

# The Southern Fried Architect

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

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## **Robert Johnson, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA, and 2004 SFA MOTLY**

The air was thick with tension and cigar smoke as the *SFA MOTLY* (Man Of The Last Year) Selection Committee met in around the folding card table under the bare bulb that hangs in my unfinished basement to decide on the 2004 recipient. With numerous contenders for this prestigious honor, this year's decision was going to be particularly difficult for the selection committee, but when the smoke cleared and the dust finally settled, the winner was our man Bob.

The Committee noted that Bob's work with ASTM, the *OmniClass* Construction Classification System (OCCS), *MasterFormat 2004 Edition*, and CSI education documents, all taken on in the same year, made him the obvious choice, so much so that the vote was unanimous. And he didn't just participate in each of these efforts, he was a vital contributor. Congratulations Bob Johnson, the 2004 *SFA Man Of The Last Year*.

## **Free MasterFormat 2004 Edition**



Yes, you read that right. Attend the CSI National Convention in Chicago this April and you will get your very own free copy of *MasterFormat 2004 Edition*.

Not only that, but you can also become a *MasterFormat* Accredited Instructor (MAI). That's right, the long awaited *MasterFormat* Accredited Instructor Program, which offers education for those wishing to teach others about *MasterFormat*, is being offered as a pre-convention program. Numerous other opportunities to learn about *MasterFormat* will be offered throughout the Convention.

Come to Chicago this April for the wonderful world of *MasterFormat*.

## **SCIP Annual Meeting Date Set**

John Regener, CSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA, National President of the Specification Consultants in Independent Practice (SCIP) announced that the SCIP annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2005 in Chicago. Dinner and the business meeting for SCIP members only will be held from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, followed by an open meeting from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The location of the meeting will be announced soon.

SCIP members must pre-register with David Metzger, CSI, CDT, FAIA, SCIP, for the dinner and business meeting. The open meeting is open to all members of the construction community.

## **Construction Specifications Writing, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Published**

Speaking of John Regener, John Wiley & Sons has just published the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the classic *Construction Specifications Writing: Principles and Procedures*, by Harold Rosen, PE, Hon. CSI, and John Regener, CSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA. This is another one of those must-have books for your library. Unfortunately, the publication schedule was such that the new edition doesn't cover the changes to the new *Project Resource Manual* or *MasterFormat 2004 Edition*, but I guess there's always the 6<sup>th</sup> edition for that. New in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition are samples of AIA and EJCDC documents.

# Sticks + Stones

SFA - Section B

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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. Our ol' friend David Longo, owner of Carolina Business Interiors recently complained that *SFA* has insulted almost every part of the design/construction industry except furniture folks. And as our faithful readers know, we never shrink from our responsibility to make sure that we insult everyone we can. So, this month *S+S* will look at the interior design/furniture portion of the design industry. We hope you will enjoy our observations of creative solutions that are found in Division 12 – Furnishings, of *MasterFormat*.

Special thanks to Edward “Ted” Smith, D. Arch, FAIA, CSI, president of ARCOM, the providers of AIA MASTERSPEC, for the photos. I think Ted includes many of these products in the interior version of MASTERSPEC.

## 12 54 00 – Hospitality Seating



Why stand when you can sit? And with this new portable hospitality seating, you can sit and drink. In fact, we strongly recommend that you do just that prior to attempting to use this new seating.

Some practice is required as well as a good insurance policy with a low deductible. We also suggest you carry your wallet with your insurance card in your jacket pocket or purse so it's not damaged by all the blood.

This seating should only be used by furniture professionals or trained individuals. Use of this seating by amateurs or general contractors is not recommended.

## 12 93 43.13 – Site Seating



And why sit when you can lie down? This ergonomically designed lounge chain with handsome bollards is sure to be the hit of Neocon this year. Available in black and dark green only.

We strongly recommend not drinking before lounging on the chain as alcohol can impair your balance. Headrest is optional and must be purchased separately.

## 12 59 23 – Desk System Furniture



Computer workstations have changed a lot over the years. With greater production demanded from workers, Steel Case has introduced this economy version of their popular Ethospace series for power users.

Formerly available only in China and India, U.S. firms are now ordering these by the thousands to replace those old, large, bulky workstations. Besides the cheap price, U.S. firms can save money by utilizing this efficient space saving model that provides more employees per square foot than traditional U.S. versions.

## 12 59 00 – Panel-Hung Component System Furniture



If you insist on those large traditional U.S. style workstations, Knoll has introduced this new two-person model for those who are still interested in saving space while not sacrificing user comfort or worker efficiency.

We recommend that you contact a furniture professional like our friend Dave to help you select the proper furnishings for your office needs.

