

The Southern Fried Architect

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

Dennis J. Hall, FCSI, AIA, SCIP: Guy who writes this stuff

December 2004

Greg Ceton, Esq.: Ghost editor, legal insultant, and guy who fixes this stuff

MasterFormat 2004 Edition Early Bird Special Ends this Month



December 31 is the last day to get in on the *MasterFormat 2004 Edition* Early Bird Special, so when you try to order it next month, don't blame us if you get struck with the full price. This is a **MUST HAVE** publication for all design professionals, manufacturers, owners, contractors, and other users of written construction documents. Order early and order often.

To get your copy, use the order form in last month's edition of *SFA*, call 1.800.689.2900 for customer service, or log onto www.CSINet.org/bookstore/MasterFormat. The price is \$89 for CSI members and \$129 for non-members. For our friends in Canada, you can get your copy through CSC at about the same cost, except you'll have to pay for it in Canadian dollars.

SFA Goes on Sabbatical

Speaking of things coming to an end, don't forget that this is the last month you will receive your *SFA* on a regular monthly basis. Beginning in 2005, we will only be publishing every other month. No whining!

Construction Administration Academy

Speaking of not forgetting, the first CSI Construction Administration Academy is on January 27-28 in sunny Tampa, Florida. Make your plans now, as you will not want to miss it. You can register online at www.CSINet.org/CAAcademy.

Architectural Graphics Standards

Work has begun on the 11th edition of *Architectural Graphic Standards*, first published in 1932. The new edition will be reorganized in an elemental structure according to UniFormat. Andy Pressman, FAIA, Professor of Architecture at the University of New Mexico is the Editor-in-Chief, and the new edition will feature case studies in each chapter to explain the concepts being described. This should come in handy for most architects, seeing as how they don't usually like to read.

Soenke Nominated for CSI President-Elect

Edd Soenke, FCSI, CCS, AIA has been selected by the CSI Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot as FY 06 President-Elect. If things go as usual, Edd will be the Institute President in 2006-07. See Section D: *Other Stuff* for the full list of Institute Officer candidates for next year.

No Mas!

After approximately 150 *MasterFormat* presentations given or scheduled to be given, including eight in seven different cities in five different states over the course of the last eight days, I can't help but recall the famous words of boxer Roberto Duran, when he dropped his gloves, turned to the referee and said "No mas, no mas." I've come to the conclusion that it's time to pass the baton of *MasterFormat* education on to the *MasterFormat* Implementation Task Team. If you are currently on our schedule, we will honor our commitment, but all future presentations should be scheduled through the Institute at www.CSINet.org/MasterFormatEducation. See Section C: *Technically Speaking* for a list of our upcoming *MasterFormat* presentations.

Sticks + Stones

SFA - Section B

Welcome to another issue of *Sticks + Stones*, where we provide marginally professional advice to our readers based on our many years of creating and observing problems in the construction industry. This month *S+S* will continue to review some traditional construction practices or work results using those great, almost new *MasterFormat 2004 Edition* numbers and titles. Below are a few things that we thought you might like to know.

08 71 53 – Security Door Hardware



Gary Beimers, FCSI, of Grand Rapids, MI sent us this photo of some new tamper-resistant door hardware that was recently developed. Security door hardware includes “hardware with specific characteristics for high security.” To tell the truth, I don’t like snakes and this biologically enhanced lockset would really work for me to meet that definition and I suspect it’d work for most crooks too.

I didn’t see this particular model in my Yale catalog, so I suspect it’s one of those special order models. I further suspect that the material costs are reasonable, it’s the labor cost to install the darn thing that’ll get you.

23 22 00 – Steam and Condensate Piping and Pumps



I first showed this photo last month at the American Society of Plumbing Engineers 2004 Convention in Cleveland, as an example of the creative integration of work from Division 22 and 23. I’ve seen similar applications in the past for dealing with HVAC condensate, but none with the particular boldness of this design.

I am not sure which genius, the designer or the contractor, should receive the proper credit for this clever design and installation, but I did propose it for some form of commendation from ASPE.

10 28 13 – Toilet Accessories



New from Bobrick is this stainless steel toilet material dispenser for really, really, really manly guys. It does come with a warning that it is not suitable for all applications, and the designer should use their professional judgment in specifying this product. Disposal not shown.

Special thanks to our friend, Sheldon Wolfe, FCSI, CCS, AIA, specifier in Minneapolis, home of really, really, really manly guys, for sending this photo along to us.

48 00 00 – Electric Power Generation



We were at our local nuclear station last month working on a new project when we stumbled across this engineer scaling a drawing on his computer monitor. Now I know we all recommend that contractors **DO NOT SCALE THE DRAWINGS**, but I guess this doesn't apply to engineers or their monitors, since they are smarter than the rest of us.

