

## PDHonline Course G290W (4 PDH)

## **An Introduction to Building Design Specifications and Tools (Live Webinar)**

Instructor: J. Paul Guyer, P.E., R.A., Fellow ASCE, Fellow AEI

2012

### **PDH Online | PDH Center**

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## BUILDING DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS AND TOOLS

Paul Guyer, P.E., R.A.

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#### Overview

This course will introduce you to the most important resource available to engineers and architects engaged in the design of buildings and related infrastructure. It represents the collective knowledge of thousands of engineers and architects over the past century. It will provide you with design guidance based on building and space types, design disciplines and objectives, and products and systems. It will provide you project management resources focused on project delivery teams, project planning and development, building commissioning, and project delivery and controls. You will have a single, easy-to-access source for operations and maintenance guidance, and exceptionally useful reference materials and tools. This is hands-on information that is easy to access and use that has been proven over-and-over on thousands of projects from small and routine to enormous and unique. You will learn how to quickly access and navigate this resource and put it to work for you on your next project. And....it is free!

The presenter is....

J. Paul Guyer, P.E., R.A.

Registered Mechanical Engineer, Civil Engineer, Fire Protection Engineer and Architect with 47 years experience, 35 being in design of buildings and related infrastructure involving daily use of building design specifications and tools. 17 years were with the State of California designing very large facilities for the State Water Project and small to medium size facilities for the State Park System. 18 years were as founder and head of a private architectural engineering firm designing small to medium size projects for government and private clients in the Pacific region. An additional 9 years were in a senior staff position with the California Legislature, and the last 5 years have been as an independent consultant on infrastructure, professional affairs, and California state government relations.

The foundation for this presentation is an understanding of the fact there are two types of knowledge we use in designing and managing the construction of buildings and related infrastructure:

□ Theoretical

□ Experiential

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#### Theoretical Knowledge

The theoretical knowledge we use is what we learned in engineering school, essentially the laws of applied physics (Bernoulli's equation, the laws of statics and dynamics, conservation of momentum, F=ma, the Second Law of Thermodynamics, etc.).

#### **Experiential Knowledge**

Experiential knowledge is what we have learned, or been informed about by others, through on-the-job experience (100 sf space allowance per occupant for office space, 1/4"/ft slope for drainage piping, 10 air changes per hour for restroom ventilation, etc.)

This course is about accelerating your experiential knowledge. You will learn from the millions of hours of experience of many thousands of engineers and architects over the past hundred years. You will learn about an accessible and easy-to-use resource that brings this information together and provides you with proven design and construction guidelines, standards and tools to use immediately in your day-to-day project design. This type of resource was not available ten years ago; it truly provides a new dimension to our enterprise....designing and managing the construction of buildings and related infrastructure.

What you will get from this course...

This course will introduce you to a resource that will immediately put at your disposal the collective experiential knowledge of thousands of engineers and architects gained on thousands of large and small building and infrastructure projects over the past hundred years.

Some historical perspective...

Up until the 1980s the only method of preserving and passing on *experiential knowledge* about design of buildings and related infrastructure was print media: books, manuals, reports, monographs, etc. In the 1980s computers provided some additional facility in accessing and utilizing experiential knowledge, but it was not until the 1990s and development of the internet that there was a quantum leap in the ability to store, access and utilize experiential knowledge.

Some historical perspective....

There are few that would disagree with the premise that the federal government is the repository of the largest institutional body of experiential knowledge about the design and construction of buildings and related infrastructure.

In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century the federal government began in an organized way to preserve this knowledge using the rudimentary media that existed at the time....such as hard-copy books, manuals and reports....and essentially only for its internal use. The agencies that were most active in this undertaking were those with major design and construction programs such as the War Department (predecessor, of course, of the Department of Defense), the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Bureau of Reclamation.

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Some historical perspective....

