Nashville SPECIFACTS

Nashville Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute Newsletter

November 2026 Edition



Chapter President's Corner

By Harry Harris

Greetings, All,

As Thanksgiving approaches, it provides us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the many blessings in our lives. In the busyness of our daily routines, it can be easy to focus on challenges, deadlines, and responsibilities.

Thanksgiving reminds us to step back and appreciate the people, experiences, and opportunities that make our lives meaningful.

We are thankful for our families and friends, whose encouragement and support help carry us through both good times and difficult moments. We are grateful for our health, our homes, and our communities that provide comfort, security, and a sense of belonging. We can also appreciate the opportunities we have to learn, work, grow, and make a positive impact on those around us.

Perhaps most importantly, Thanksgiving reminds us of the power of kindness and generosity. A simple act of compassion, a helping hand, or a heartfelt word of encouragement can make a lasting difference in someone's life.

As we gather with loved ones this season, let us take time to count our blessings, express our appreciation, and share gratitude with those who make our lives richer. As I reflect on the many things I'm thankful for this year, I am grateful for family, friends, good health, meaningful work, and the countless people who make life better every day. I'm also thankful for the tools and technology that help us learn, solve problems, and stay connected. Sometimes a little help, good advice, or a fresh perspective can make all the difference. I am not shy about taking advantage of all I can get.

I want to wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and joyful Thanksgiving.

Take Care,

Harry



Previously, on CSI Nashville…..

October SpecHeads

Thank you to Brad Diaz of Soprema, instructing us about when to specify what types of roof coatings for several different conditions.

- Date: Tuesday, October 13th from 11:30 AM at Sesco Lighting

Another successful Board Meeting, followed by:

October Chapter Meeting

Dillon Dunn with Hastings presented an exciting design for the proposed Fire Station 2 and headquarters for the Nashville Fire Department (NFD) across from 500 2nd Ave. N, at the river.

- Date: Tuesday, October 20h from 11:30 AM at Sesco Lighting

Stay Tuned For…..

November SpecHeads

Title: Below-Grade & Blindside Waterproofing

Description
This course explores recommendations for design considerations and considerations for selecting the right below-grade waterproofing materials that meet the requirements for various jobsite conditions.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, the design professional will be able to:

Gain an overview of below grade waterproofing terminology; what below grade waterproofing is and why we use it

· Learn about the types of below grade waterproofing and existing technologies

· Have a deeper understanding of recommended design considerations

· Learn about typical substrates and jobsite preparation

· Explain Codes & Approvals

Provider: Jonathan Upchurch, Polyglass U.S.A., Inc.

AIA Course Number: ipg07i

Credits: 1 AIA LU/HSW CEU Credit

- *Details: Tuesday, November 10th at 11:30*
  Sesco Lighting – 636 Grassmere Park, Ste. 105, Nashville, 37211

November Chapter Meeting

Title: Architecture in an Era of AI

Description
This practice-focused course explores how artificial intelligence is reshaping architectural design, documentation, and project delivery. Participants will learn practical workflows, evaluate risks and opportunities, and gain strategies for integrating AI responsibly into professional practice.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, the design professional will be able to:

- Identify how generative AI, spatial algorithms, and machine learning fit into early-stage programming, schematic design, and complex envelope planning.
- Utilize data-driven AI systems to run predictive environmental simulations, specifically predicting daylight factors, solar heat gain, and glare metrics.
- Analyze how commercial top lighting, smart skylight arrays, and automated ventilation systems use predictive AI logic to react dynamically to exterior weather conditions.
- Execute seamless workflows that combine AI-generated parameters with traditional building information modeling (BIM) data to improve structural execution and long-term facility performance.

Provider: Quinten Upsher, Velux

AIA Course Number: 004512

Credits: 1 AIA LU/HSW CEU Credit

- *Details: Tuesday, November 17th at 11:30*
  Sesco Lighting – 636 Grassmere Park, Ste. 105, Nashville, 37211

Also Stay Tuned For…..

CSI Nashville Christmas Social!

EVENT DETAILS T.B.D.







Special Interest

This is a call out to any CSI members who have any published articles from themselves or their companies that they would like to include in future Specifacts newsletters. Please submit for consideration before the end of each month, to:

dan.clark@hdarchitects.com

The following article is from Matthew Howell of Howell Commerce Co., about how to purse public construction projects.

Turning Scattered Public Project Signals Into a Pursuit Pipeline

By Matthew Howell | Howell Commerce Co.

