemed a daunting task turned out to be great fun!

Winnipeg, we are so looking forward to what you have in store for the National conference 2015. Based on our recent experience, we already appreciate all your efforts to date and can hardly wait to enjoy your hospitality.

After a well-deserved summer off we are looking forward to a great 2014/15 year. We welcome two exceptional people to the Grand Valley Executive: Chris Johnson from Tri-Spec takes on the challenge of Program Officer and Sheri Thompson from MMC International Architects is our Architectural Officer. Excellent additions!

We've made some other changes on the Executive. Along with her role as Secretary, Renee MacGregor assumes the role of Website Editor and Colin Goheen has accepted the role of Director in addition to his role as treasurer. Our very own Paul Gerber was nominated as 4th Vice President for the CSC Executive and will sit beside David Boyle (3rd Vice President) at the Executive table. That's two Vice President's from Grand Valley on the CSC Executive. Way to go!!!! Maybe a little cheerleading in nature but sometimes it's nice to let people know that as much fun as we have, we are also very serious about the Association and what it promotes.

We've got a super line up for the 2014/15 luncheon seminars. There are topics for everyone. A tour at Kraus Carpets, Specifying and Installing Large Format Tiles, Door Hardware 101, HVAC Seismic Design, Working at Heights Legislation and Designing with Cross Laminate Timber to name a few.

I truly encourage people, whether you are architects, interior designers, landscape architects, engineers or manufacturer representatives to come out. You don't have to be a member to take advantage of the education and networking opportunities our luncheon seminars offer. (OK, we may give you a membership kit and encourage you to join but hey...)

Let's just say we are gentle folk with a great deal to offer.

Enjoy the fall. Talk to you next when the snow falls.

Cheers,

Cathie Schneider, CTR—Chair, CSC Grand Valley Chapter—C: 519-572-5838

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INAUGURAL CSC DESIGN COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS

Hosted by Grand Valley, Hamilton/Niagara, and Toronto Chapters

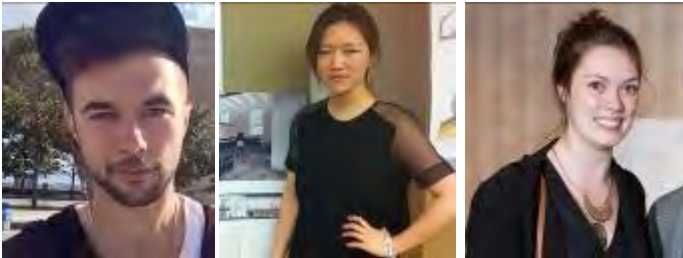
Team Touch takes CSC's student design competition



At the CSC Conference in Kitchener in May, a student competition to renovate the Galt Post Office (an actual heritage building) with a hypothetical restaurant let emerging design professionals to show their skills with architecture, building materials, and construction documentation. Hosted by the association's Grand Valley, Hamilton/Niagara, and Toronto Chapters, the contest was won by 'Touch'—the team of Sheldon Froc, Evelyn (Shuang) Wang, and Emma Kamermans (pictured at the end of the article).

In the competition, summarized at www.cscdesigncompetition.com, participants demonstrated knowledge in diverse aspects of construction, including the incorporation of specifying resources like MasterFormat. Entries came from the University of Waterloo, Toronto's Ryerson University, and Sheridan and Conestoga Colleges (Oakville and Kitchener, respectively).

Winners were announced at the conference's Connections Café by Cathie Schneider, chair of the Grand Valley Chapter. (Schneider also received a Program Director's Award for her efforts in organizing the competition.) The various designs for the old Galt Post Office were displayed around the room, and the space was packed with conference delegates to hear the winners being announced. (A video is available at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/csc-design-competition>.)



Team "Touch" from left to right:

Sheldon Froc, Evelyn (Shuang) Wang, Emma Kamermans

Read the complete article at <http://www.constructioncanada.net/team-touch-takes-cscs-student-design-competition/>

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE CONNECTIONS CAFÉ AT THE 2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE:



We are CSC and WE ARE 'Tapping the Future'!



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IT'S JUST A SPEC

Written by David A. Stutzman, CSC, AIA, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP
 Founding Principal of Conceptus Inc., Tuckahoe, NJ
<http://conceptusinc.com/swblog/2014/07/its-just-a-spec/>

Yes it is a spec, and it deserves attention – the proper attention to be certain the contractor delivers what is required by the contract. The design team created the drawings and specifications defining the project to meet the owner's requirements and budget. Presumably, the contractor only need comply with the contract to satisfy the owner.

Specifications are requirements. They are not suggestions. They are not optional. Specifications must be written, thoughtfully, as enforceable contract requirements.

Specifications must be clear and direct so the contractor can actually bid with a high degree of certainty. Otherwise prices will be inflated with contingencies covering the ambiguities. Even when bids are close in dollar value, the bid scopes may not be comparable.

