

Metro New York Chapter holds Product Show and Seminars

ARE WE GETTING BETTER AT WHAT WE DO?

Let me, first of all, thank the many volunteers, our CSI membership, exhibitors and sponsors that helped to make the ‘BETTER BUILDING IN CHANGING TIMES’ event successful. And a special “thank you” to Arnie Kravitz, my Co-Chair, Linton Stables, Ruma Som, Russ Carpenter, Bill DuBois, Neil Gordon, Mary Hosley, Dennis Italia, Bill Jacquette, Susan Kaplan, Scott J. Tobias, Maureen Warnicke, Michael Bean, Bert Korteling, Diana Darling, Architects Newspaper, and Heather Berk for the outstanding graphics in our program. Thanks to all our sponsors PPG Ideascapes, Henry Building Envelope Systems, JE Berkowitz, Architectural Glass and ASSA ABLOY Door Opening Solutions.

I’ve been asked to write an article for publication in our monthly Metro NY CSI Newsletter about the event. So here goes.... This is a first for me (I’m usually the one that takes the event pictures) and hopefully not my last. The objective was to put together an educational event with continuing education seminars and a trade show that would interest the architectural community. There are over 5,000 architects and professional people servicing the industry in the metropolitan New York City area.

Linton Stables, Senior Associate, Perkins Eastman Architects, and current Metro NY CSI President said it well. “As architects, builders, and product manufacturers, we are always subject to many forces and influences. Economic cycles, architectural design trends, environmental concerns, codes and regulations, technology advances, education of new professionals, and current events all shape our industry and the buildings that we make”. His organizational skills helped everyone focus and keep things on track. Linton’s role was to “MC” the event. He was brilliant.

There are many AIA accredited programs and speakers available and the challenge here was to find programs like “MAKING SENCE OUT OF THE NYSERDA NEW CONSTRUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM”, “CONSTRUCTING EXTERIOR WALLS TO AVOID MOISTURE INFILTRATION”, GLASS FABRICATION AND DESIGN ISSUES”, NEW INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE AND EGRESS DOOR ASSEMBLIES”, AND “THE SECOND AVENUE SUBWAY – A STATUS REPORT” that would hold the audience’s attention. We accomplished what we started out to do.

Another challenge was to find a place, a well-suited location for presentations. It was decided to down size the venue this year due to the poor economy. We explored several venues and, in the process, decided on the AIA Center for Architecture. The timing had to be perfect. We started preparing, forming a committee in April 2009. The committee chose September 9 for the event, two days before September 11 memorial.

Pre-Planning, research, advertising, press releases, e-mailing, dropping off announcements to A & D firms and many telephone calls took some effort, but allowed us to fill up the room. I'll expand on this in the future.

Metro NY CSI stresses education for architects, engineers, designers and industry professionals serving the Architectural & Design community in its taglines "BUILDING PEOPLE, PROCESS AND PERFORMANCE" and knowledge for creating and sustaining the built environment. The organization has the experience of putting on annual events, like golf tournaments and trade shows. We have been honing our skills for many years. People come and go, but a core group remains to make us strong. Are we getting better at what we do? I really do think so. Each year of involvement builds our knowledge, experience, and confidence helping us to do a better job in the future.

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