During the second world war and the "cold war" era the Department of Defense (DOD) had an on-going requirement for design and construction of defense infrastructure including countless relatively conventional buildings. This exigency accelerated DOD's commitment to preserving its experiential knowledge about designing buildings and related infrastructure in the form of design manuals, criteria and guide specifications. Unfortunately this effort was undertaken rather parochially (i.e. the Army was not exchanging information with the Navy, etc.), was primarily for intra-agency use, and the knowledge base was only available in hard-copy media such as books, manuals, and reports....none of which were easily accessible....and especially not to those outside the DOD community (employees and contractors).

Some historical perspective....

In the 1990s the DOD agencies, and other federal agencies such as the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Veterans Administration (VA), began to break down some of their parochial barriers, exchange information, and develop "unified" design manuals, criteria and guide specifications.

The access technology, however, had not yet reached the "internet" level. Storage, access and distribution had moved beyond the "hard copy" media but electronic media was limited to compact disc (CD) technology. Also, there remained a cultural view that this experiential knowledge was proprietary to the federal government, basically just for intra-federal-agency use, and not "in-the-public-domain".

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Some historical perspective....

At this time DOD (and other federal agencies) took the first step toward sharing this experiential knowledge with the professional public. The federal government provided electronic files of its knowledge base to the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), a quasifederal/public entity that is largely federal funded. NIBS organized the federal experiential knowledge base into the "Construction Criteria Base" which it offered for sale, in CD format, to the professional public. Initially NIBS's sale price was a bit on the high side. Also, since this experiential knowledge base is constantly changing, there was the additional hurdle and cost associated with the professional public having to order (and pay for) updated CDs.

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Some historical perspective....

The explosive emergence of internet-technology in the late 1990s-early 2000s provided an opportunity to greatly improve access to this experiential knowledge and, to its credit, the federal agencies and NIBS recognized that this experiential knowledge base (having been funded by the public) was in the public domain. The result has been the creation of an internet portal called the **Whole Building Design Guide** (WBDG).

The reduction in federal agency parochialism together with the accessibility offered by internet technology has resulted in the availability of a very valuable internet-based experiential knowledge resource available to the professional public....and it is free.

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Some historical perspective....

In its current state of development, the WBDG has elements that are very valuable to the building design practitioner, elements that are not so useful, and elements that definitely need more work.

The purpose of this presentation is to:

- (a) familiarize you with the WBDG, and
- (b) Point you to those elements that will be most useful to you today.

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Now, let's look at what, I believe, is an enormously valuable base of experiential knowledge available to the building and infrastructure design and construction community: It is accessed through the internet portal....

#### WHOLE BUILDING DESIGN GUIDE

National Institute of Building Sciences
WWW.WBDG.ORG

....and it is free.

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## WHAT IS THE WHOLE BUILDING DESIGN GUIDE (WBDG) ?

It is....

- an internet portal
- an easily accessible internet-based source of the experiential knowledge of thousands of engineers, architects and construction professionals garnered over more than 100 years and tens of thousands of projects.
- ☐ reflective, primarily, of the most experienced building and infrastructure design and construction institution in the world....the U.S. federal government.
- ☐ an compilation of design and construction guidance, detailed specifications, and computer based tools and CAD details that are up-to-date and ready for use on projects today.
- ☐ continuously updated and revised by design and construction professionals to reflect changes in building and infrastructure design and construction methods and materials.

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Before we begin, let me offer a few comments....

First, do not make the mistake of assuming this experiential knowledge base is "federal" and therefore not useful "in the real world." This is most definitely not the case. This is an engineering knowledge base that is absolutely applicable across the entire spectrum of building and infrastructure projects your company or agency will encounter.

A few comments....

Second, do not assume that because it is a federally generated knowledge base that it is "excessively complex and bureaucratic." Again, this is not the case. Candidly, building design and construction is a complex undertaking and a knowledge base for this enterprise must inherently reflect that complexity....but the WBDG is not excessively complex. And, although you will see the names of federal agencies extensively throughout the base, you need to simply look past them to the substantive guidance provided.

A few comments....

