

A Spec of Granite

A quarterly publication of the New Hampshire Chapter of the
Construction Specifications Institute Vol. 2 No. 2



Record Documents by Any Other Name

By Kevin O'Beirne, PE, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CDT

The words used for common terms in design and construction are important to clearly communicate their meaning. When different terms are used as synonyms, their distinct meanings can become muddled. Maybe that sounds somewhat unimportant to some owners, architects, and engineers, but it can be very important to attorneys, juries, arbitrators, and professional liability insurance carriers. Terminology matters. Because most of us do not get much warning before we need to interact with such folks, it's good to habitually use appropriate terminology, especially in construction contract documents, professional services agreements, and related correspondence and communications.

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NHCSI Chapter Election Results

As a result of our 2019 election, we have a new president. He is Ken Lambert, CSI. Our current president, Tom House will be stepping down, but not leaving us. He will be our Immediate Past President, Northeast Region Director, and membership chairman. Rich Saklad will continue in his current position as Vice President; Wayne Wheeler will continue in his current position as secretary; and Bob McEachern and Dick Crow will continue in their current positions as Directors.



Ken Lambert, CSI

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Forewarned is Forearmed: Update to the 2015 I-Codes and Changes to the Building Code Review Board Coming VERY Soon to NH

By Linda McNair-Perry, PE, CSI

The two bills related to these issues have passed both the House and the Senate and are in the process of being enrolled. What that means is there is still some housekeeping (literally looking for clerical errors) and formalities that needs to be done before the bills are sent to the Governor's desk for signing.

The bill with the long overdue updates from the 2009 to the 2015 I-Codes with updated amendments will take effect 60 days after the governor signs it into law. NH does not have a grace period or a transition where both the old and the new codes are applicable for a set time period. The Building Code Review Board (the board) website indicates the new codes (with updated NH amendments) are likely to effect in January of 2020. From past experience, it is likely to become effective before that, hence the title of this article.

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New Members 2019

John Gant—March 2019, [Allegion](#)
Whit Whitman—April 2019, [AW Hastings](#)
Matt Mead—May 2019, [Aquafin](#)

Sponsorships Available!

Contact the Editor for further details.

Sizes and Cost

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Business Card	\$60 Per Year
1/8 Page	\$80 Per Year
1/4 Page	\$165 Per Year
1/2 Page	\$250 Per Year
Full Page	\$375 Per Year

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President's Message

Passive House

By Thomas House, AIA, CSI
Principal, [THA Architects](#)

The holy grail of ecological home design is a completely passive envelope, and the original standard for that evolves from the German *Passivhaus*. In the US, the standards are governed by the Passive House Institute (PHIUS, phi.us.org)



PH is an ethos integrated into every aspect of the architectural design, and is not a series of add-ons or point-scoring techniques (as valuable as those are). The goal is clear from its name, and the standard is not limited to houses – it extends to office buildings, schools, markets, and skyscrapers as well.

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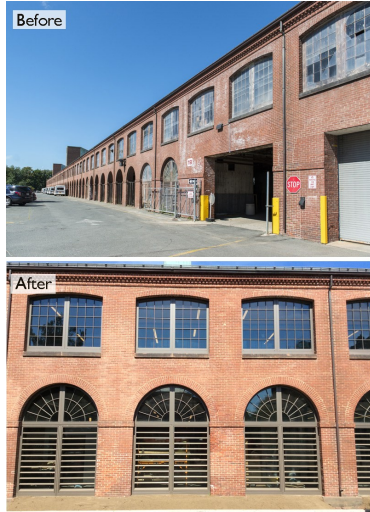
Steelcase

Springfield Technical Community College - Ira Rubenzhal Student Learning Commons

Study/Project Designer: Ann Beha Associates
Construction Manager: Consigli Construction
Project Type: CM at risk
Project Cost: \$50 Million
Gross Square Feet: 118,000
Est. Substantial Completion Date: Fall 2018

In 2013, Springfield Community and Technical College in Springfield, Mass., determined that facilities for student life and services were lacking. The college turned to Building 19, a historic former armory in the heart of campus.

About the Armory
 Building 19 is part of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, one of 13 National Historic Registered buildings on the college campus. It housed gunstocks from 1846 until it was closed and given to the college in 1968. However, because of the old infrastructure and the many considerations that go in to renovating and remodeling historic sites, it sat largely unused for nearly 50 years.



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“There is nothing more likely to start disagreement among people or countries than an agreement.”

—E. B. White



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What's happening at Institute?

