

LIGHTEN UP !

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OK, we understand. You are a serious, business-like, dedicated, harassed, pressured, stressed-out, overworked, put-upon, determined, intense and highly inspired professional.

Lighten Up!!!!

Not everything you hear, read, or see is an impending disaster, nor a problem ripe to happen. In some situations there is pure fun--laughter should be your answer. Ludicrous is a prevailing attribute, and in many instances things are done or said for the mere fact of trying to turn down the intensity of the situation--to relieve the tension.

Not everything is an attack on you, personally, your procedure or the work you produce. You don't need to jump to a defensive position every time something occurs that seems to stir things up. Please don't make yourself so restrictive that you cannot enjoy a moment, a quip, or a pure piece of satire or outrageous humor.

Hopefully you are capable of enjoying things, intangibles; delightful things that bring a quick smile or a real guffaw. Hopefully, your enjoyment is not in a bottle or elsewhere.

Everything associated with our work is NOT a crisis, and not such a "hot item" that we MUST delve into all of the nuances it touches--Lighten Up!

When we engage in true discussions about how we, individually do our work, we all too easily tend to deem that our way is the ONLY way. We then rush to our defensive foxholes (some call them, cubes), and man the word processing guns!!!! Lighten up!

Friends, of all the people in the construction world we should be the epitome of flexibility, understanding and tolerance--particularly of each other. No two practices are the same, nor should they be. They should reflect their clientele and the philosophy of the firm and its principals. But we spec writers are ones who must be devil's advocates, as well as counselors, informers, advisors, and disciplinarians. But lighten up! You can be all those things and still, by golly, be human.

From some of the discussion hereabouts, one wonders how we ever get pictures of chapter meetings and conventions where people actually smile! (or are they wearing masks?)

Now I don't suggest we are flighty, unstable, or that we treat our work irreverently, but lighten up! We can do that and still not be frivolous or nonsensical. We can maintain our decorum and still smile, snicker, giggle, and have a belly shaking laugh. We can quip, jab, and be self-deprecating (laughing at ourselves), and still be vital and true professionals.

Suggestion: Let's start all future discussions with the phrase, "In our office, we....."

Don't make this personal, that it is YOUR way, but rather it is your firm's way--the big picture.

Be grim, firm, stoic, determined, judicial, OK--nasty--when appropriate (and there are valid times for all that) But after that and your office "game face", lighten up.

Life is too short to be a specs grinch--all the time!

Now get back to work!!!!