

## **Sometimes More is More**

### **July 2016 President's Message**

by Maia Gendreau, CSI, CDT, AIA

In the last year at CSI Santa Clara Valley we have hosted several successful events, changed location for our monthly meetings, and gained recognition nationally and in the West Region. Our membership has grown, and we have hosted joint events with sister chapters and organizations. As I step into the presidency of the Chapter I am both delighted and somewhat intimidated by the efforts of the Chapter volunteers. I would like to see the energy and momentum of the Chapter continue, and the Board will soon be hosting our annual Strategic Planning Meeting, to discuss what developments we would like to see in the future.

It's amazing to me how taking on more can be invigorating. Perhaps you have heard the phrase: "If you need something done, ask a busy person." The CSI Board members are all normal humans, with social lives, active children, and elderly parents. We are soccer players, marathon runners, and bike riders. Amongst the obligations of work, family, and personal interest, we also volunteer. And amazingly, contributing back to the profession brings its own reward. Through CSI, I have personally met so many helpful, friendly, and intelligent people, it is my first resource when I need information.

It's obvious our work habits, culture, and interface are changing. With the tsunami of information that rolls into your inbox on a daily basis, we are inundated with both useful and useless information. The sheer volume of it is daunting. How to parse the junk from the worthwhile becomes its own task. I found it poignant that so many of the attendees at our last seminar, Waterproofing Disasters, indicated that they heard about the seminar from a colleague. Even in the age of the internet, the best way to get solid information is often from a person, human to human. Which leads directly to growing a varied and skillful stable of colleagues! This is where CSI really shines, since our membership is drawn from professionals in all aspects of the construction industry.

I personally got involved with CSI through education. The monthly programs are always on subjects that are relevant and interesting. The meetings are friendly and energetic. I served many years as Secretary to the Board before stepping into the presidential track. Professionally, I am an Architect, and I have worked many years in a diverse practice here in the Santa Clara Valley with MBA Architects. I am looking forward to seeing what the next year will bring. I have reached out to almost everyone in the membership, and I hope to see more of you all in the next year.

Please do take a moment each month to check out the newsletter, and see what we are up to! Check out our website at [www.santaclaravalley.csinet.org](http://www.santaclaravalley.csinet.org) for a list of upcoming programs. If you are a regular meeting attendee, feel free to invite a colleague. If you have yet to come to a meeting, come and see what it's about. In July, we will be having a special event with sister Chapter SF CSI and DBIA at the San Francisco Airport. I hope to see you out there.