



# The Construction Zone

The official newsletter of the Construction Institute

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Current Circulation:  
14,782 members and growing

## Welcome to the debut issue of The Construction Zone

The CI Board of Directors and staff are proud to introduce *The Construction Zone* – a bimonthly newsletter for members of the Construction Institute (CI). *The Construction Zone* is intended to provide timely information on construction-related publications, workshops, conferences, programs, and products. Our goal is to report on topics of interest to CI members; therefore, we welcome and encourage your feedback. Let us know what you think. Let us know the type of information you want to see. With your assistance, we can develop a newsletter that informs, inspires, and assists its readers.

## ASCE Breaks Ground on the Construction Institute

Last October, the ASCE Board of Direction authorized the formation of the Construction Institute – the first national organization designed to meet the needs of all individuals working within the construction industry. Since that time, the CI Board of Directors and staff has worked feverishly to develop a variety of programs and benefits to serve its members. As a result, CI membership offers an affordable, suitable membership opportunity for contractors, designers, owners, manufacturers, fabricators, suppliers, distributors, educators, researchers, students, and other construction-related services including legal, financial, bonding, and insurance. If you work within the construction industry, there is a home for you in the Construction Institute.

CI offers individual and corporate membership. The five categories of individual membership range from Student Members to Master Builders, ensuring that there is a membership status to meet your needs. For additional information regarding membership in CI, please see page 2.

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## Your Member Benefits

CI provides networking opportunities; technical and business information; efficient, practical training; cooperative relationships with other construction-related organizations; recognition and prestige within the construction industry; and many other benefits.

### As an individual member, you receive:

- A subscription to *The Construction Zone*;
- A subscription to the Construction Institute's magazine to debut in 2002;
- Discounts on publications, conferences, and seminars;
- A certificate signifying your status as a Member.

### As a Founding Corporate Member, you receive:

- Up to ten (10) individual memberships including a subscription to *The Construction Zone* and the CI magazine;
- A subscription to the quarterly *Practice Periodical on Structural Design and Construction*;
- A subscription to the quarterly *Journal of Composites for Construction*;
- A subscription to the bimonthly *Journal of Construction Engineering and Management*;
- A subscription to the bimonthly *Journal of Materials in Civil Engineering*;
- A subscription to the monthly *Civil Engineering* magazine;
- Free advertising in *The Construction Zone*;
- Discounted advertising in the Construction Institute's magazine to debut in 2002;
- A link to your Web site from the Construction Institute's Web site; and
- A plaque signifying your status as a Founding Corporate Member.

## Membership Categories

### Student Member - \$25 annually

Full-time undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in a university or technology program in engineering, architecture, or other construction-related fields.

Does not include CI magazine.

### Associate Member - \$50 annually

Individuals under thirty (30) years of age working within the construction industry and interested in advancing construction practice.

### Member - \$100 annually

Individuals thirty (30) years of age and older working within the construction industry and interested in advancing construction practice.

### Master Builder - \$200 annually

Admission shall be limited to advancement from the grade of Member. To be eligible for advancement to the grade of Master Builder, a Member shall: 1) be forty (40) years of age or older; 2) have held responsible positions in the construction industry for not less than twenty (20) years; 3) have achieved eminence in a construction-related area; and 4) be found qualified by the CI Board of Directors.

### CI/ASCE Member - \$170 annually

Includes membership in both CI and ASCE.

### Corporate Member - \$2,000 annually

Public, private, governmental, and non-governmental organizations, authorities, institutions, firms, and companies working within the construction industry and employing or serving those interested in advancing construction practice.

The year of CI membership runs from January 1st through December 31st.

# CI Directorates

The Construction Institute is composed of seven directorates. Each represents a different aspect of the construction profession and addresses the diverse needs of CI members.

**Construction:** Advancing knowledge and practice relative to innovative contractual procedures, management techniques, site safety, and construction methods.

**Equipment:** Advancing knowledge and practice relative to equipment technologies, techniques, costs, and safety, as well as construction-related technical services.

**Engineering:** Advancing knowledge and practice relative to design and construction engineering, engineering management, quality control, and inspection.

**Materials:** Advancing knowledge and practice relative to innovative design, manufacture, and distribution of construction materials.

**Owners:** Advancing knowledge and practice relative to innovative contractual procedures and facility operations.

**Services:** Advancing knowledge and practice relative to construction-related services and providing a forum for construction-related professionals to discuss & identify procedures for improved efficiency and productivity in construction.