A single 12-page specification section was the basis for this blog. Each phrase for the examples below was taken directly from the specification, without modification. The guilty shall remain anonymous.

will always include: Yes that is the point of the specifications. When something is written into the specification, it is included and compliance is mandatory. The phrase “will always” is superfluous and should be deleted. Besides, the phrase puts the requirement at some indeterminate point in the future.

may include: Okay. Who decides if any of the 12 listed items prefaced by this phrase are actually part of the contract? Perhaps more importantly, when will the decision be made – during bidding or after contract award? The specification did not answer these questions. State the requirement definitively. It is part of the work, or it is not.

may not require: This invokes the same questions as above, and the spec does not provide an answer.

other ad hoc methods: As used, the specification permitted the contractor to ignore the specified requirements, provided the methods employed are “accepted.” There is no procedure specified for requesting and obtaining acceptance of other methods. Besides “ad hoc methods” would be for a specific rather than general application. The specification gives no hint about what application may employ ad hoc methods.

may or may not include: The phrase is simply redundant. If the specification “may include” some requirements, it is easily understood that these requirements may be excluded as well. State what is required.

touch-up or full repainting: Aha, the contractor has a choice. If the contractor wishes to keep his price competitive, it is obvious what he will bid. If the owner is expecting full repainting, he will be faced with a change order for additional cost and time during construction.

Thus ends “Section Includes,” the first third of the first page. That’s right! All of these confounding phrases were found in the very first article of the specification. As written, what will the bids include? It’s anybody’s guess because the specifications are anything but clear.

Hopefully, the contractors will submit many RFIs during the bidding process asking for clarification of the scope of this specification. As a result, the design team will be forced to make decisions that should have been made before the specification was written. This one specification section may cause the first project delay before construction starts. Bidders will likely request additional time to complete their bids after all their questions are answered.

“May” is not biddable with predictable results. Optional work will likely be excluded from the bid to ensure the lowest bid price possible. Oh? You wanted all 12 “may include” items? Well, they are not included in MY price. Can you hear the construction trailer discussion too?

That’ll be an extra! Rest assured, the owner will be thrilled to hear that.

About the Author

David has over 38 years of experience in the construction industry as an architect and specifier focusing on construction specifications and quality assurance reviews for architectural, engineering, and process industry projects. Conceptus Inc. is one of the largest independent Specifications consulting firms in the United States. David is actively involved in the Construction Specifications Institute at chapter, regional, and national levels having served on and chaired committees responsible for the current CSI formats. David also joined CSC this spring and is a Grand Valley Chapter member.



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CSC GVC GOLF TOURNAMENT INNERKIP HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB (JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE...)

CSC's Grand Valley Chapter hosted our annual spring golf tournament at the Innerkip Highlands Golf Club, truly a hidden gem in our local golf circuit.

As if an annual tradition at Innerkip Highlands, with a forecast calling for rain and thunderstorms, the Gods looked upon us again, parting the skies to allow the sunshine to rain down instead. The beautifully groomed course was not as forgiving as the weather, but the competitors were up to the challenge with some long drives and seemingly longer putts right on target.

Dejavu set in again at the 19th hole with another incredible meal served up by the great people at Innerkip Highlands.

A special thank you to all of our hole and prize sponsors for your contributions!

Winning Team pictured below



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PAST EVENT

**MARCH 2014 LUNCHEON WITH
PAUL GERBER, SHERI THOMPSON
AND JOHN CLINCKETT
GRILL THE SPECIFIERS**

Several were in attendance at May's luncheon, and with good reason. It was our chance to blast the Specifiers panel with tough questions and it was fun to watch them sweat as we grilled them!

That said, John, Sheri, and Paul stayed cool and handled the situation with poise, providing great insight into the importance of specifications as well as best practices.

Much useful discussion was generated during the seminar and attendees and panelists alike certainly left enriched by the event!

Thank you to all those that attended and contributed to the discussion and special thank you to our panel for imparting their wisdom on us!

Don't miss out on these amazing educational opportunities. Join us for future luncheons!

ACCESS CONTROL: THE NEXT GENERATION OCTOBER 2014 LUNCHEON SEMINAR

with guest speaker Terry Fish
from Assa Abloy

Please join us for a lunch hour of networking, education, and, of course, lunch!

- Date:** October 15, 2015
- Time:** 11:30 - 12:00 Networking (Card Exchange)
12:00 - 13:00 Presentation
- Place:** Grand Valley Construction Association
25 Sheldon Drive
Cambridge, ON
- Cost:** \$20 Members
\$25 Non-Members
\$10 Students
Payment by Cash or Cheque at the Door
Make Cheques Payable to **CSC Grand Valley Chapter**
- RSVP:** Jane Fish – No later than October 10, 2014
jane.fish@melloul.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CSC Grand Valley Chapter is pleased to officially welcome 2 current members as well as welcome 2 new additions to the Executive!!!