By the time a public construction project appears on a bid board, the project team may already have spent months defining its purpose, constraints and budget. That does not mean a contract has been awarded or that a particular product has been selected. It means the first formal solicitation is often not the first public sign of the work.

Architects, specifiers, contractors, consultants and product representatives can use earlier public information to prepare more intelligently—without assuming that an early signal guarantees a future procurement.

Start with the decision, not the keyword

A useful early-stage search begins with the type of work a firm can actually perform. A signage fabricator might watch trail improvements, parks, wayfinding programs and facility renovations. A civil contractor might watch capital improvement plans, utility projects and transportation agendas. Narrow the geography and the role—prime contractor, specialty subcontractor, designer or supplier—before collecting dozens of marginal leads.

Look for project descriptions, not merely the words “bid” or “RFP.” A public meeting agenda discussing a greenway extension may be relevant long before the construction solicitation is released.

Build a small source ladder

The first rung is planning: adopted capital improvement programs, board agendas, council packets, budget requests and publicly posted master plans. These reveal priorities and possible schedules, but many ideas never reach construction.

The second rung is authorization and design: design-service procurements, funding agreements, permits, right-of-way activity and project updates. These may strengthen confidence that an agency is advancing work, but they are not proof of a construction award or an imminent bid.

The third rung is procurement: the agency’s official bid page, solicitation documents, addenda and deadlines. At this stage, the controlling documents—not a summary email, search result or third-party listing—determine what a bidder must do.

For example, MissouriBUYS maintains a public state bid board and a Bid Locator that helps search across Missouri public-sector sites. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources also makes pending permits and draft permits on public notice available. Great Rivers Greenway publishes construction bid opportunities and instructs electronic bidders to watch for addenda. These are different kinds of evidence; they should not be presented as interchangeable.

Turn signals into a pursuit record

A spreadsheet is enough to start. Give each candidate one row with the project name, public owner, location, likely scope, stage, original source link, source date, next milestone, potential fit and a named person responsible for checking it again. Keep a separate field for what is confirmed versus inferred.

A practical three-level status is “watch,” “qualify” and “act.” Watch means an idea or planning reference with uncertain timing. Qualify means the work appears relevant and there is an identifiable next decision. Act

means an official procurement or another concrete step requires attention. Record “no fit” and “closed” as well; removing stale opportunities is as important as finding new ones.

Verify before sharing

Before circulating an opportunity, open the original agency page. Confirm the current deadline, time zone, submission method, mandatory meeting status, registration requirements and latest addenda. If an agency answers a procedural question, note who provided the clarification and when—but still direct the bidder to the current solicitation for controlling requirements.

Avoid turning early planning signals into sales claims. A proposed facility is not a funded construction contract. A permit application is not an invitation to bid. An architect named in a meeting packet is not necessarily the eventual construction manager. Clear labels protect both the reader and the credibility of the research.

Make the routine repeatable

The strongest pipeline is not necessarily the largest. Set a regular review cadence, keep a short list of authoritative sources for each territory, and track what changed since the last check. A useful weekly note might say: “design authorized,” “bid notice published,” “deadline revised,” or “no material change.”

This approach gives specifiers time to understand emerging requirements, suppliers time to identify a plausible fit, and contractors time to evaluate whether an opportunity merits pursuit. The aim is not to predict every future bid. It is to recognize public evidence early, preserve its context and act when the official record supports action.

Public sources for reference

MissouriBUYS public bid board: https://missouribuys.mo.gov/bid-board

MissouriBUYS Bid Locator: https://missouribuys.mo.gov/business-opportunities

Missouri DNR permits and public notices: https://dnr.mo.gov/permits-certifications-registrations-licenses

Great Rivers Greenway bid opportunities: https://greatriversgreenway.org/bids/

Author note: Matthew Howell operates Howell Commerce Co. and its Missouri-focused opportunity-research service, Howell Opportunity Radar. The article is educational and does not constitute bid or procurement advice.

Chapter Leaders

CSI Nashville Chapter - Officers & Directors for FY 2026-2027

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CSI Nashville Chapter - Committee Chairs

Awards Institute Chair	TBD	TBD
Certification Co-Chair	Carl Manka	cManka@comcast.net
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Emerging Professionals	TBD	TBD
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Appreciation



The CSI Nashville Chapter sincerely appreciates the kindness of Sesco Lighting for the chapter's meeting accommodations. The CSI Nashville Chapter recognizes the importance in creating and maintaining strong relationships.

Stay Connected

CSI is built on the relationships we make. Connect and grow with us!

“I call architecture frozen music.”

-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Find us at:

This news was brought to you by:
Dan Clark, CSI