

CONSTRUCT 2013

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Construct 2013 in Nashville last week was an absolutely amazing event full of excellent educational sessions, a ton of networking opportunities, a huge product show and fun events. The Nashville Chapter really outdid itself with their host Chapter event at the Country Music Hall of Fame. The Baltimore Chapter will have big shoes to fill next year at CONSTRUCT 2014.

This year was my first foray into CSI public speaking with my presentation at CONSTRUCT on Architect/Consulting Engineer Coordination: Closing the Gap. I would be completely remiss if I did not first take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr. Rick Heiserman, FCSI, CCCA, AIA, Ankrom Moisan Architects for his very kind and rather embarrassing introduction. Rick has become a mentor and I am very appreciative of his support and guidance. I am passionate about getting more consulting engineers involved in CSI and this was a great first step.

The education sessions at CONSTRUCT were unparalleled. I attended everything from “What Spec Writers Need to Know About BIM” presented by Brok Howard of HOK, to “Speaking the Same Language: Government and Private Sector Construction Terms” presented by a panel including Sheryl Dodd-Hansen and outlining the ongoing, forward moving effort to implement the CDT-G certification, a CDT certificate specifically geared toward government needs and work. The sessions were outstanding, informative and cutting edge and it was very difficult to choose which ones to attend.

The fun events were just as awesome. The Host Chapter event was in the famed Country Music Hall of Fame and they entertained visiting CSI Members with live bands, great southern food and tours of museum. The Stanley Ice Cream Social was a hoot and the Black Tie Gala Dinner was inspiring as we watched this year’s group of Fellows receive their awards.

I co-hosted the first ever CONSTRUCT Tweet-up with Paul Gerber of Construction Specifications Canada to bring together all of the CSI Members that collaborate and share information throughout the year via Social Media from all over the country and beyond. The event was heavily attended and it was great to meet all the people from the CSI Social Media community.

A number of Portland CSI Members (and others from the Social Media community) proudly displayed their Kraken Committee shirts and pins at CONSTRUCT. (What is a CSI Kraken? Find out here: <http://portland.csinet.org/Get-Involved/Kraken-Committee.html>) I was thrilled to see this Portland effort towards positive collaboration and taking it to the next level get such support at the convention. Everyone wanted to know what the Kraken Committee was and be a part of the movement. On the tail of our difficult economy (I hope), it was a joy to see people getting excited about the passion and dedication we all share for our work.

As always, the absolute best part of CONSTRUCT was the people. The CSI Staff really knocked it out of the park with their hard work to make this a first class event and deserve a much needed break after their efforts. The CSI Social Media community is unmatched in both their passion and their sense of adventure. It was with true sadness that I said goodbye for another year. In my opinion, there is no place in our industry that you will find so many members from so many different disciplines that come together and share like CSI members. I am honored to have made so many new friends and am already counting down the days until Baltimore in 2014.

If you have never attended CONSTRUCT, you are missing out. I hope to see you all next year in Baltimore.