## 12 63 00 – Stadium and Arena Seating



The Beijing Olympic Committee is completing beta testing of this traditional version of stadium seating for the 2008 Olympics. If testing proves successful, they expect production (planting) to begin this spring.

Early test results have shown great promise and loss of life has been minimal. The seating capacity is dependent on species and the Chinese government is currently at work on developing new larger-capacity versions.

Let the games begin!

# Technically Speaking

SFA - Section C

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

Okay, I think we finally have our schedule straightened out. Below is a list of the events and places we'll be visiting to spread the gospel of *MasterFormat 2004 Edition*. The members of the *MasterFormat* Implementation Task Team (MFITT) have many other events and programs scheduled.

<i>January 20, 2005</i>	CSI Nashville	Nashville, TN
<i>January 24, 2005</i>	BICSI Winter Conference	Orlando, FL
<i>January 24, 2005</i>	Disney Imagineering	Orlando, FL
<i>January 31, 2005</i>	AGC / AIA / CSI Iowa	Des Moines, IA
<i>February 9, 2005</i>	CSI Albuquerque	Albuquerque, NM
<i>February 15, 2005</i>	CSI Honolulu	Honolulu, HI
<i>February 15, 16, &amp; 19, 2005</i>	University of Hawaii at Manoa	Honolulu, HI
<i>February 16, 2005</i>	AIA / CSI / Building Industry Alliance of Hawaii	Honolulu, HI
<i>February 17, 2005</i>	Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii	Honolulu, HI
<i>February 21 &amp; 22, 2005</i>	CSI Salt Lake	Salt Lake City, UT
<i>February 24, 2005</i>	CSI Mississippi	Jackson, MS
<i>February 28, 2005</i>	CSI Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA
<i>March 3, 2005</i>	CSI Atlanta	Atlanta, GA
<i>March 8, 2005</i>	CSI Duluth	Duluth, MN
<i>March 28, 2005</i>	CSI Milwaukee	Milwaukee, WI
<i>April, 8-9, 2005</i>	CSI Mid-Atlantic Region	Frederick, MD
<i>April 20, 2005</i>	CSI National Convention	Chicago, IL
<i>April 28, 2005</i>	AIA South Dakota	Sioux Falls, SD
<i>May 4, 2005</i>	Coverings 2005	Orlando, FL
<i>June 9, 2005</i>	CSI Gulf Coast	Gulfport, MS
<i>June 15, 2005</i>	CSI Missouri	Columbia, MO
<i>June 20, 2005</i>	EcoBuild America	Orlando, FL
<i>July 15, 2005</i>	CSI Southeast Region Conference	San Juan, PR
<i>September 13, 2005</i>	CSI Madison	Madison, WI
<i>November 10, 2005</i>	FCIA Conference	San Diego, CA

## **Charlotte Leads Nation in *MasterFormat 2004* Implementation**

The largest and most prestigious architectural firms in Charlotte, North Carolina have agreed on a June 1, 2005 implementation date for the new *MasterFormat 2004 Edition*. This is the earliest date set for any regional implementation scheduled plan thus far. All new projects beginning after this date will use *MasterFormat 2004 Edition* as the basis for their project manuals. The list of firms making this transition together includes Little Diversified Architectural Consulting, Odell Associates, and Hall Architects, with more firms expected to join the list soon.

The Charlotte group's plans call for several training sessions on understanding the changes and how to take advantage of the greater flexibility of the new structure. The first session, entitled "Understanding the New *MasterFormat*," will discuss the reasons for the changes and the new organizational structure. The second session, entitled "Implementing the New *MasterFormat*," will discuss how to incorporate many of the new concepts into the project manual. The firms expect to begin the training sessions in early March and some major players are already lining up for the training.

## Do You Know What Today Is?

Every wondered about all the shorthand formats for writing a date? Let's look at some of the various ways to express the date of the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year 2005.

January 4, 2005	04 Jan 05
Jan. 4, 2005	1/4/05
Jan. 04, 2005	01/04/05
Jan 4, '05	01-04-05
04 Jan. 2005	04 1 05 ( <i>Canadian postal standard and my favorite</i> )
01.04.05	01-04-2005
4 Jan 05	

Abbreviate, don't abbreviate; leading zero, no leading zero; two digit year, four digit year; dots, dashes, slashes, spaces; day-month-year, month-day-year, year-month-day. Why can't we all just have one standard?

Well, now we can! According to a new proposed draft international standard, ISO/DIS 12006-3.3, "Building construction – Organization of information about construction works – Part 3: Framework for object-oriented information" (Revision of ISO/PAS 12006-3:2001) all this confusion is solved with a clear simple solution called "xtDate." This standard recommends that the date format be 'YYYY.MM.DD'. Following this, our date would be expressed as "2005.01.04".