Third, a very important factor in appreciation of resources accessible through the WBDG is that it is a "living" base of experiential knowledge that is continually updated and refined by engineers and architects working daily on real projects. This is the only knowledge base I am aware of that has this real-time/real-world aspect. There are information resources in the professional community that may parallel some components in the WBDG, but they are....to my knowledge....all produced by volunteer committees and updated only episodically. This is not to depreciate their importance in professional practice, but I simply think they lack the timeliness and proven utility of the federal Experiential Knowledge accessible through the WBDG portal. The manner in which the WBDG is generated also avoids the possibility of inappropriate influence exerted by vendors in the development of design and construction guidance.

Fourth, do not mistake the WBDG as being a stilted "cook book" approach to building design. Not too long ago I was discussing the WBDG with a very well qualified and experienced mechanical engineer and he somewhat deprecatingly said he did not approve of "...a cook book approach to building design." The WBDG is not a cook book; it provides *guidance* that is always to be evaluated and tempered by professional judgment. Although it may seem less useful to a very well qualified and experienced engineer or architect, we need to recognize that we have many engineers and architects with lesser levels of qualification and experience employed in our companies and agencies who will find the type of guidance the WBDG provides very helpful.

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Fifth, do not dismiss the WBDG as a resource for you because your company or agency uses a "design-build" construction delivery process. If a company or public agency does not include design and construction criteria in its contract with a design-build contractor, it will have little control over the quality of the work. The WBDG provides a comprehensive universe of design and construction criteria that can be incorporated by reference into a contract between a company/public agency and a design-build contractor.

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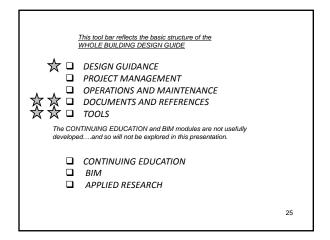
And finally, there are components and modules of the WBDG that I And many, there are components and modules of the WBDG that I believe are particularly useful, and others that...in their current state of development...are less so. To help you focus quickly on the best resources, topics of particular importance and utility will be designated with a

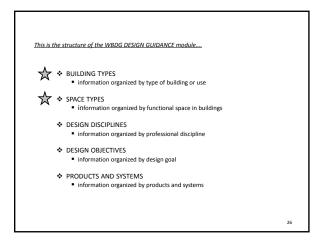
Exceptionally useful features get

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Here is what you see when you go to the opening page at www.wbdg.org

(As we move through this presentation....when you see the nove from the PowerPoint slides to the www.wbdg.org web site.)





NOTE, however....

The really good DESIGN GUIDANCE is in:

❖ DOCUMENTS & REFERENCES

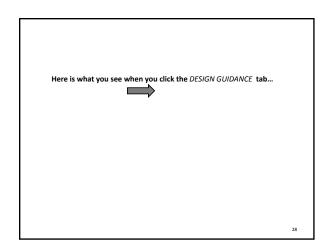
• CONSTRUCTION CRITERIA BASE

• DOCUMENTS LIBRARY

• DOD CRITERIA

• UNIFIED FACILITIES CRITERIA

....which we will visit later.



\* ARCHITECTURE

\* COST ESTIMATING

\* FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING

\* HVAC AND REFRIGERATING ENGINEERING

\* INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES ENGINEERING

\* INTERIOR DESIGN

\* LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

\* PLANNING

\* PLUMBING ENGINEERING

\* ARCHITECTURAL PROGRAMMING

\* STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

The information in this module is limited, but may have useful links to other more helpful information resources. Here is a brief look at the types of information you will find here

This is the structure of the WBDG DESIGN OBJECTIVES module....

ACCESSIBLE
AESTHETICS
COST EFFECTIVE
FUNCTIONAL/OPERATIONAL
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
PRODUCTIVE
SECURE/SAFE
SUSTAINABLE

The information in this module is limited, but may have useful links to other more helpful information resources. Here is a brief look at the types of information you will find here

This is the structure of the WBDG PROJECT MANAGEMENT module....

PROJECT DELIVERY TEAMS
PROJECT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING COMMISSIONING
PROJECT DELIVERY AND CONTROLS

The information in this module is limited, but may have useful links to other more helpful information resources. Here is a brief look at the types of information you will find here

This is the structure of the WBDG OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE module....

