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Building Science Forum 2006

Held in Syracuse NY in early September, experts from over 10 countries around the world discussed issues on research on building physics, and building science applications. Of note for specifiers was the breadth of the research based in laboratory and real-world applications and practical guidelines for specifying the building exterior, including a new Division 1 specification for Commissioning the Building Envelope developed by Kevin Knight of KTS Building Services Group and Mark Kalin of Kalin Associates. Presented papers are available at the National Institute of Building Sciences website, for the Building Enclosure Technology and Environment Council, www.nibs.org/betecactivities.html. At this website you may also subscribe for free to the new Journal of Building Enclosure Design.

NYC Hardens Stair and Elevator Enclosures

The Department of Buildings in New York City has issued new regulations to strengthen the impact resistance of stair and elevator enclosures in high-rise office buildings: Stair and elevator enclosures in high-rise office buildings in New York City which are constructed pursuant to applications filed on or after July 1, 2006 shall comply with requirements of Section 32-05 of Chapter 32 of Title 1 of the Official Compilation of the Rules of the City of New York regarding "Impact Resistant Stair and Elevator Enclosures." One solution in the spec is to reference the regulation, the other is include a possible solution in the spec: Unless indicated otherwise on the Drawings, provide UL Design Number U415 System F, modified to accommodate a double layer face side; 2-hour fire endurance rating achieved using standard shaftwall with 4 inch 20 gage studs spaced 24 inches on center, with a base layer on the tenant side of impact resistant gypsum board and face layers of 5/8 inch thick Type X gypsum board.

Schedules in CSI Masterformat 2004

In recent years it has been common to see Section 08000 - Door Schedule and Section 09000 - Finish Schedule in the specs instead of on the Drawings. The schedules are prepared in a word processing file and it is easier to issue them in the spec rather than import the file into a CAD program. With CSI Masterformat 2004, schedules have a listing in each division, for example Section 08 06 00 is the Door Schedule and Section 09 06 00 is Schedules for Finishes. There is a Section 09 06 00.13 titled Room Finish Schedule, but the firms we know that have switched to Masterformat 2004 prefer six digits and not eight.

Streamlining Specs: Page Numbering

A recent sampling of project manuals from architectural firms and independent specification consultant shows the practice of including the number of pages in each specification section in the table of contents has dropped to less than 10 percent of the firms. One answer is that each section already concludes with 'End of Section' and so it

is obvious if a partial section is printed. A more realistic answer is that the spec comes together so quickly before printing; that the extra couple of hours adding the page count to the table of contents isn't worth the effort. No one in the sampling indicated they had ever had a problem leaving the page count out.

CATNIP Method for Product Selection

Overheard at the Building Science Forum a new acronym for product selection: CATNIP, the Cheapest Available Technology Not Involving Prosecution. Has it come to that?

LEED Tips

Check out Section 01350 - LEED Submittals in the ARCAT Outline Specifications. It takes the approach that the best way to achieve LEED credits in the specs is to list the sections which impact each credit you want to achieve. For example, if you want to receive the Materials and Resources Credits 4.1 and 4.2, and your cost estimate indicates you can achieve that with just your steel, concrete and drywall, no need to include that requirement in any other section. This approach streamlines the paperwork tremendously. In editing the ARCAT section, you would delete the sections not applicable for each credit.

Green Links You'll Like

Distance Calculator: www.indo.com/distance (distance calculator for cities around the world and in the US - good for determining how far it is to Bali, or whether a product qualifies within the LEED 500 mile limit)

Green Label Carpets: www.carpet-rug.org/drill_down_2.cfm?page=8&sub=4&requesttimeout=350 (which carpets, cushions and adhesives qualify in the Carpet & Rug Institute's Green Label Program)

FSC Certified Wood: www.fsc-info.org (worldwide Forest Stewardship Council certificate holders for FSC certified wood)

Click here for ARCAT Manufacturer Updates, www.arcat.com

Click here for the ARCAT Outline Spec demo, www.arcat.com/specwizard/sw_out_demo.htm