I guess this explains a lot about the rising price of electric power. It's a good thing that I don't work for the DOE or the NRC, as I am sure this must be covered in some regulation. Then again, maybe not.

I know that many of you are thinking that this photo was staged, unfortunately, **it wasn't!** Names of the engineer and power company are being withheld at the request of our client, the power company.

11 10 00 – Vehicle Service Equipment



I don't think any commentary is really needed here, is it? Could someone please call 911 and OSHA, in that order?

Technically Speaking

SFA - Section C

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

December will be a slow month on the road, but things start to pick up after the New Year. Like many of you, we are getting very anxious for the *MasterFormat* Implementation Task Team to begin its educational activities. But until then, we will continue to take up the slack.

Dec 2	CSI Vermont	Burlington, VT
Dec 13	CSI Jacksonville	Jacksonville, FL
Jan 5	AIA / CSI Missouri	Columbia, MO
Jan 18	CSI Atlanta	Atlanta, GA
Jan 20	CSI Nashville	Nashville, TN
Jan 24	BICSI Winter Conference	Orlando, FL
Jan 25	Disney Imagineering	Orlando, FL
Jan 30	AGC / AIA / CSI Iowa	DeMoin, IO

We Really Need Your Help

It seems my desktop computer crashed and there are several *MasterFormat* presentations that I've already arranged with folks that have now disappeared from my records. In addition to the presentations shown above, below is list of things that I *think* I am doing for next year. Some of the dates are tentative or awaiting confirmation. If you and I have spoken and you are not on the list, or no date is shown, or the date is incorrect, please contact me so I can straighten out this mess.

And no cheating, only folks who have really contacted me should do so now! Oh yeah, if you *are* on the list, please send me an e-mail to confirm as I may have lost your contact information as well.

<i>February 9, 2005</i>	CSI Albuquerque (<i>local</i>)	Albuquerque, NM
<i>February 15, 2005</i>	CSI Honolulu (<i>local</i>)	Honolulu, HI
<i>February 15, 16, & 19, 2005</i>	University of Hawaii at Manoa (<i>regional</i>)	Honolulu, HI
<i>February 16, 2005</i>	AIA / CSI / Building Industry Alliance of Hawaii (<i>regional</i>)	Honolulu, HI
<i>February 17, 2005</i>	Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii (<i>regional</i>)	Honolulu, HI
<i>February 21, 2005</i>	CSI Salt Lake (<i>local</i>)	Salt Lake City, UT
<i>February 24, 2005</i>	CSI Mississippi (<i>local</i>)	Jackson, MS
<i>February 28, 2005</i>	CSI Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA
<i>March 8, 2005</i>	CSI Duluth (<i>local</i>)	Duluth, MN
<i>March 28, 2005</i>	CSI Milwaukee (<i>local</i>)	Milwaukee, WI
<i>April, 8-9, 2005</i>	CSI Mid-Atlantic Region	Frederick, MD
<i>April 28, 2005</i>	AIA South Dakota (<i>regional</i>)	Sioux Falls, SD
<i>June 20, 2005</i>	EcoBuild America (<i>national</i>)	Orlando, FL

<i>July 15, 2005</i>	CSI Southeast Region Conference (<i>regional</i>)	San Juan, PR
<i>June 2005</i>	CSI Gulf Coast (<i>local</i>)	Gulfport, MS
<i>TBD</i>	CSI Orlando (<i>local</i>)	Orlando, FL
<i>TBD</i>	AIA / CSI Fort Lauderdale (<i>local</i>)	Forth Lauderdale, FL
<i>TBD</i>	AIA / CSI Madison (<i>local</i>)	Madison, WI
<i>TBD</i>	AIA / AGC / CSI Oklahoma City (<i>local</i>)	Oklahoma City, OK
<i>TBD</i>	ASHRAE Summer Meeting (<i>national</i>)	Denver, CO
<i>TBD</i>	University of Florida (<i>regional</i>)	Gainesville, FL

Other Stuff

SFA - Section D

CSI Institute Officer Candidates

The Construction Specifications Institute's Nominating Committee had a long list of excellent folks to consider for the upcoming ballot, and though I'm sure they had a very tough time making their decisions, they eventually selected seven candidates for Institute office, listed below. Voting by the membership will begin in February; we will publish the winners in the March-April edition of *SFA*.