\* REAL PROPERTY INVENTORY - Provides an overview on the type of system needed to maintain an inventory of an organization's assets and manage those assets.

\* COMPUTERIZED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS - Contains descriptions of procedures and practices used to track the maintenance of an organization's assets and associated costs.

The information in this module is limited, but may have useful links to other more helpful information resources. Here is a brief look at the types of information you will find here

Under OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE and REAL PROPERTY INVENTORY we see....

Under OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE and COMPUTERIZED MAINTENANCE
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS we see....

Now let's go to the DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES tab....and recall that, in my view.....this is where exceptionally valuable resources are located....

DESIGN GUIDANCE
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES
TOOLS

This is the structure of the

WBDG DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES module....

FEDERAL MANDATES

CONSTRUCTION CRITERIA BASE (CCB)

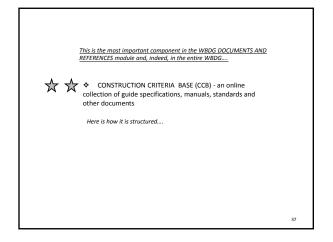
PERIODICALS

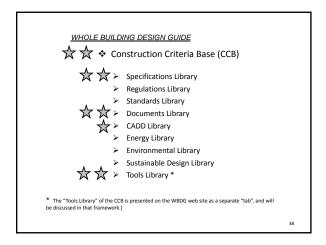
CASE STUDIES

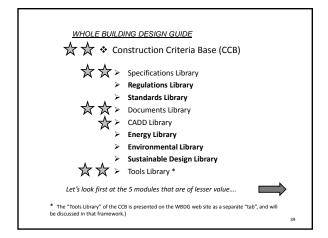
PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

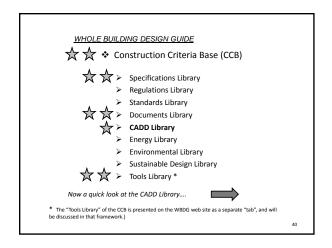
INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

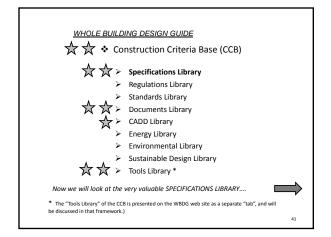
With the exception of the CONSTRUCTION CRITERIA BASE the information in this module is limited, but may have useful links to other more helpful information row will find here, exclusive of the CCB. We will look at the CCB in detail a little later

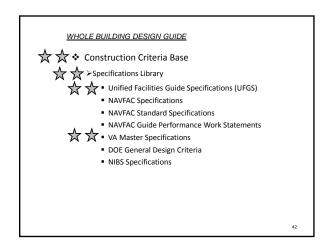












#### WHOLE BUILDING DESIGN GUIDE

☆ ☆ Construction Criteria Base

Specifications Library

- NAVFAC Specifications
- NAVFAC Standard Specifications
- NAVFAC Guide Performance Work Statements
- VA Master Specifications
  - DOE General Design Criteria
  - NIBS Specifications

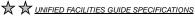
The NAVFAC documents are similar to the UFGS specifications and usually only important on Navy projects. The VA specifications will be useful on health care facilities. We will focus on the United Facilities Guide Specifications ....



#### WINIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

Here is how, in general, the United Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS) [and related DOD specifications] are structured...

- General
- Products
- Execution



GENERAL STRUCTURE OF UFGS SPECIFICATION SECTIONS

#### SECTION XX XX XX

- PART 1 GENERAL



#### ★ UNIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

There are four features of the Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS) that make them uniquely useful; these

- Design Notes
- Inspection Guidance
- Timely Updates
- Developed and maintained by professionals as day-in-day-out activity, not via volunteer committees

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#### UNIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

Design Notes - Cast-in-Place Concrete

A couple of examples....

