

# The Southern Fried Architect

(A clear, complete, concise, and mostly correct, view of stuff happening in the design/construction industry)

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Mark Twain once said, "I didn't have time to write a short letter, so I wrote a long one instead." This seems to us to be the problem with many publications today. When we want to know the time, they want to tell us how to build a clock. The goal of *The Southern Fried Architect* is to get right to the point. If we don't think it's important, we won't waste your time explaining it to you in 1,200 words. If you want to learn more about a subject, we might be able to recommend a few good books on the subject that will tell you less than we have already explained. Welcome to the new and improved *Southern Fried Architect*.



Edward F. (Ted) Smith

## Dr. Smith Named MOTLY Guy

*The Southern Fried Architect* is pleased to name its Man Of The Last Year (MOTLY) for 2003. No, we are not speaking of Dr. Smith from *Lost in Space*; we're speaking of Edward F. (Ted) Smith, D. Arch., FAIA, CSI, President of ARCOM, publishers of AIA MasterSpec. At a secret ceremony held each year in my unfinished basement, we name the *SFA* MOTLY guy. This year the competition was really fierce and the MOTLY committee had many exceptional nominees. Ted was selected for his wide-ranging efforts on behalf of the MasterFormat Expansion Task Team, OmniClass Development Committee, International Construction Information Society, and a few other really geeky groups he has helped. In awarding this prestigious honor, the MOTLY Committee noted his dedication and contributions to improving the entire construction industry and his lovely and charming wife Bev who is almost always at his side. Congratulations Ted!

## CSI Responds to Mechanical Contractors

In a letter to CSI dated November 24, 2003, Tom Vincent, Chairman-Elect of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada and a member of the MasterFormat Expansion Task Team, asked CSI for a further explanation for the task team's reversal in deciding to add a plumbing division in MasterFormat 04. MCAC and MCAA have been opposed to this change and have consistently advocated a single division for all mechanical work. In a letter to MCAC dated November 26, 2003, MasterFormat Expansion Task Team Chairman Hall provided his opinion on the changes. Below is a portion of that letter.

*While MCAC and MCAA were on record with their strong support for a single division, SMACNA and others were also on the record with strong endorsements for splitting the subject matter into two divisions... And while there is no consensus on this subject from the construction community, based on commentary received by the task team, the design community appears to be strongly in favor of the creation of a plumbing division, and the opinions on this come from sources that are widely disparate in almost all other opinions they expressed....*

*During the last 2-1/2 years, we have had four web-based discussion forums. Most of our task team members have continuously kept abreast of the comments and discussion on these sites. I personally have frequently responded to comments of the AECDaily site and the 4specs site. It is my opinion from those discussions as well as numerous personal e-mails received that*

*the vast majority of the design professionals believe that plumbing is a separate design discipline from HVAC, with this work often prepared by different professionals according to different standards, and should thus be addressed in a separate division consistent with MasterFormat's underlying organizational basis of placing like material into divisions and separating different material into different divisions. The fact that this design work is prepared by different design professionals supports this thinking. Aligning MasterFormat with the US National CAD Standard (NCS) is another product of this line of thought, and is an additional reason for the change, but is not the sole one. It merely adds to the weight of evidence to be considered.*

With groups on opposite sides of any issue, someone is bound to be happy and others disappointed when a final decision is reached. The important thing is that the process is fair and everyone's opinions are heard and considered. This has been that kind of process. I know I did not get everything that I wanted in MasterFormat 04 either, but in the end we have made great strides to improving the document and can feel good about establishing a new standard of openness and participation for future CSI committees and task teams.