**Education & Research:** Promoting quality research relative to the construction process and expediting the transfer of practical information to the construction practitioner.

If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information about CI Directorates, please contact CI at 703-295-6390 or via email at [ci@asce.org](mailto:ci@asce.org). You can also visit our Web site at [www.ConstructionInst.org](http://www.ConstructionInst.org).

## George Hoff joins the CI Board

Dr. George C. Hoff recently joined the Board of the Construction Institute as Director, Materials Directorate. In this capacity, he oversees the activities of four technical committees on construction materials and provides guidance on fiduciary, legal, and strategic planning matters. Dr. Hoff brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to CI having served as the Supervisory Research Engineer for the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg and more recently, as the Senior Structural Engineer for Mobil Technology Company in Dallas. Dr. Hoff's experience includes service on numerous National and International Organizations and Committees, including Past-President of the American Concrete Institute, Managing Director of the Concrete Innovation Appraisal Service, and Chairman of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel to the San Francisco Airport.

Dr. Hoff earned a BS Degree in Civil Engineering with an MS in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics from the University of Illinois. He also matriculated at Texas A&M where he earned his Doctorate in Civil Engineering. Dr. Hoff currently operates his own consulting firm, Hoff Consulting LLC, in Clinton, Mississippi.

## CI Board of Directors

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Professor & Program Director - University of Texas at Austin

ASCE Board Contact:  
Jeffrey S. Russell  
Professor & Program Chair - University of Wisconsin at Madison

# Founding Corporate Members

The Construction Institute would like to take this opportunity to thank our Founding Corporate Members. Their support and participation allows us to further our mission to advance the knowledge and practice of construction.

For information on becoming a corporate member, please contact the CI office at 703-295-6313 or via email at [ci@asce.org](mailto:ci@asce.org). You can also visit our Web site at [www.ConstructionInst.org](http://www.ConstructionInst.org).

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# A Message from the P r e s i d e n t

It is with great pleasure that I inaugurate the first issue of the Construction Institute newsletter, *The Construction Zone*.

*The Construction Zone* is intended to provide an additional forum for interaction among the many segments of our industry – an industry that includes contractors, designers, owners, manufacturers, fabricators, equipment dealers, material suppliers, educators, researchers, students, and many other construction-related services including legal, financial, bonding, and insurance. We have a unique opportunity to bring together talented individuals and corporations from every facet of the construction process. This newsletter represents just one aspect of our endeavor – an endeavor I hope you will appreciate and value.

The CI Board of Directors is comprised of talented and enthusiastic individuals from a variety of disciplines. Their broad-based experience and leadership skills, in combination with the experience,

skill, and commitment of our members, create a dynamic partnership. Through this partnership, we will achieve our vision of promoting excellence in construction and fulfill our mission of serving our members through state-of-the-art publications, conferences, and seminars; educational and training opportunities; and communication among all segments of the construction industry. I encourage each of you to participate by contacting a Board member, serving on a committee, attending a workshop, or contributing to a publication. Be an active participant in the Construction Institute. Together, we can advance construction practice and enhance our industry.

On behalf of the CI Officers and Board of Directors, I offer a special welcome to all members. I trust your membership will be rewarding and enjoyable.

Best regards,

  
Charles E. Mergentime

## Construction Institute endorses the Damage Prevention Convention

The Construction Institute is a cooperating organization for the Damage Prevention Convention. All CI members receive a 5% discount on registration. In addition, CI will be exhibiting at the convention to increase awareness about the Institute.

The Damage Prevention Convention focuses on the prevention of damage to underground infrastructure. It provides an interactive forum for facility owners, contractors, utilities, and excavators to learn about and discuss current and emerging issues and trends impacting the design, installation, maintenance, and protection of buried cables and pipelines.

For more information about the Damage Prevention Convention, call 800-827-8009 or visit their Web site at [www.damageprevention.com](http://www.damageprevention.com).


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# Spotlight on our Corporate Members



## WHAT IS ECO-BLOCK?

One of the fastest growing sectors in

the construction industry in North America is ‘**Insulating Concrete Forms**’ (ICFs). These forms, which are modular blocks made of Expanded Polystyrene” (EPS) are used to build concrete walls, floors, ceilings, for both residential and commercial buildings. The blocks, once erected, create the form into which the concrete is poured. After the concrete is cured, the forms stay in place and provide insulation for the walls.