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

NOTE: Where flat surface finishing is important and the crew inexperienced in this type of concrete, ask f or

NOTE: Use these paragraphs where floor flatness is critical. Indicate areas where these requirements apply. Flatness will affect the appearance and function of finishes applied to the concrete and in situations such as large or long expenses of glossy floor materials. Low blearance for product (thin set tile and wood gymnassium floors, etc.) and equipment will dictate to the designer to specify higher mormal flatness requirements. The numbers provided in brackets are splical numbers, but Ale should research and select F numbers high enough to get desired results but not so high as to cause undue cost increases and construction problems. FIFE\_2015 is equivalent to 516 inches in 10 fleet. This test method is not suitable for unshrered deck. Fitted partitions need TL greater than or equal to 25.

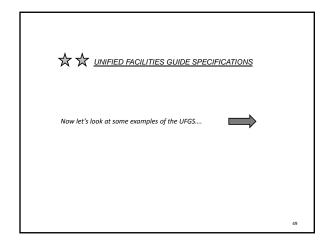


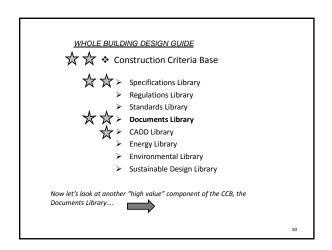
#### WINIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

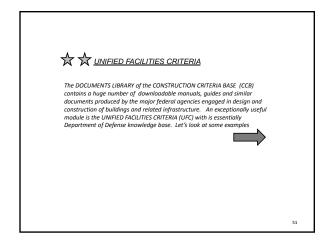
Inspection Guidance - Cast-in-Place Concrete

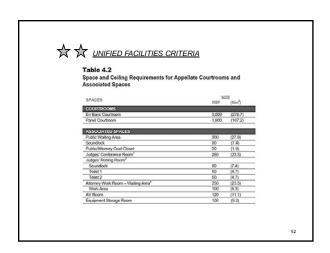
An example....

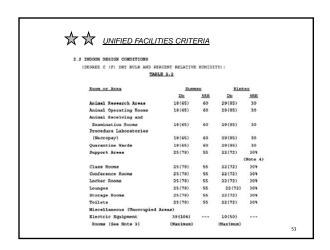
Take concrete samples during concrete placement. The maximum slump may be increased as specified with the addition of an approved admixture provided that the water-cement ratio is not exceeded. Perform lests a toommencement of concrete placement, when test cylinders are made, and for each batch (minimum) or every 20 cubic yards (maximum) of concrete.

