NJ Construction CRIER

The official newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter
of the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)

Volume 01
Fall 2025

WELCOME TO CSI NJ CHAPTER!

We are so pleased to hear that you have joined our organization. To get the most out of your membership? Get involved, get connected!

Whether you are looking for leadership opportunities, a chance to build your personal and professional skills, a way to connect on a meaningful level with like-minded professionals, or give back to the profession, there are so many ways to get involved in this great organization. Choose the opportunity that works best for you!

* Get connected at the local level and develop a network for personal and professional growth.

* Take your career to the next level by signing up for CSI Certifications:
    - CDT Construction Documents Technologist
    - CCCA Certified Construction Contract Administrator
    - CCPR Certified Construction Product Representative
    - CCS Certified Construction Specifier

* Share your expertise and experience and/or seek advice and learn from accomplished professionals in the industry through CSI-CONNECT. Sign up today, in your online profile.

* Not ready to dive into the deep end just yet? Reach out to your local board members. I will be your link for the membership committee. You can reach me at barton@bartonross.com or reach out to our current Local Chapter President, Mark Bess at mark@BlkBryStudios.com to explore exciting, bite-sized volunteer opportunities that align with your personal interests like helping at an event, participating in a community service project or writing a construction article of interest to the members!

Don't wait. Make the Most of Your Membership! Get Involved Today!

Greetings!

Welcome to the NJ Construction Crier, the newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)!

Now more than ever, CSI is here for you! We invite you to get involved, meet fellow professionals, and give back to the AECO industry. CSI really is the only organization that brings together owners, architects, engineers, contractors, specifiers, manufacturers and product reps to improve communication and hone the professional skills and experience required to address the complex challenges facing the construction industry. CSI can help ensure we achieve measurable and tangible results across all chapters by providing a variety of member benefits and services. I think leveraging member value is the most successful tenet of our organization and we can achieve this through managing and increasing learning resources, knowledge sharing, professional development, industry standards, the certification programs, continuing education, and networking opportunities.

Personally, CSI has provided a wealth of professional development opportunities at every level – Chapter, Region, and National. While serving as the New Jersey Chapter President, we implemented an annual board appreciation dinner and awards program to thank those volunteers who go above and beyond. We also started a successful virtual monthly lunch-and-learn series during Covid which we have kept in place. Serving as the Northeast Region Secretary and Awards Chair, I have gotten a first-hand look at how to organize industry events such as our annual regional conference and recently enjoyed participating in our first strategic plan in many years. I have also volunteered on the National Certification Committee and peer-reviewed the new CDT Study Guides, helping shape the knowledge needed for our new professionals.

Why Join CSI?

CSI membership……bring real world solutions to this ever-changing construction industry.
CSI membership……for any professional involved in:

- *Construction-building industry*
- *Architecture*
- *Designing*
- *Supplying*

CSI membership……receive a wealth of benefits including:

- Construction industry news and resources
    - Specifier Magazine monthly publication of industry news
    - Connect Digest daily email topics
- Monthly Webinars or in person events (when we get back together) including speakers, tours, trips, hard hat tours, etc.
- Networking opportunities
- Access to regional conference
- Member discounts

Join or Renew today!

Barton Ross, AIA, AICP, CDT, LEED AP BD+C
Past President

- Virtual Education via the CSI Learning Library. Featuring live events and an ever-growing collection of past session recordings available for you to view OnDemand.
- Connect with Colleagues. Even though much of the nation is working from home, you can continue to engage with colleagues on 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.
- Advance Your Career. As a part of the CSI community, you have added resources to earn your certification as a Construction Document Technologist (CDT), Certified Construction Contract Administrator, (CCCA) or a Certified Construction Specifier (CCS). Be confident in your role in the construction project and earn your employer's confidence in your skills and knowledge.
- 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.
- Drive the Industry. CSI volunteers develop the standards and formats that guide construction communication. They create MasterFormatSM , 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 via the Volunteer Portal.
- Access Member-Only Benefits Pricing. Your CSI membership gives you access to discounts on orders in the CSI Store and access to www.MasterFormat.com for things you need to get your job done.

Our Board of Directors meets the first Monday of every month at 5:00 p.m. Join us and let us know what's on your mind. Or visit us at *https://njchaptercsi.com/* We look forward to hearing from you!

Biography Corner

Aaron B. Faber, AIA

Aaron is a CSI-NJ board member and a registered architect in the State of New Jersey. He earned his Bachelor of Architecture from Philadelphia University where he also represented the university as part of Philadelphia's Best and Brightest Architecture Competition.

Following graduation, Aaron worked at Architectural Alliance in Wilmington, Delaware, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, contributing to a wide range of projects including large-scale developments, affordable housing, and commercial and industrial facilities. This experience provided him with a strong foundation in complex building systems, coordination, and construction documentation.

Aaron is currently a Senior Associate at Klesse Forbes Architects in Short Hills, New Jersey. The firm specializes in high-end residential architecture, including projects within historic districts, residences requiring Zoning Board of Adjustment approvals, custom new homes, and complex renovations. In this role, Aaron brings a strong focus on design excellence, constructability, and clear, effective specifications—values that align closely with CSI's mission.