



The Construction
Specifications Institute

CSI LINK

Northern Illinois Chapter CSI Newsletter

Volume 26 Issue 8

APRIL CHAPTER PROGRAM: TOUR OF GERALI CUSTOM DESIGN, INC.

COMPANY HISTORY: Gerali Custom Design, Inc. was started in 1984 by David Gerali who had already acquired a decade of industry experience at the time of the company's inception.

As a wholesale full service fabricator of custom solid surface, stone and quartz surfacing products the company's core objective is to integrate with its clients and become an extension of their efforts. We accomplish this by dedicating staff, resources and systems to serve individual clients and market segments. We are driven to the highest level of service because as a purely wholesale company we rely on the repeat good will of the clients that we serve.

FACILITY AND OPERATIONS: Today Gerali Custom Design, Inc. is in the top 10% of the largest manufacturing firms in the industry. With its state of the art 50,000 sq. ft. manufacturing plant Gerali Custom Design, Inc. has one of the most efficiently engineered production operations in solid surface fabrication.

The stone manufacturing operation at Gerali Custom Design, Inc. is the most technologically advanced systems in the world. Gerali Custom Design, Inc. was the first in the U.S. and second in the world to possess this technology.

With our state of the art facility, years of experience, and diverse product line Gerali Custom Design, Inc. is a wise single source choice for all of your surfacing needs.

AGENDA

RECEPTION

INTRODUCTIONS

GERALI CUSTOM DESIGN, INC. COMPANY OVERVIEW

PRODUCT REVIEW: Corian, Granite, Zodiaq

FOCUS ON CORIAN: Material attributes, Product applications, Fabrication techniques

PLANT TOUR

Date: April 16, 2009.

Place: Gerali Custom Design, Inc., 1482 Sheldon Drive, Elgin, IL

Times: 6:00 PM Reception

6:45 PM Dinner and announcements

7:00 PM Presentation and tour

Cost: Free to Chapter members in good standing; \$30 for guest

RSVP: Reservations due by 5:00 PM on Monday, April 13, 2009.

E-mail to Peter Dinschel, CSI: pdinschel@chicap.org

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ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Topic	Dates/Times	Location	Contact
Coverings—The Ultimate Tile + Stone Experience Products, demonstrations, and continuing education about stone and tile.	April 21-24, 2009	McCormick Place, Chicago	www.coverings.com
Earth Day —Observances and events to call attention to the environment	April 22, 2009	Too numerous to mention here	Google “Earth Day 2009”

WHO SAID THAT?

Who said **“When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendents will thank us for; and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when these stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say, as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them, “See! This our father did for us.”**

If you think you know who said that, e-mail the editor - jwoneil@larsondarby.com.

Watch next month’s *CSI Link* to find out the answer. We’ll issue an official CSI attaboy to anyone who gets the right answer.

Last month’s quote was **“Architecture has recorded the great ideas of the human race. Not only every religious symbol, but every human thought has its page in that vast book.”** The author was Victor Hugo (1802-1885), most famous as the author of “The Hunchback of Notre Dame”, the colorful and melodramatic 1831 novel of Paris in the 15th century. Wikipedia has the following to say about the book: “As stated by many critics and scholars, the Cathedral of Notre Dame appears to be the main setting, which is almost elevated to the status of a character. Indeed, the original French title of the book, *Notre-Dame de Paris* (the formal title of the Cathedral) shows that the cathedral (and not Quasimodo) is the subject of the story.”

Alert Reader Don Russell correctly identified Victor Hugo as the author.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER PROGRAMS 2008 - 2009

Date	Topic	CSI Division	Location
04/16/09	Factory Tour - Gerali Solid Surface Fabrication Shop	06 Wood and Plastics	Elgin, IL
05/21/09	Awards Dinner; Lyman Shepard as Frank Lloyd Wright	ALL	Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, IL

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Northern Illinois Chapter of CSI holds these precepts as its core values and mission:

Education: Advance construction technology through education of members and communication to and among our group.

Communication: It is our aim to create an environment that fosters valuable interaction between members and the Construction industry. Be the communication link for industry information and activities to our membership.