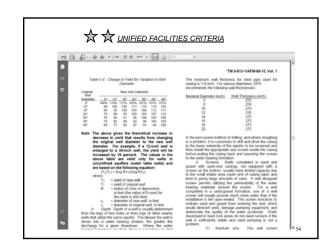


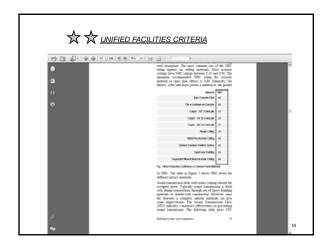


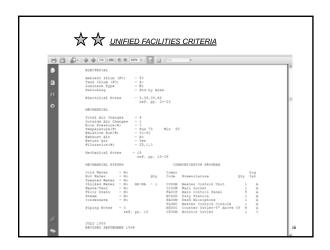


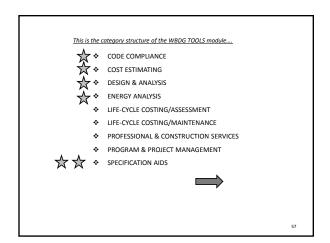


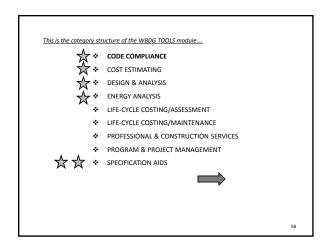


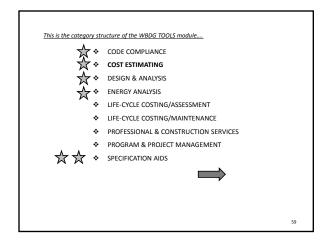


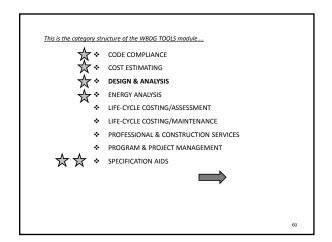


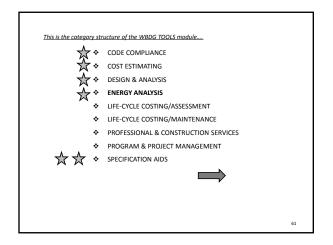


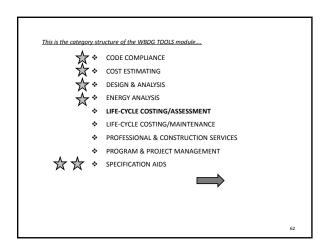


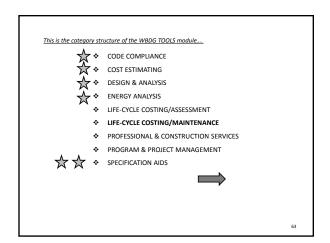


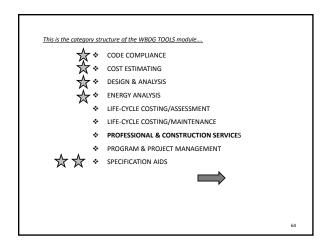


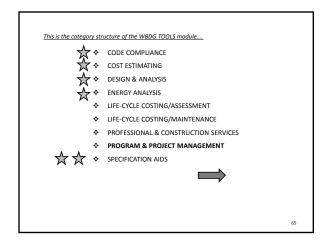




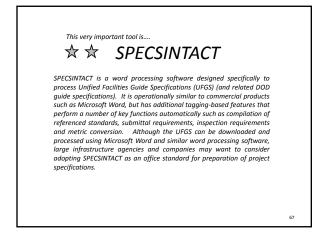


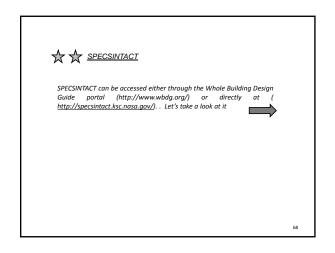






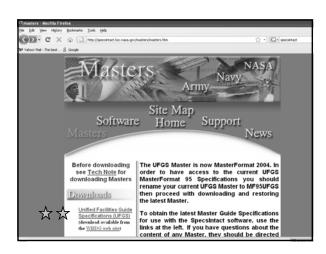




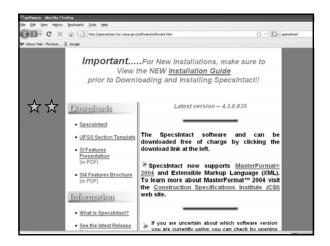


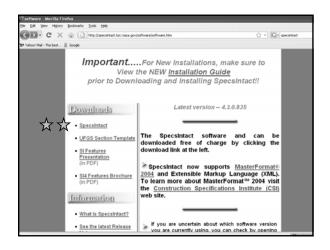


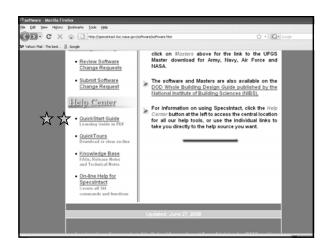


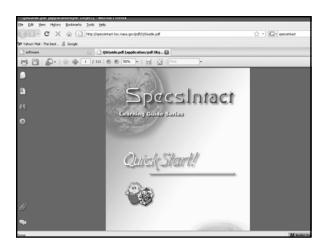




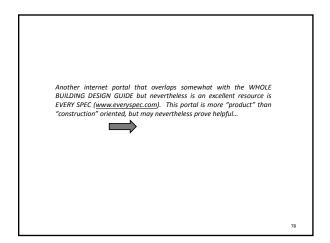


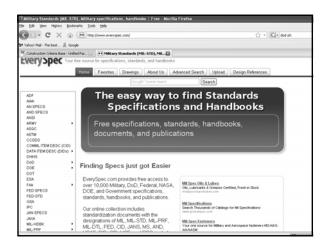




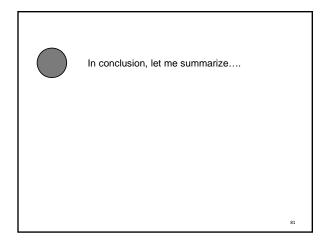


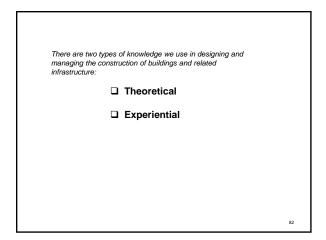




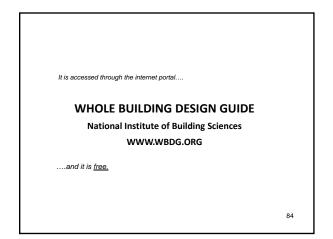








We now have the information technology to deliver **experiential knowledge** in real-time and in a user-friendly format that will allow it to be used immediately in day-to-day projects.



#### The WBDG is...

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☐ reflective, primarily, of the most experienced building and infrastructure design and construction institution in the world....the U.S. federal government.