Sue Cunha of Tri Mechanical
Renee Macgregor
Chris Johnson of Tri-Spec
Sheri Thompson of MMC Architects

Thank you for volunteering your time to help build our chapter and increase awareness of the importance of specifications in the construction industry.

Let us know if you have a relevant announcement to make and we would be pleased to review for inclusion in our next newsletter!



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CHAPTER MEMBER RECOGNITION

We have the great pleasure of recognizing the following individuals for their dedication and contribution to CSC's Grand Valley Chapter:

Colin Goheen	Chapter Award of Merit
David Boyle	National Award of Merit
Cathie Schneider	Marketing Award of Merit
John Weber	35 Consecutive Years of Membership
Eugene George	45 Consecutive Years of Membership
Paul Gerber	4th Vice President of CSC Association Executive

CONGRATULATIONS on your accomplishments!!

The newsletter acts as a moderator without approving, disapproving or guaranteeing the validity or accuracy of any data, claim or opinion appearing under a byline or obtained or quoted from an acknowledged source. The opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the official views of Construction Specifications Canada. Also, appearance of advertisements and new product or service information does not constitute an endorsement of product or services featured.

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WHY SPECIFY?

CSC GRAND VALLEY CHAPTER ILLUSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF SPECIFICATIONS



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Business Card sized ad space is available for a rolling 1 year period (4 issues per year) and 1/4 and 1/2 page ads are available on an issue-by-issue basis. Advertising costs are as follows:

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5" x 7" Half Page (1 issue)	Portrait Only	\$50	\$75

For more information, contact Carlos Alegre by email at carlos.alegre@gmail.com

ARTICLES AND PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

BE HEARD! Publish your idea in the Grand Valley Specifier!

Share your knowledge with your peers while gaining recognition for your contribution to the betterment of the construction profession in your community.

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in publishing any technical articles, upcoming events, or announcements in the Grand Valley Specifier. Ideas are also always welcome.

Send your information electronically to Carlos Alegre by email at carlos.alegre@gmail.com



STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!!!

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Be among the first to attend this **PREMIER EVENT!** Space is limited!

The science of Building



8:30am – 4:30pm

Wednesday, November 19, 2014



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AGENDA

8.15 - 9.00am Registration and Sign-in (Continental Breakfast)

9.00 - 10.15am

Seminar 1

George Torok, C.E.T., BSSO
Building Science Specialist, **Morrison Hershfield**
"Thermal Performance Modeling for New Building Design"

10.15 - 10.45am Refreshment Break

10.45 - Noon

Seminar 2

Ted Kesik, Ph.D., P.Eng.
Professor of Building Science, **University of Toronto**
"Lean and Green Building Science"

Noon - 1.15pm Lunch (Potential Speaker)

1.15 - 2.30pm

Seminar 3

Keith Robinson, FCSC RSW LEED® AP,
Associate, Specifications, **DIALOG**
"Reducing Cost and Liability with Good Specifications"

2.30 - 3.00pm Refreshment Break

3.00 - 4.15pm

Seminar 4

John Straube, Ph.D., P.Eng.
Principal, **Building Science Consulting Inc.**
"Current Research: *The future of building performance*"

4.15 - 4.30pm Adjourn

ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Steve Ioannides, CTR, CSP
Professional Development Officer, CSC Toronto Chapter
647.231.5542
steve@asiwatrous.com

Register Now



Employment Opportunities

Intermediate Contract Administrator & Specification Writer

September 15, 2014



DESCRIPTION

James Fryett Architect Inc. is a long established architectural firm with a wide variety of small and medium sized projects. Our residential, institutional and commercial projects are located in Guelph, Waterloo, Kitchener, Cambridge, and beyond.

We require an **Intermediate Contract Administrator & Specification Writer** to join our team.

The responsibilities of this position include:

- Completing field review visits and reports.
- Tracking and reviewing shop drawings and other submittals.
- Preparing supplementary instructions, proposed changes, change orders, and draw certificates.
- Diplomatic negotiations with contractors, clients, and consultants informed by an understanding of fair bidding and contracting practices.
- Planning and developing project specifications.
- Furthering the development of our office master specifications.
- Research and evaluation of materials and products.
- Creating unique project specifications required to meet individual project needs.

Required qualifications are:

- A minimum of 7 years of experience in the design and construction industries, including several years of direct experience with the administration of construction contracts and specification preparation.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- An understanding of construction materials and methods.
- A working knowledge of the building code.
- The ability to navigate AutoCad or Revit.
- Strong organizational skills.
- An understanding of the role of the Architect as Consultant as defined by standard construction contracts and the *Architects Act*.

Preferred candidates will have:

- A diploma or degree in architecture.
- Completed the CSC series of specification courses.
- A working knowledge of StatsLog software.
- A sense of humour.

This position requires a motivated individual who is committed to working as part of a team to meet company commitments and project timelines. A commitment to increasing knowledge and skills through education and research is also required.

Please send your resume and cover letter to carolyn@fryettarchitect.com

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