## **CSI Releases Outline of MasterFormat 2004**

### **MasterFormat™ 04 Divisions**

#### **Procurement and Contracting Documents**

##### **Group:**

Division 00 – Procurement and Contracting Requirements

##### **Specifications Group:**

##### ***General Requirements Subgroup:***

Division 01 – General Requirements

##### ***Facility Construction Subgroup:***

Division 02 – Existing Conditions  
Division 03 – Concrete  
Division 04 – Masonry  
Division 05 – Metals  
Division 06 – Wood, Plastics, and Composites  
Division 07 – Thermal and Moisture Protection  
Division 08 – Openings  
Division 09 – Finishes  
Division 10 – Specialties  
Division 11 – Equipment  
Division 12 – Furnishings  
Division 13 – Special Construction  
Division 14 – Conveying Equipment  
Division 15 – Reserved for future expansion  
Division 16 – Reserved for future expansion  
Division 17 – Reserved for future expansion  
Division 18 – Reserved for future expansion  
Division 19 – Reserved for future expansion

##### ***Facility Services Subgroup:***

Division 20 – Reserved  
Division 21 – Fire Suppression  
Division 22 – Plumbing

Division 23 – Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning  
Division 24 – Reserved  
Division 25 – Integrated Automation  
Division 26 – Electrical  
Division 27 – Communications  
Division 28 – Electronic Safety and Security  
Division 29 – Reserved

##### ***Site and Infrastructure Subgroup:***

Division 30 – Reserved for future expansion  
Division 31 – Earthwork  
Division 32 – Exterior Improvements  
Division 33 – Utilities  
Division 34 – Transportation  
Division 35 – Waterway and Marine  
Division 36 – Reserved for future expansion  
Division 37 – Reserved for future expansion  
Division 38 – Reserved for future expansion  
Division 39 – Reserved for future expansion

##### ***Process Equipment Subgroup:***

Division 40 – Reserved for future expansion  
Division 41 – Material Processing and Handling Equipment  
Division 42 – Process Heating, Cooling, and Drying Equipment  
Division 43 – Process Gas and Liquid Handling, Purification and Storage Equipment  
Division 44 – Pollution Control Equipment  
Division 45 – Industry-Specific Manufacturing Equipment  
Division 46 – Solid Waste Equipment  
Division 47 – Reserved for future expansion  
Division 48 – Electrical Power Generation  
Division 49 – Reserved for future expansion

# Sticks + Stones

SFA - Section B

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## Welcome to Sticks + Stone

*Sticks + Stones* is where we examine some of the technical issues in the construction industry that have caused architects, engineers, contractors, and owners all sorts of problems. *S+S* is organized by MasterFormat 04 numbers and titles. If these seem a little odd at first, don't worry; you'll catch on pretty quick. We've placed spaces in between the paired numbering to assist the reader with the transition.

## Water World

Water is the bane of all buildings. It rusts steel, rots wood, deteriorates gypsum board, attracts insects and termites, and causes mold. If you want to eliminate a lot of building problems and discussions with attorneys, stop the moisture infiltration. Water infiltration will be the subject of many of the issues raised in this and future editions of *S+S*. Below are a few examples of ways we as designers and contractors have found to share the wealth with our attorney and our clients.

### 04 05 60 – Masonry Accessories (Frankly my dear, I recommend a dam)

There is an old saying in the brick business that goes, "bricks don't leak, but brick walls do." We have proven this saying time and time again. Since the wall is going to leak anyway, why not provide a way to get the water out of the cavity? This of course assumes the architect has designed and the contractor provided a reasonable air cavity. If you remember nothing else, remember this one phrase, "flashing is your friend." The problem with flashing is that it needs to be properly installed in order to work. Weeps must be provided and free of mortar. One of the biggest problems with flashing is the lack of end dams. They can either be field formed, (best done with ridged flashing like copper) or preformed. I like the preformed because they are almost idiot proof. (Can you read between the lines here?) Flexible flashing can simply be laid into the end dams and, voilà, you have the start of a pretty good installation. Try "Cloaks" from Hyload. These simple devices really work and they beat the heck out of site-formed end dams that rely on humans understanding that water has a mind of its own and doesn't always go where we want it to go. If you're not specifying end dams, please send us your name and the name of your lawyer for future reference.

