

The PerSpective

The Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Construction Specification Institute, Inc.

Volume One Number 4



Knowledge for Creating
and Sustaining
the Built Environment

The 48th Annual CSI Show™ & Convention at Construct America™

Get Connected with the Power of CSI— Linking People, Information & Technology. The 48th Annual CSI Show & Convention gets under way April 21st thru April 23rd, in Chicago, IL at McCormick Place.

At the 2004 CSI Show, you'll find more . . . More of what you've come to expect from the industry leader. More educational sessions than before—over 70 in all. More opportunities to earn CEUS—more than 100 credits available. More of you colleagues. More ways to learn more things from more people.

Here's your opportunity to get inspired. Get connected. Put the power of a classic to work for you.

- Get a sneak peek at **Master Format™ 04**.
- See the **revised** Manual of Practice
- Take advantage of special **Early Bird Discounts**.
- **Network** with colleagues from across the industry.
- Keep current and get all the **Continuing Education credits** you need for a year.
- Learn **what's new** at the Opening General Session Industry Forum.
- Get **hands-on** information about what works and what doesn't in educational sessions, product demos, new product showcases, exhibits.
- Find out **what's ahead** in the **State of the Institute Report** at the Annual Meeting.

Registration **NOW OPEN**
Register **ONLINE!**

www.csinet.org

NEW LOCATION for Chapter Meetings

The Forge Inn — located on Route 9 North in Woodbridge will be the new location for our Chapter Meetings, beginning with the February 18th Chapter Meeting. The presentation will discuss the MasterFormat™, Revised, and will be presented by Eli T. Abdallah, P.E., Principal Professional Associate of Parsons Brinckerhoff. This will be a joint meeting held with NJ Professional Engineers.

A cocktail social (cash bar) will begin at 5:30 followed by a Chapter Meeting and dinner at 6:30. The cost for this advent will be \$35.00 for CSI Members and Guests and \$40.00 for Non Members. RSVP to Mike Debiak 718-777-6809 or michael.debiak@dmjmharris.com

Directions to The Forge Inn:

GSP South, Exit 129, **North**, Exit 127, follow signs to RT 9 North, Inn on right.

NJ Turnpike, Exit 11 Follow signs to Route 9 North, Inn on right.

RTs 1 & 9, Route 9 South, pass Inn on Route 184 Overpass —make U-turn for RT 9 North, Inn on right.

Route 287, south to RT 9, Inn on the right.

Outerbrige Crossing, RT 184 to NJ Pfeiffer Blvd exit to RT 9 North, Inn is located 1/4 mile on right.

Interested in a Tabletop display for this event or any other CSI event. Contact Mike Debiak 718-777-6809 or michael.debiak@dmjmharris.com

January 2004

Mark Your
Calendars

February 18, 2004

Chapter Meeting
**"MasterFormat™
Revised"**

Presented by
Eli T. Abdallah, P.E.
Parsons Brinckerhoff

March 18, 2004

**Joint AIA Meeting
Topical Presentation
CADD**

April 5, 2004

Chapter Meeting
Topic to be
Announced

May 3, 2004

Awards Dinner

April 21-23, 2004

The 48th Annual CSI
Show & Convention
McCormick Place
Chicago

Sept. 10, 2004

4th Annual
Golf Outing
Gamblers Ridge
Cream Ridge



Chapter Meetings are the first Monday of the Month @6:30 at The Forge Inn.

**New Jersey Chapter
FY 2003
Chapter Officers**

President: Michael Debiak, CSI, CDT
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Immediate

Past President: Ron Davenport, CSI

NE Region Director

NJ Chapter: Mike Debiak, CSI, CDT

Committee Chairs 2003-2004

Education:

Chris Gnash, CSI, AIA

Membership:

Susan Sheffmaker, CSI, AIA

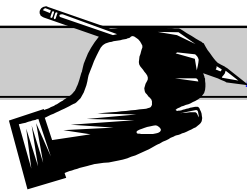
Program:

Les Cadigan, CSI, CCPR

Technical:

Ruma Suma, CSI

Awards, Certification, Student Liaison, Newsletter Editor, and Finance, committees still have open Chairs. If you are interested please contact Mike Debiak @ 718-777-6809



Presidential Specs

Baby its cold outside! You would think its winter or something. Well if you haven't noticed another month has come and gone, and

Happy New Year! Time just keeps marching on. And speaking of March we have our annual joint meeting with the AIA, details to follow. But first we have a joint meeting on February 18, 2004 with the NJ Professional Engineers. The presentation is on the revised MasterFormat. This is one of the first Chapter presentations to be given covering the recently finalized document. The engineers are excited about the topic and meeting CSI members so please show your support.