President:	Michael Owen, FCSI, CDT
President-Elect:	Edd Soenke, FCSI, CCS, AIA
Vice President (Professional):	John McCaffrey, FCSI, CCS, AIA, SCIP James Robertson, FCSI, CCS, AIA
Vice President (Industry):	Paul Bertram, FCSI, CDT, LEED William McHugh, CSI
Secretary:	Robert Kenworthy, FCSI, CCS, CCCA Carole Schafmeister, FCSI

Vision 2020

Over the last several years, I have written a lot about the future of construction information. And while I certainly have my opinions about this subject, I believe it's time for CSI and other allied organizations to come together to create a task force to examine this subject, as well as future changes in the project delivery process. How can architects, engineers, owners, contractors, manufacturers, information providers, government agencies, and all the players in this industry work together to establish a common vision and work for implementation of this vision?

This inter-disciplinary task force must not only establish a vision of the future but also work together to craft a plan that these allied groups can all follow; it does nothing to establish a plan if we can't communicate it to others or get their buy-in. I call upon the new leaders and the future leadership of CSI to embrace the idea that we can only achieve our goals if we know what they are, and that once we do, we should accomplish those goals. Too often it seems that our leadership is to busy beating off the alligators to implement the draining of the swamp, much less building the new community. We must reverse this trend.

CSI *NewsDigest* Goes Quarterly

With the upcoming creation of CSI's new weekly web newsletter, the *CSI Weekly*, the need for a monthly printed news document becomes less important. In this fast-food, gotta-have-it-now world, waiting a month for information has been deemed unacceptable. Wait a minute, once a month is not enough? Hey, that's what we do! Anyway, CSI is now only going to publish the *NewsDigest* quarterly, and will rely upon their email *CSI NewsBriefs* to alert readers of new industry information and the *CSI Weekly* website to highlight everything current at CSI.

Integrating CAD and Specs

Our crack reporters have learned that new software that will allow specifications and CAD to work together is currently being beta tested. This is the first step in a true Building Information Model (BIM) that you've been hearing so much about, and it's a *major* first step at that. More information will follow on this subject as our spies work to uncover enough facts for a future article.

Editorial Section

SFA - Section E

Design Like You Give a Damn

by Dennis J. Hall, AIA, FCSI

As an architect and construction specifier, I find that there are two major roles of the design professional in providing professional services when it comes to written construction documents: writing the specifications and enforcing the specifications. With ARCOM, BSD, and CSRF all providing master guide specification systems, the job of writing specifications is made a lot easier, but you might still be amazed at the number of folks who actually use these systems “cold” without editing the sections. This can cause huge problems – for example, if stainless steel, copper, and galvanized metal are all included as acceptable products for flashing, then even though we may not be sure what the architect wanted, I’m sure we all know what the contractor will include in the bid.

Ensuring that the products specified in a multi-proprietary spec section are comparable is sometimes a real challenge. With old products being reformulated, plastic components substituted for steel components, and new “just as good as Brand X” stuff being introduced into the market every day, the design professional must do a lot of research to keep up with technology and changing times. We as design professionals just don’t have the time or training to know everything we need to know about all construction products. This is where having trustworthy technical product representatives becomes invaluable. And I have found many of these trustworthy types hanging out at local CSI meetings once a month, the kind of folks who are happy to answer your questions and even recommend competitors’ products when their products are not appropriate for your project. Trust is not an easy thing to build, but is very easy to destroy, so good product representatives work to maintain that trust everyday.

And if you think that writing good specifications is difficult, enforcing specifications seems to be an impossibility for some firms. This is a sad thing for all involved. First, why should a good product representative spend hours helping you specify the right products for your project if you will let an inferior and cheaper product be substituted later? That product rep could save everyone’s time by just selling low price items to the contractor instead of assisting the architect in solving the client’s problem. Allowing these substitutions rewards bad product reps and punishes the good ones. If we as design professionals don’t have the intestinal fortitude to use the “reject and resubmit” portion of our shop drawing stamp and mean it, then we provide no incentive for technically savvy product representatives to spend their time with us to ensure we have all the facts. All that we’ll end up with is folks trying to sell to us rather than help us do our jobs better.

Second, not enforcing one’s specs is also a disservice to your client, who presumably has contracted for one quality of product and paid for it, so why should we allow a lesser quality product to be installed? Sometimes a contractor will even install an inferior product hoping not to be caught; if caught he simply offers to deduct money from the contract to cover some of the difference in cost. It is easy for the owner to just take the money, but again we’re only encouraging bad behavior on the part of contractors by allowing this to go on. In cases like this, I strongly recommend that my clients *not* accept these sorts of deals, and I reject the work as nonconforming with the contract documents. We recently held a contractor’s retainage and made them remove custom-built display cabinets and install what was specified. When the work was finally completed, the owner commented that the new cabinets were far superior to the first cabinets and well worth the wait and cost difference.

To that end, the old adage, “say what you mean and mean what you say,” will serve you, your client, and the construction industry. Specifying is more than just buying a master guide specifications system and it requires a lot of persistence and attention to detail on the part of the design professional. Those who excel and earn trust are those who give a damn about the final outcome of the project.