### 07 25 00 – Moisture Barriers (but the product rep said it wasn't required)

Moisture barriers are required by almost all building codes, and are a good construction practice regardless of the substrate, with a couple of exceptions. Tyvek is perhaps the most popular moisture barrier used today. I see it just about everywhere. I just never see it installed correctly. Personally, I prefer #15 building felt as do a lot of other forensic architects and engineers, but that's a subject for future discussion. One of the most common problems I see with Tyvek is the use of "slap staples" for installation. The manufacturer recommends that you use either cap nails or 1" construction staples for installation. Just to clarify, construction staples looks like something you use to hang barbed wire and not something to be used on any paper product. Tyvek also comes in two types, "Housewrap" for residential construction and "Commercial" for, well, commercial projects. I have never seen the commercial stuff on any project regardless of project type. Proper installation at windows is also another major problem. The Tyvek website goes into great detail on the proper installation requirements, but if you don't inspect the work and make the contractor do it right, you might as well ask him to use old blue prints as a moisture barrier. In fact, they might do a better job.

### 32 85 00 – Lawn Sprinklers

I'm not a landscape architect, but I still can't figure out why some folks insist on irrigating the sides of wood structures. I have yet to see a house grow into a condominium complex simply by watering the darn thing. During a recent visit to one of my favorite locations where the owners are suing everyone, I observed positive drainage back toward the structure, dirt (that's Southern for soil, mulch, and other planting substrate) graded 6"

up the wood siding, and an irrigation system spraying water all over everything. And the attorney wanted me to write an official report on why the building has termites and deterioration of the construction. Shooting fish in a barrel is not this easy. (As if I would really shoot fish in a barrel and waste a bullet while ruining a perfectly good barrel. Electrocuting fish in a barrel is another story, of course.)

### **31 00 00 – Earthwork**

CSI has taken some heat for moving all the dirt stuff out of Division 02 and putting it in the 30 Series. One big reason for the move is that “grading is grading,” regardless of whether you are moving dirt for a house or an interstate highway. I didn’t support this move, because some dirt stuff, like clearing, grading, and paving, appears often in building projects, and why should we have all the simple site civil subject matter mixed in with the heavy civil stuff? But then I got this picture from our ol’ friend Bob Caldwell at Gensler in Baltimore and realized that maybe some architects ought to leave this subject matter to trained professionals who are experienced in site grading. If placing it in the 30 Series does this, maybe it’s not such a bad thing.



I don’t know about you, but we were really impressed with the work of the concrete finisher.

### **Disclaimer**

Our legal insulant insists on a disclaimer that goes something like this: the opinions expressed in this section represent only the opinions of the writer and are based purely on our ignorance, which is unlimited. Any contrary opinions based on facts, which are limited, are of little concern to us; however, we reserve the right to change our opinion in the face of lawsuits. Even though all the stuff in this publication is really good information, each project is different and requires the skill of a semi-competent design professional to carefully craft the construction documents to meet the unique requirements of your project, and a truly skilled construction professional to execute those requirements in accordance with industry standards. Since this rarely happens on any construction project we have seen, reading and following the advice in this publication may keep you out of trouble. Then again, it may not.

### **We want to hear from you**

Next month, we’ll have more design and construction advice from the trenches. Keep those cards, letters, and e-mails coming in with questions and examples of ways that we are making construction attorneys rich. And remember, if we like your suggestion, we may send you one our new *Southern Fried Architect/Sticks + Stones* coffee mugs. They can also be used to bail water from your building if you fail to follow our advice.

# Technically Speaking

*SFA* - Section C

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## **Tar and Feathering:** On the Road for a better MasterFormat

As I promised my wife, we are slowing down on road trips this year. If we come to your town, you're really special, we like your location, or you have something on us. So don't miss the traveling MasterFormat salvation show if we are near you. Here's the schedule for the next two months.

Jan. 16	BICSI Conference	Orlando, FL
Feb. 16	CSI Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
Feb. 21	Florida International Univ.	Miami, FL

## **Choose your Own Title**

Following the dissension over the new title for the document formerly known as the "CSI Manual of Practice," CSI has implemented an exciting new technology that allows YOU, the end user, to participate in the creative process of writing industry standard documents by choosing your very own personalized title for this CSI document from the list of suggestions conveniently provided below. There's even a space for you to create an original new document title completely on your own – which is the option expressly recommended.