By Sheldon Wolfe, FCSI, CCS, CCCA

As a member of CSC (Construction Specifications Canada), I recently received this message:

Dear CSC Member:

The CSC Board of Directors approved an operating budget for the fiscal year 2018–2019, forecasting a surplus at 0.84 per cent of revenue. Through constant monitoring, efficient use of staff, volunteer, and chapter contributions, a successful conference, well-attended education workshops, and online course participation, CSC achieved a surplus of \$116,783 (7.75 per cent of revenue) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019. CSC remains in a financially sound position and a complete set of the financial statement is available to members upon request.

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A Friendly Rant About Addenda and RFI's

By Ken Lambert, CSI

I work for a specialty subcontractor which is also a regional dealer/distributor. Just a couple days ago I went thru the process of a rebid on a public project which I had bid to the GC back 2 months prior. The project overall, which was for an urban municipality, was not that large or really that complicated. My own portion or scope of it was quite small, which naturally made all of the following even more aggravating.

The bid drawings and documents came out two months ago and I bid off of those details and layouts. In the span of about 45 days since I had bid the project, the project architect had issued 7 Addenda, involving a myriad of RFI (Request for Information) Q&A's.

The sheer number of RFI Questions was staggering.

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Demountable Walls Guide

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Risk Assessment for Active Shooter/ Hostile Event Response Program

By Mark R. Richards, PE

There's been an alarming number of shootings and hostile events in recent years. From a bombing in Boston to shootings in Orlando and Las Vegas, incidents are becoming deadlier and deadlier. As a result, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) was asked to create a standard to help mitigate the loss of life and impact to a community from an active shooter/ hostile event. In quick response, NFPA created its largest technical committee to fast track the Standard for an Active Shooter/ Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program ([NFPA 3000 \(PS\)](#)). This provisional standard (a standard that was completed quickly and approved with the understanding that it will be updated in the next two years) empowers communities to plan, respond, and recover from events in a unified, coordinated manner.

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Help Wanted

Members: Must be enthusiastic, willing to learn something new, fun loving and sympathetic to engineers. Click [here](#) to join.

Directors and Committee Chairs: Must be willing to work for free; periodic planning meetings with meal included; become eligible for 2 CEUs for [architects](#) and [engineers](#).

Dinner Meeting Venues: Willing to offer office conference room for a group of engineers, architects, product representatives and contractors. No registration fees or dinner charges for staff attendees.

Newsletter Articles: We need your articles for the newsletter; business card ad included at no charge.

Letters to the Editor: We would like your comments and suggestions for future articles, etc.

"The crickets felt it was their duty to warn everybody that summertime cannot last for ever. Even on the most beautiful days in the whole year - the days when summer is changing into autumn - the crickets spread the rumour of sadness and change."

— E.B. White, Charlotte's Web

The Elements of Style—A Book Review

"Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all sentences short or avoid all detail and treat subjects only in outline, but that every word tell." E.B.White

How often have you written a letter or an article and wondered if you were expressing yourself correctly, every word was correct, and what you were taught was correct.

A "little book" entitled [The Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White](#) may be just the book that you should have on your desk. Consisting of a little over 100 pages, it may be one of the best investments that you could make.

It contains misused words and expressions such as "contact."

Contact. As a transitive verb, the word is vague and self-important. Do not *contact* people; get in touch with them, look them up, phone them, find them, or meet them.

Facility. Why must jails, hospitals, and schools suddenly become "facilities"?

Parents complained bitterly about the fire hazard in the wooden facility.	Parents complained bitterly about the fire hazard in the wooden schoolhouse.
---	--

He has been appointed warden of the new facility.	He has been appointed warden of the new prison.
---	---

It contains principles of composition such as:

Correlative expressions (both, and; no, but; not only, but also; either, or; first, second, third; and the like) should be followed by the same grammatical construction. Many violations of this rule can be corrected by rearranging the sentence.

It contains elementary rules of usage such as:

It was both a long ceremony and very tedious.	The ceremony was both long and tedious.
A time not for words but for action.	A time not for words but for action.
Either you must grant his request or incur his ill will.	You must either grant his request or incur his ill will.
My objections are, first, the injustice of the measure; second that it is unconstitutional.	My objections are, first, that the measure is unjust; second, that it is unconstitutional.

"Genius is more often found in a cracked pot than in a whole one."
— E.B. White

In a series of three or more terms with a single conjunction, use a comma after each term except the last.

red, white, and blue

gold, silver, or copper

He opened the letter, read it, and made a note of its contents.