In other news I would like to remind everyone that a new fiscal year is soon approaching. This means that we have to start thinking about Chapter leadership again. Several members have come forward and committed to next year but, the Board and Chairs positions could always use some help. In fact we have no Assistant Chairs or standing committee members to fall back on should a Chairperson relinquish their seat. In order to continue the progress we have made this past year we need to establish a pipeline of members who would like to progress up the leadership ladder. I know I have said this before – CSI is a member based organization. We don't pay, there are no fringe benefits but won't work you real hard either. So please take the time to consider giving just a few hours a month to help the Chapter, your fellow members, and gain a little self satisfaction for the effort.

We have just five issues of the PerSpective left this fiscal year. Yeah we end in June just to confuse the IRS. So if you were thinking of writing an article or a few paragraphs for the newsletter please do not wait. Your inputs are welcomed. It would be great to see some topical article on evolving trends in the industry. As a little enticement – if you submit an article you will get a free business card ad in the newsletter for the issue, and current newsletter advertisers would get a 20% discount on ads for next years newsletter. E-mail your articles and business card ads to michael.debiak@dmjmharris.com.

A final note, has everyone checked out our website www.nj-csi.com. Pass the word.

ReSPECtfully yours,

Mike Debiak,

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Please remember to update your contact information on the national database to assure correct mailing and e-mail addresses.
IT'S EASY! Log on to www.CSINET.org

A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.
Herm Albright

Citigroup Adopts Environmental Policy
Citigroup intends to become more environmentally friendly

The nation's largest financial institution announced Thursday, January 22nd, that it is adopting a corporate policy to carefully evaluate requests for project financing that could adversely affect the environment and ban funding for illegal logging operations. It also commits Citigroup "to invest in sustainable forestry and renewable energy."

Adoption of the initiatives comes after two years of anti-Citi demonstrations by the Rainforest Action Network aimed at getting the bank to make a commitment to environmental causes.

Ilyse Hogue, global finance campaign director for the environmental activist group, which is headquartered in San Francisco, said Citi is the first American bank to adopt such a comprehensive policy. "We think this is the most significant environmental commitment to date in the financial services sector...and perhaps in the corporate sector, because of the potential ripple effects," Hogue said. She spoke in a joint announcement of the policy with Pam Flaherty, head of global community relations and environmental affairs for Citigroup.

Flaherty said the new initiative builds on voluntary guidelines known as the Equator Principles that 18 global financial institutions have signed since last June. The principles require the banks to adopt procedures to evaluate the social and environmental impacts of infrastructure projects that they finance. "What we've done is moved beyond that, building on it and making it more comprehensive," Flaherty said.

The bank said the new policy's main points are:

- Putting in place additional screening of financing requests for projects "that Citigroup determines could adversely impact a critical natural habitat." Included will be a ban on lending for commercial logging in primary, tropical moist forests.
- Refusing loans to companies known to be in violation of local or national laws against illegal logging.
- Developing "a program to invest in sustainable forestry and renewable energy." It will include consumer financing for solar panels, residential wind turbines and fuel cells and other forms of clean energy.
- Reporting the "greenhouse" gas emissions from power projects in its portfolio. Greenhouse gas is produced when fossil fuels are burned and has been linked to global warming.

She said that the policy had been discussed company-wide — and with clients — to ensure cooperation.

Citigroup has operations in 100 countries. It is not



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Citigroup Adopts Environmental Policy continued

the first Time Citigroup has changed its policies after public protests. The bank adopted reforms to eliminate practices that took advantage of low-income borrowers after community groups bitterly protested its 2000 purchase of Associates First Capital Corp., which specialized in loans to high-risk borrowers. Associates were later merger into CitiFinancial.

As reported by Eileen Alt Powell — Associated Press

GOLF ANYONE!

USGBC-NJ Chapter
1st Annual Golf Outing

Monday, May 17, 2004

Bella Vista Country Club, Marlboro, NJ
 Shotgun Start: 9AM

Cost: \$150 per person ? \$550 per 4-some
 Contact Marianne Leone
 marianne1013@comcast.net

Cost Includes:

- 18 Holes, Cart,
- Door Prizes,
- Locker
- room Facilities,
- Continental Breakfast(8AM),
- Halfway Refreshments, &
- a Deluxe Buffet Lunch



NJ Chapter
c/o Michael Debiak
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