

The Southern Fried Architect

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

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MasterFormat Expansion Task Team Has Final Meeting

On November 15-16 the MasterFormat Expansion Task Team held its final scheduled meeting to complete the development of the new MasterFormat 04. With significant changes made from our last draft, the MFETT is completing its work and expects to send the manuscript to the professional writers in December. The task team will stay involved in the writing process as the user's guide and other work is prepared for print. We anticipate the writing to be complete by early July and the document to go to press about that time. Printed and electronic copies should be available in the October 2004 time period.

***SFA* Taunting Backfires**

With the end of the MasterFormat 04 Draft 4 comment period at hand, we decided to taunt our readers in last month's issue of *SFA* by claiming "After November 7, I don't care what you think." Our intent was to get those of you who may have procrastinated in sending us your last minute comments to do so. Well, it worked! During the last week of the comment period and afterwards, volumes of comments came pouring into Institute headquarters. These came from industry organizations, firms, and individuals. Many of these comments were long, well thought out annotated editions of Draft 4. Hey, where were all you folks two months ago? In fact, we continued to receive, review, and evaluate comments right up to our task team meeting date, well past the deadline. Thanks for taking the time to let the task team know what you think and giving us the benefit of your knowledge.

Changes to MasterFormat 04

Below are a few changes to expect in the new MasterFormat 04 that came from our recent MFETT meeting. Most of these were the result of comments by some very dedicated members of the industry that made persuasive arguments to the task team. While these decisions are sure not to please all, they represent what the task team believes to be in the best interests of the industry.

Plumbing Division?

After some very impassioned discussion (a euphemism for a knock-down, drag-out fight) on both sides of this issue, the MFETT voted overwhelmingly in favor of a separate division for Plumbing. The contents of the previous Mechanical Division were divided into a Plumbing Division and a Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Division within the Facility Services Subgroup.

Division 0?

The on-again, off-again decision on Division 0 is back on. In the second most impassioned discussion, task team member Bob Johnson argued that for years most of the construction industry has referred to the "front end" stuff as "Division 0" and we need a short title the industry would accept and use. The title of "Procurement and Contracting Documents," while accurate, is just too long for most people to accept. And, since we have clearly separated this stuff from the "Specifications" it is reasonable to call it Division 00. The task team found this argument persuasive and met the demands of this situation by officially making "the front end stuff" into "Division 00." We also decided that all divisions would be written with a two-character number even if you only pronounced the last digit.

Division 02 Not for Dirt Stuff

Well, I thought I would never see the day that ARCOM representatives would "strongly" recommend that site construction be relocated from Division 02 and placed in the 30 Series divisions. But this is

International Alliance for Interoperability:

In addition to about twelve other important tasks he is spearheading, Bob Johnson is working with all major master specification producers in the US and Canada to come up with an construction thesaurus. WOW! Now this is an important accomplishment. Way to go Bob.

Technical Committee:

The Institute Technical Committee has produced two new documents, "Guide to CSI Technical Endeavors" and "Guide to CSI Technical Principles". These are sure to be on the Oprah book club best sellers list any day now. They are also recommending an update to SectionFormat and PageFormat. They're fun guys.

PerSpective:

PerSpective is a performance based master guide specification system jointly owned by CSI (90%) and the Design/Build Institute of America (10%). In February 2001, after losing over \$1.3 million, the CSI Board of Directors ordered this document to be killed, sold, or given away. It was a surprise to hear that it's still alive and breathing. Expect news on this subject soon.

SFA Man Of The Last Year (MOTLY) Announced Next Month

Last year the *Southern Fried Architect* named Michael Owen, FCSI its MOTLY guy and this year he was selected as CSI President Elect. Who will we name this year? I guess you will just have to wait until next month to find out.

SFA Editorial Section

For the past 18 months, *The Southern Fried Architect* has been a voice for educating the industry on the proposed changes to MasterFormat, encouraging input to this process, and occasionally other fun stuff. This experience has taught me a lot about human nature and myself. As a result of the conclusion of the development phase of MasterFormat 04, *SFA* is expanding our coverage. What can you expect? Well, how on Earth would we know, we haven't written it yet. But the new look will include the much anticipated "Sticks + Stones" section, where we'll look at stupid design and construction issues, problems, and just plain mistakes. We've already had a number of suggestions for these from the readership. These include receipt of the month, interview with a person of the month, company/firm profile, and other self-serving suggestions. Hey, most of the folks that gave up self-serving suggestions were at least honest about it.

2004 will be a departure from all this MasterFormat stuff. After personally making more than 90 MasterFormat presentations over the past 1-1/2 years, I am looking forward to talking and writing about other things. I will occasionally hit the road for MasterFormat just to keep my arguing skills sharp and see some really great friends both old and new around the country, but averaging 4 to 6 MasterFormat presentations a month is out.

We'll endeavor to place this same zeal into the coming issues of *SFA*. We could tell you more about what we've planned, but why spoil the surprise?

Epilog

Because I've spent a whole lot of time this month working on the final manuscript of MasterFormat 04, answering e-mail from folks that were passionate about what MasterFormat should or shouldn't contain, and traveling across the country several times making presentations, this edition of *SFA* is not as long as or written in quite the usual southern-fried style. I've also grown a little tired and I'm looking forward to taking a break before the New Year. Next month we are planning a new look to the *SFA* to reflect a new year and a new attitude. Stay tuned and have a happy holiday.