### Suggested Document Titles:

- 1) Project Resource Manual
- 2) CSI Manual of Practice
- 3) CSI Project Delivery Manual
- 4) CSI Book of Evil: Things Man Was Not Meant To Know
- 5) AIA Professional Price Handbook, Volume 5
- 6) Book of Really Important Stuff (our favorite)
- 7) (Insert your own title here)\_\_\_\_\_

## **AIA Document Update**

As we all know, the AIA is in the process of updating its standardized documents for 2007. But, with MasterFormat 2004 debuting next year and some firms beginning to use it in 2005 and most in 2006, what changes need to be made in the AIA standardized document in the meantime to agree with the new CSI language? Well, you needn't fear, the *SFA*, along with some really smart guys, have reviewed the most popular AIA documents, and each month we'll provide you with our recommended additions, deletions, and modifications to one of the 1997 editions of an AIA document. We're also attempting to coordinate with the AIA Documents Committee to ensure that our readership will be up-to-date on current thinking about any changes to these documents.

Beginning next month we will discuss AIA Document B151-1997: Abbreviated Form of Owner-Architect Agreement as the first in the series. This popular AIA document is a slightly tweaked version of the old 1987 B141 and preferred by many firms regardless the size of the project. Input from our readers is always welcome.

# Other Stuff

SFA - Section D

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## Cool Toys: Confessions of a Gadget Freak

Yes, it's true. I *am* a gadget freak. And like most men, I like to play with toys. If I could get a job testing and playing with this stuff, I would be about as close to heaven as a guy can get without beer. About a year ago, I had some repair work done at the house. And in the process of fixing one thing, the contractor broke something else, which seems to happen about 90% of the time. The something else in this case was the telephone line to the second floor. That wouldn't ordinarily be that big a deal, as we have a cordless telephone system, but the dial-up Internet connection for the computer in daughter # 1's bedroom was of course affected. We managed to make do by stringing a wire from the kitchen phone outlet on the first floor to the bedroom on the second floor, but that exceeded my wife's patience rather quickly and so must go. After careful review of the possible alternatives of what exactly *could* go, the wire, the Internet, or **me**, I decided that new toys were in order.

After the Time-Warner guy installed our new "Road Runner" high-speed cable modem, I attempted to install a wireless Internet router by LinkSys. After several days of sweating, a visit from my friendly computer geek to help with the security stuff, and a visit from my computer-savvy brother to help update the operating system and reinstall all the drivers for the hardware that now won't work; we finally have Internet service the way that God meant it to be, high speed and wireless. I am looking forward to sitting on the deck this spring, sipping a glass of Pinot Griego, surfing the web, and banging out a few issues of your favorite online rag. Can life get any better than this?

## Need Protection!

In November while driving to the University of Tennessee to make a MasterFormat presentation, I happened upon a NC State Trooper on I-40 just east of the Tennessee state line. I was singing along to my new Kerosene Brothers CD and not paying much attention to the "alleged" change in speed limit and "alleged" work zone. I am now the proud owner of a \$350 citation from the State of North Carolina and impending increase in my insurance premium. Being that this is my first traffic violation (well, first *confirmed* violation) in the past 22 years, I am pretty upset. I am now in the market for protection, looking for the coolest new device in radar detection. Wireless, of course.

## Is it Just Me?

Over the last several months, it seems that every day I get about 6 to 10 e-mails for Viagra and devices to increase my manhood. First, I want to know who's been talking? I know it's not all those poor guys in Africa trying to send me 20% of their dead father's or uncle's fortune, stolen from their government. And I know that it's not the folks trying to sell me children's books or car insurance. Do you think my wife is still upset about that telephone line thing?

In response to these and other concerns, my brother turned me on to some FREE software called Ad-Aware. It seems to have stopped a lot of the pop-up ads and some thing he calls "spyware", but has had little effect on the "only true device for..." spam. I am now of the opinion that my brother has given all these folks my name in an attempt to actually get *his* name off of their lists. Where is that darned John Ashcroft when we need him? Why is there not a National "Do Not E-mail" list? Hey, wait a minute; that could affect *us*. Ok, ok, I'll order my Viagra and manhood enlargement devices today, just don't turn me in!