

May President's Message
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INDUSTRY EVENTS

This spring I have had the pleasure of attending San Francisco Chapters ProFair, and also the Santa Clara Valley AIA's building tour of the new Nvidia campus here in Santa Clara. We are so fortunate to share such a vibrant and innovative community here in the Bay Area with our sister organizations.

The SF Chapter ProFair was an elegant evening at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, right on Union Square in San Francisco. Many vendors were there to show their fabulous products. After an evening of networking, viewing and learning about products and seeing old friends, a sit-down dinner was served in the ballroom. The keynote speaker of the evening was Paul Doherty, AIA of the Digit Group. Mr. Doherty presentation on Smart Cities that are being developed in the United Emirates and Australia was mind-blowing with descriptions of a world in which technology, power generation and buildings all interact on a city wide scale. If you get a chance to see a presentation on Smart Cities, I strongly recommend it. CSI Foundation also held a wine raffle, and I was lucky enough to win a bottle! Many thanks to CSI Foundation and Ron Ronconi of CAS Architects for donating the raffle wine.

Also pushing the current architectural boundaries of code conformance and building technology is the new Nvidia building, a mega-structure of 500,000 square feet under one roof with a huge open floor plan. This building is two 250,000 sf floor plates, centered on a "heart" of circulation, open café and meeting rooms and core facilities. Unlike many tech campuses, the building inhabitants will be able to drive right into the garage under the building, and then use an interior atrium stairwell to ascend to the interior. The building has a triangular floor plan, which is echoed by triangular shapes everywhere, right up the triangular roof panels and 360 skylights. Griggs Systems of CSI represents one of the vendors for the roof glazing system, which had to be hand built on site due to the varying angles of the pieces. Amazingly, from the interior of the heart one could see out to the skyline of the Santa Cruz Mountains and eastern hills on all three sides of the building.

MEETING MUSINGS

In April Alan Pong of Comfort International presented on the Magic of HVAC Efficiency. Alan's presentation covered the symptoms and problems of poorly performing systems, and then described the strategies, including using PGE rebates for funding, to tune systems for both comfort and energy savings.

BI-REGION CONFERENCE

Registration is open for the Bi-Region Conference, hosted this year at the Sheraton Seattle. With over 30 technical sessions topics focused on Material Science, Construction Management, Sustainability, Technology and Concrete, plus the tradeshow, Keynote speaker and other events the conference is always a great opportunity to learn, meet trusted advisors and grow your circle of comrades. Sessions will begin THURSDAY, May 18th and go through SATURDAY May 20th. Hope to see you there!