Research: Foster process and specification improvement aimed at providing value to our customers and clients.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2007-2008

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Board Meetings are usually held by teleconference the first week of each month. Date varies. Contact President Bill Cohen for details.

Your Name could be here. Contact any NICCSI leader and volunteer for the committee of your choice!

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CURMUDGEON'S CORNER; WHAT IF YOU GAVE A PARTY...

by Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCA

honor: a tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction; to confer honor or distinction; to regard or treat with honor or respect

Acknowledgement of effort and contribution is always important, perhaps more so in a volunteer organization. In the business world, success and achievement are rewarded by increased salary, bonuses, or other perquisites; the common measure of one's value is the paycheck. Honors and recognition may be important, but rarely do they take precedence over money.

In the world of professional organizations, there is an occasional cash reward, but in most cases outstanding work is recognized by an award, usually a plaque or other object of little actual value, presented at a ceremony attended by the recipient's peers.

The value of an award depends on a number of things: the importance of the organization making the award, the uniqueness of the award, the total number of awards presented, and so on. Even though a plaque has little intrinsic value, what it represents can mean a great deal to the recipient, the organization, or a larger community.

We need to recognize contributions, but we also need to have balance. Awards are not equal, and there is no reason they should be treated as if they were. With a plaque, or perhaps a statuette or other objet d'art as the top end, there isn't much room to work, but it still is possible to establish a range of ways to show appreciation.

It may not be politically correct, but if awards are to have value, they must reflect the degree of effort they represent. Is sitting at the registration table really equivalent to creating a new education program? Both deserve recognition, but should it be the same?

Work of short duration should be acknowledged immediately. At the basic level, a simple "thank you" is often enough. Most people don't expect a plaque for doing small jobs, but they do expect and deserve an expression of thanks. Oral expression of thanks at a chapter meeting is appropriate for the people at the registration table, and certainly for those who organized the current chapter meeting. A short written thank-you is always appropriate; some of my most treasured compliments are thank you cards and e-mails.

Formal letters of acknowledgement are good for greater contribution. These can be a bit tricky; if they come across as a form letter the impact is greatly diminished. If the work recognized in the letter is related to the recipient's job, a copy should be sent to the recipient's employer, on the organization letterhead. This will tell the employer that the employee has value in the construction industry, and promote CSI at the same time.

At some point, plaques become appropriate, but they should be reserved for more important awards. I'm sure the person at the registration table would agree that a stack of plaques isn't really necessary. Presenting too many awards reduces their value.

Each year, at the annual convention, CSI honors those who have made significant contributions to the organization. This acknowledges the importance of their work and allows members to attend the presentations. The highest of these awards and honors are Distinguished or Honorary Membership, the Distinguished Service Award, and the "name" awards - Andrew J. Drozda, Ben John Small, Dale C. Moll, J. Norman Hunter, Robert P. Brosseau, and Hans William Meier. I won't go into the requirements - you can read them on the Institute website - except to say that only one of each may be awarded each year.

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The honor of Fellowship is second only to that of Distinguished Membership. Although there is no limit to the number of Fellowships that may be conferred in a single year, few are elected as it is an honor reserved for those who perform beyond the call of office, and who have made extraordinary contributions to CSI.

This year, we will honor nine new Fellows, and recipients of only three of the other top awards: Distinguished Membership, the Hans William Meier Award, and the Andrew J. Drozda Commendation. I encourage you to learn more about each of the awards, and to congratulate recipients in person if possible.

...and no one came?

It seems reasonable that the more significant the honor, the more dignified the attendant ceremonies would be, the more publicity it would receive, and the more members who would want to attend the presentation. Unfortunately, it is increasingly difficult to attend the convention's premier event, the President's Gala (Honors and Awards Dinner).

In 1999, the first year I attended the Gala, the cost was \$60 per person. I recall giving that quite a bit of thought as \$60 isn't a trivial amount, even today. In 2002, the Gala cost \$65, an amount that accurately reflects the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 1999 to 2002. I don't remember all the steps in between, but last year a ticket to the Gala was \$100. According to the CPI, the \$60 I paid in 1999 would have grown to only \$80.