And it contains an approach to style:

Place yourself in the background.
Write in a way that comes naturally.
Work from a suitable design.
Write with nouns and verbs.
Revise and rewrite.
Do not overwrite.
Do not overstate.
Avoid the use of quantifiers.
Do not affect a breezy manner.
Use orthodox spelling.
Do not explain too much.
Do not construct awkward adverbs.
Make sure the reader knows who is speaking.
Avoid fancy works.
Do not use dialect unless your ear is good.
Be clear.
Do not inject opinion.
Use figures of speech sparingly.
Do not take shortcuts at the cost of clarity.
Avoid foreign languages.
Prefer the standard to the offbeat.

"What is not contained in the book is anything about E-mail – the rules-free, lower-case flow that cheerfully keeps us in touch these days. E-mail is conversation and it may be replacing the sweet and endless talking we once sustained (and tucked away) within the informal letter. But we are all writers and readers as well as communicators, with the need at times to please and satisfy ourselves (as White put it) with the clear and almost perfect thought." Roger Angell



What Do You Think of The Quality of Construction Documents?

By Peter Kray

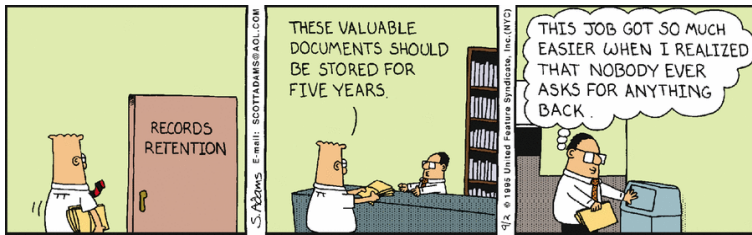
The CSI Community Connect Page is buzzing with a variety of thoughtful responses to this question: "We often hear that the quality of construction documents has declined. If that's the case, what specifically has made it so? If you don't believe so, then why do you think you they are about as good as they've ever been, or even better?"

Below is a sample of the nearly two-dozen replies. You can read all the replies, and add your own thoughts to the conversation, [right here](#).

"I agree that it has declined. In my opinion, the major reason for that is the habit of Copy-and-Paste from archived documents without sufficient review and quality control. This has lead to many mistakes."

Nabeel Ali BS, CSI, PMP

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NHCSI Chaper Election Results

(continued from Page 1)

Ken has been an active NHCSI member for over 2 years and has been a regular contributor to our newsletter.

He has an impressive resume which includes:

- CSI- NH Chapter Member, since 2017
- Presented CEU at CSI-NH and CSI-Pensacola, in 2017
- Massachusetts licensed Construction Supervisor- Unlimited, since 1999.
- Current position: Regional Architectural Products Sales- for *Red Thread* (Boston)
- Prior position: National Sales Engineer- for Canadian building product manufacturer
- *Pdengineer.com* course writer: "Shop Drawings and Submittals" – 1.0 PDH
- Article writer for ARCHITECT magazine, and constructiondive.com
- Regular contributing writer for SMPS-Boston (for the AEC industry)
- Graduate, "Future Leaders in Construction" year-long program conducted by ABC in NH/VT
- Professional Construction Consultant, for *Maven* and *Gerson Lehrman Group*

Forewarned is Forearmed: Update to the 2015 I-Codes and Changes to the Building Code Review Board Coming VERY Soon to NH

By Linda McNair-Perry, PE, CSI

(Continued from Page 1)

And while it might not seem as significant as updating the codes, **there are some really key changes to the board's process and responsibilities that will take effect 30 days after the governor signs the bill into law.** That particular bill provides for the appointment of *alternative members of the board* and now states that *amendments to the codes approved by the board will be submitted annually to the legislature for ratification by legislation before they become effective.* Prior to this language, an amendment took effect immediately after the board approved it and it expired after two years if the legislature did not approve the amendment.

The board will now be responsible to *maintain a publicly accessible list of applicable building codes and amendments to such codes, including posting a list of amendments proposed by municipalities with specific applicability if not statewide.* Thankfully the legislature included funds so that the all-volunteer board will have paid staff to make this a reality. Having an up-to-date website with accurate code information will be a big leap forward.

And I personally think the changes that now *permits for an appeal to the board from decisions of a local building code board of appeals* could be a big deal for someone's project in the future. An appeal shall be made within 30 days and the local building code board of appeals decision. The appeal must be based on a claim that the intent of the code or the rules legally adopted thereunder have been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of the code do not fully apply, or there is an alternative construction. The board shall not have authority to waive or grant variances to requirements of the code.

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