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Some important points....

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An important point...



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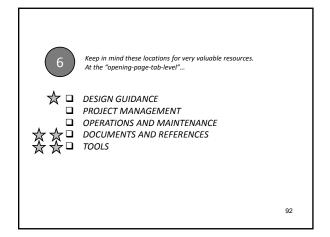
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An important point....

With regard to "Design-Build"....

If a private company or public agency does not include design and construction criteria in its contract with a Design-Build Contractor, it will have little control over the quality of the work.

The WBDG provides a reasonably straightforward way to incorporate design and construction criteria by reference in its contract with a Design-Build Contractor.



In the DESIGN GUIDANCE tab....

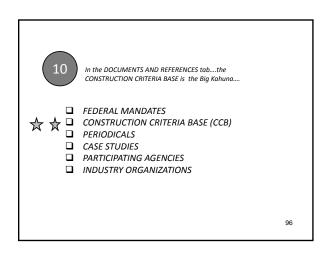
BUILDING TYPES
SPACE TYPES
DESIGN DISCIPLINES
DESIGN OBJECTIVES
PRODUCTS & SYSTEMS

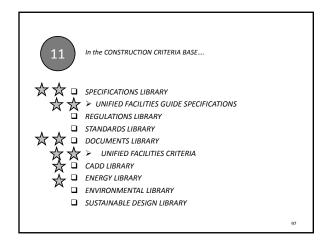
In the PROJECT MANAGEMENT tab....there is still work to be done.

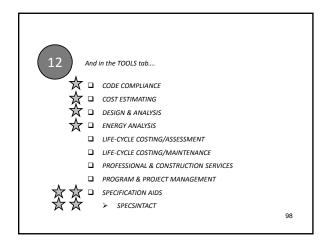
PROJECT DELIVERY TEAMS
PROJECT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING COMMISSIONING
PROJECT DELIVERY AND CONTROLS

In the OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE tab....there is still work to be done.

REAL PROPERTY INVENTORY
COMPUTERIZED MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS







Now let's review the Quiz....