The use of ICFs for construction is spreading nationwide because ICFs are:

- ❖ **Environmentally friendly** - reducing the use of wood products;
- ❖ **Energy efficient** - providing excellent insulation and reducing heating / cooling costs typically as much as 50%;
- ❖ **Sound suppressing** – the interior rooms are effectively shielded from street noises;
- ❖ **Quickly constructed** – one house per 2-3 days with a four-person crew;

- ❖ **Extremely strong** - walls are “cast-in-place” monolithic, reinforced concrete;
- ❖ **Versatile** - *any standard interior or exterior can be applied.*

## ECO-BLOCK IS SUPERIOR TO EARLIER ICF SYSTEMS

ECO-Block ICFs (patent-pending) compared to earlier ICF systems are:

- ❖ **Cost Competitive** – reduced EPS mold and manufacturing costs are passed on to customers;
- ❖ **Stronger** – superior strength during the crucial period of the concrete pour;
- ❖ **More Versatile** – same sidepanels are used for concrete walls on any thickness, (4” to 24”) in one inch increments;
- ❖ **Easier to Transport** – components allow assembly on site – almost no dead air space is shipped during transport.

## ECO-BLOCK ICF'S COMBINE FOUR STEPS IN ONE

1. The form for the concrete
2. Superior insulation
3. Vapor / air barrier
4. Interior and exterior furring strip (including corner blocks)

The fact that ECO-Block ICF’s have sidewalls made of EPS allows concrete to be poured in all weather conditions, from hot or cold, to wet or dry climates. The EPS provides an insulated environment in which the concrete “moist cure.” This allows concrete to reach maximum strength. After the concrete sets, the EPS insulation is easily cut to allow concealed placement of plumbing and electrical lines. Any standard exterior or interior finish can be applied to the EPS... from panel to lap siding, to brick, stone or stucco.

Since it is composed of modular blocks, the ECO-Block ICF system easily accommodates any architectural style. Waste is minimal; the construction of superior Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Buildings is easily accomplished.



For More Information on **North America's Most Versatile Insulating Concrete Form, ECO-Block** visit our website or call

**[www.eco-block.com](http://www.eco-block.com)**  
**1-800-595-0820**

# Calendar of Events

## Meetings

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Houston, TX  
October 12, 2001

**CI Regional Meeting**  
New York, NY  
January 30, 2002

CI will be hosting a meeting with a speaker on a topic relevant to the construction industry. You don't want to miss this networking opportunity! More information will be available in future issues of *The Construction Zone*.

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## Conferences



**American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)**  
Annual Conference  
Houston, TX  
October 10-13, 2001

CI will be exhibiting at the ASCE Annual Conference. CI members receive a discount on registration for this event. For more information, see the ASCE Web site at [www.asce.org/conferences/annual01](http://www.asce.org/conferences/annual01) or call 800-548-2723.



**Damage Prevention Convention**  
Dallas, TX  
November 28-30, 2001

CI is a cooperating association for the Damage Prevention Convention. CI members are eligible for a 5% discount on registration. For more information, visit the Damage Prevention Convention Web site at [www.damageprevention.com](http://www.damageprevention.com) or call 800-827-8009.



**CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2002**  
Las Vegas, NV  
March 19-23, 2002

CI is a cooperating association and will be exhibiting at this conference for the construction, construction materials, and power transmission industries. For more information, visit their Web site at [www.conexpoconagg.com](http://www.conexpoconagg.com) or contact them at 800-867-6060 or via email at [info@conexpoconagg.com](mailto:info@conexpoconagg.com).

## Spread the Word

*Tell your colleagues about the Construction Institute and you could receive a free gift.*

When you recruit a colleague to join CI before December 31st, both you and your recruit receive a free T-shirt with the CI logo. As an additional incentive, your colleague receives free membership for the remainder of 2001 when making full payment for 2002. Be sure to list your name and member number on the application before passing it along to make certain you receive your T-shirt. The free gift will be mailed to the member address as listed in our database. For more information on CI membership or for an application packet, please contact the Construction Institute at 703-295-6390 or via email at [ci@asce.org](mailto:ci@asce.org). You can also visit our Web site at [www.ConstructionInst.org](http://www.ConstructionInst.org).

## Share your Thoughts

Thank you for reading the first issue of *The Construction Zone*. If you have an idea for a future article in *The Construction Zone* or if you have any other comments or suggestions, please contact the Construction Institute. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Contact CI

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