Now aren't you all happy we could finally get that settled? According to Wayne Watson, FCSI, FCSC, RSW and Chairman of the Canadian Committee for ISO TC59 SC13, the balloting of the standard ends on Jan 24, 2005; ugh, I mean 2005.01.24.

# Other Stuff

SFA - Section D

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## New Year's Resolutions

Most of us make one or more New Years' resolutions each year, and most of these resolutions are for some form of self-improvement, like resolving to save more money, lose weight, or read more. Others make resolutions they think will improve their lives, by planning to spend more time with the family, or to just have more fun. But I've grown tired of making resolutions that always fail, and so this year, I've decided to take a more realistic view of New Years' resolutions.

First, I plan to eat more pizza and watch more garbage TV. I missed the last few episodes of *Survivor* last year and I hope not to repeat that mistake this year. As for my health, I'll do everything I can to keep my blood pressure under 90 over 150, if I can remember to check it, that is. I also want to spend more time at the office. This is a good thing because it means I am spending less time on the road. And I want to learn to accept that I am not perfect, although I must admit that I'm prepared to fail at this resolution. If I don't have at least one failure, I'm liable to get too smug and lose all my friends. And at my age, I don't really want to go out and get a whole new set of friends. The old ones were hard enough to break in.

I also resolve to solve the conundrum of the plethora of shorthand formats for dates. Did I mention that I also plan to use bigger words this year?

## CSI Introduces New Construction Document Curriculum

The *Construction Documents Education Program* (CDEP) takes the place of the *Written Construction Documents Curriculum* and corresponds to the *CSI Project Resource Manual - CSI Manual of Practice* and *MasterFormat 2004 Edition*. The curriculum is comprised of 10 one-hour sessions, and each session includes an Instructor's Guide, Student Handout, and corresponding PowerPoint presentation.

- Session 1: Introduction and Overview of Construction Documents
- Session 2: Construction Documents
- Session 3: Agreements, Contract Documents, and Document Relationships
- Session 4: Project Delivery Concepts
- Session 5: Conditions of the Contract
- Session 6: Procurement and Contract Document Modifications
- Session 7: Formats
- Session 8: Drawings and Specifications
- Session 9: Pricing, Measurement and Payment
- Session 10: Quality Requirements

The CDEP is an electronic document that is available to CSI Members for \$175 and to non-members for \$225 (+ shipping). The document CDs are scheduled to be shipped in mid to late January. Orders are now being accepted online and by phone.

Online ordering:

[www.csinet.org/bookstore](http://www.csinet.org/bookstore)

Enter the Product Code CDEP05 in the bookstore search box.

# Editorial Section

SFA - Section E

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## Earning Design Capital

by Dennis J. Hall, AIA, FCSI

First there was financial capital, then political capital, and now design capital. Before you can spend your design capital, you have to earn it, but first you have to know what design capital is. Design capital is composed of three elements that lie at the heart of quality service provided by any design practice. Let's examine each element of good design.

### Functional Excellence

Functional excellence is not simply the ability of the space or building to serve for its intended purpose, although some buildings seem to fall short of even this primary goal. A well-designed building is not only able to respond to the owner's program, but also respond equally well to any changes in that program. Functional excellence is demonstrated in the workflow of a building that shows off the efficiency of its design.

### Technical Correctness

You would think that technical correctness in the design and construction of every project would be a given, but as has been sadly shown time and again, you would be wrong. Poor detailing and even poorer construction often leaves buildings with leaky walls and roofs, cracking masonry, and other expensive and unsightly conditions. Technical correctness in material selection and design execution will make buildings more durable, easier to maintain, and in the long run a good buy for your design dollar.

### Creative Distinction

Creative distinction speaks to the aesthetic quality of the work. And while beauty may be "in the eye of the beholder," ugliness is often tattooed all over the face of a project. Creative distinction is not just bold design, but the correct use of line, proportion, form, color, and texture to create a work of extraordinary artistry that pleases the eye and lifts the soul.

Design capital is the synthesis of all three of these elements of good design into the final design solution. And while all design entails compromises, the best design is that which not only appears to have avoided them, but also allows each element to enhance the others. When your design accomplishes this, you know you have created real design capital.

As hard as it is to create design capital, it is just as easy to destroy it in the construction phase of the project. While some people like to think of the designer as the person who creates the design concept, the construction administrator and project superintendent are just as critical to the process as the project architect. Attention to detail, enforcement of the specifications, and design fine-tuning is where projects are made or broken. This is why I think design firms and construction companies need to have their most experienced and trusted members at these positions.

Few buildings are rich in design capital, but when you have it, you know it. And when you have it, spending it is really fun. Let the spending begin."