1. The Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) is:

a. An internet portal

b. A resource for experiential knowledge of building design

c. A resource for theoretical knowledge of building design

d. "a" and "b"

e. "a" and "c"

f. "b" and "c"

Quiz

2. The WBDG is managed by the:

a. Environmental Protection Agency
b. National Institute of Building Sciences
c. National Institute for Testing and Standard
d. Department of Defense

Quiz

3. The most useful information accessible through the WBDG portal is found under which "tab" or "pull-down menu":

a. Design Guidance
b. Project Management
c. Operations and Maintenance
d. Documents and References
e. Tools

4. Which of the following Design Guidance elements is not considered particularly useful in its current state of development:

a. Building Types
b. Space Types
c. Design Disciplines
d. Design Objectives

Quiz

5. Which of the following Design Objectives is considered to contain some useful information?

a. Functional/Operational
b. Productive
c. Secure/Safe
d. Sustainable

Quiz

6. The one of the two most useful resources accessible through the WBDG is:

a. National Facilities Guide Specifications
b. Unified Facilities Guide Specifications
c. Federal Facilities Guide Specifications
d. American Facilities Guide Specifications

Quiz

7. The second of the two most useful resources accessible through the WBDG is:

a. U.S. Facilities Criteria
b. National Criteria Database
c. Federal Facilities Criteria
d. Unified Facilities Criteria

8. In the Documents & References module of the WBDG, which of the following elements is most useful:

a. Federal Mandates
b. Construction Criteria Base
c. Participating Agencies
d. Case Studies

Quiz

9. The Construction Criteria Base is located in which of the following WBDG modules:

a. Design Guidance
b. Project Management
c. Operations and Maintenance
d. Documents and References
e. Tools

10. Which of the following Libraries in the Construction Criteria Base is considered to contain substantial useful information for a broad range of projects:

a. Specifications Library
b. Documents Library
c. CADD Library
d. Tools Library
e. All of the above
f. None of the above

Quiz

11. Which of the following is considered the most useful element in the Specifications Library:

a. Unified Facilities Guide Specifications
b. NAVFAC Specifications
c. DOE General Design Criteria
d. NIBS Specifications

Quiz

12. SpecsIntact Editor is a:

a. Catalog of specifications
b. Manual of style for specification writers
c. An online database
d. A word processing program

Quiz

13. "Design Notes" are:

a. AIA aesthetic standards
b. A feature of CADD details
c. A feature of the Unified Facilities Guide
Specifications
d. A feature of the Unified Facilities Criteria

Quiz

14. Unified Facilities Criteria manuals are:

a. Accessible via the National Publishers
Clearinghouse
b. Available with a Confidential or higher security
clearance
c. Downloadable from the internet in TXT format
d. Downloadable from the internet in PDF format
e. Not accessible on the internet

Quiz

15. An important tool for utilizing Unified Facilities
Guide Specifications is:

a. Microsoft XP or later
b. Microsoft Vista
c. SpecsIntact User Module
d. SpecsIntact Quick Start Guide
e. Apple iPod Bluetooth

16. The \_\_\_\_\_ manages the SpecsIntact
program for all federal agencies and its internet portal is
an excellent resource for the latest about the Unified
Facilities Guide Specifications.

a. Corps of Engineers
b. Naval Facilities Engineering Command
c. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
d. USAF Chief Engineer's Office

17. The Unified Facilities Criteria and Unified Facilities
Guide Specifications can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the
contract between an Owner and a Design-Build
Contractor.

a. not be incorporated into
b. be incorporated by reference into
c. be added by the Owner unilaterally after the contract
is signed into
d. none of the above

18. Do not make the mistake of assuming the Whole
Building Design Guide knowledge base is "federal" and
therefore \_\_\_\_\_\_ "in the real world."

a. valuable
b. applicable
c. useful
d. not useful

Quiz

19. Do not assume that because the Whole Building Design Guide is a federally generated knowledge base that it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. available to federal contractors
b. available without charge
c. excessively complex and bureaucratic
d. available to the non-engineering public

Quiz

20. A very important factor in appreciation of the WBDG is that it is a \_\_\_\_\_\_ base of experiential knowledge that is continually updated and refined by engineers and architects working daily on real projects.

a. proprietary
b. living
c. static
d. Factory Mutual

Quiz

25. "Design Notes" are found in the \_\_\_\_\_\_.

a. Unified Facilities Guide Specifications
b. Uniform Building Criteria
c. Unified Building Guide Specifications
d. Uniform Guide Criteria

# Thank you for your time! QUESTIONS??

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