This year, the price has risen to \$125, a 25% increase in one year - even though, according to the Consumer Price Index, this year's ticket should be four dollars *less* than last year!

This runaway inflation threatens to kill what should be the highlight of the convention. This year I'll probably miss the Gala for the first time since 1999. I'm sure my wife and I can find an excellent dinner for less than the cost of a single Gala ticket, and with luck, get back in time to see the investiture of Fellows. Or maybe we'll just order a pizza and sit in the hall.

NORTHERN IL CSI APRIL 15 SPECIFICATION ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Presented by Northern IL CSI Chapter "Specification Roundtable Committee"

Topic: April 15, 2009: Glass and glazing.

Attend to learn and share your knowledge and experience on this subject.

CEU's, LU are available; please notify me if you want them. If applicable, I need your AIA membership number.

Note: CEUs are required when you recertify for CSI Certification Program, except CDT.

Media: By teleconference. (Underwritten by Parksite). No cost, just loss of your lunchtime

To Participate: Contact Ken Moore, preferably by Email, for telephone number, access code. Please email me early enough to allow for your review of handout material which will be emailed to you upon your desire to participate.

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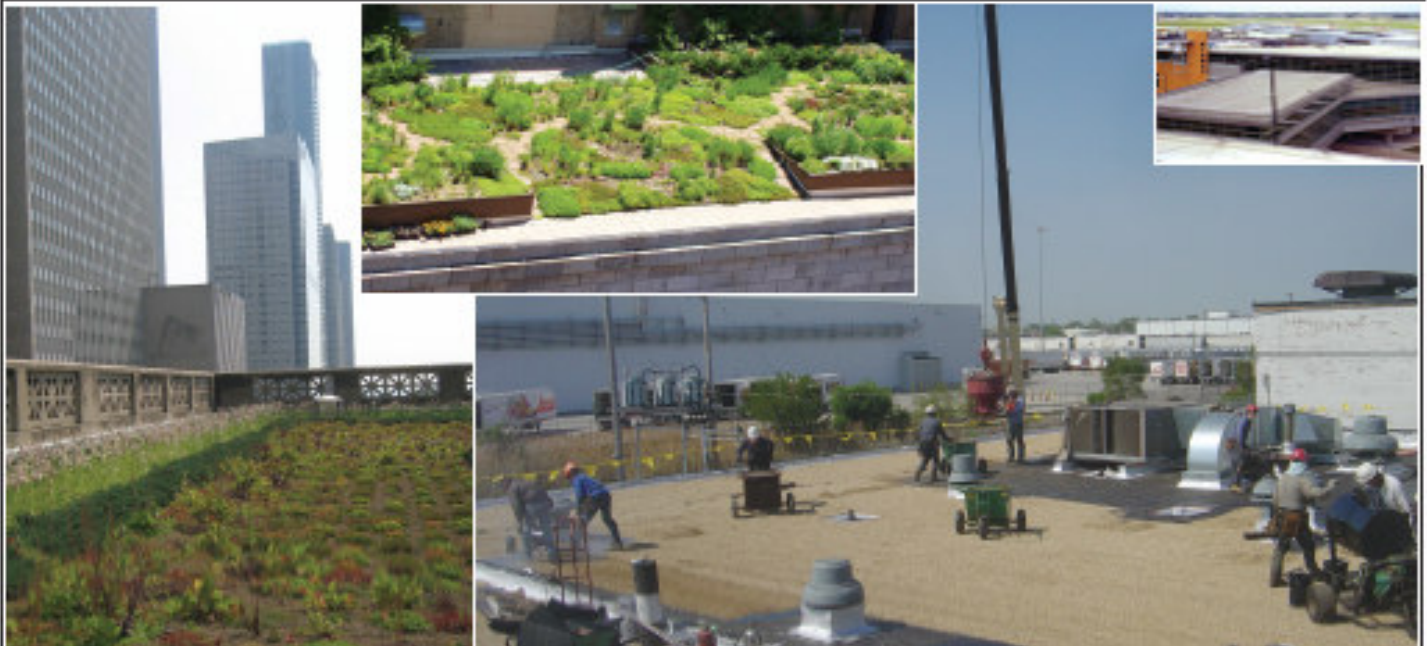


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