

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: Guy who writes this stuff

March 2004

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

MasterFormat 2004 to Debut at CSI Show

The new MasterFormat 2004 will debut at The CSI Show and Convention in Chicago on April 21-24. This will be the first public presentation of the full version of the new expanded titles and numbers. CSI will make the new titles and numbers available to the public on the CSI web site at csinet.org in May. This electronic document that can be downloaded will not include the users guide, key word index, and other portions of the printed document that will be available for purchase in late Fall.

CSI to Begin MasterFormat 04 Training in July

The Construction Specifications Institute is expected to kick off MasterFormat education with their “train the trainer” program scheduled to premiere in July at CSI University. Participants who complete this program will be accredited by CSI to provide MasterFormat educational programs. All CSI Region Technical Committee Chairs will be encouraged to take this training program. The highly successful CSI University will be held this year in San Antonio on July 8-10.

NIBS Apologizes for Newsletter Error

In December, the National Institute of Building Sciences newsletter announced that Version 3.0 of the US National CAD Standard (NCS) would be unveiled at AEC Systems in February. According to Sandy Shaw at NIBS, “this was discussed early last Fall, just after the NIBS IAI Council decided to go to the show.” But, somehow he forgot to inform the NIBS Newsletter Editor to delete the CAD portion from the article. That’s okay Sandy; sometimes things get into print I wish hadn’t either. Now, when is Version 3.0 going to be published? Stay tuned for further developments.

Project Resource Manual Sent to Publisher

The new Project Resource Manual (PRM) designed to replace the CSI Manual of Practice (MOP) was sent to the publisher in mid January. McGraw-Hill will publish the document in hard cover as opposed to the familiar 3-ring binder. We can expect the book to be available in June. Congratulations to Jim Robertson and the entire MOP Editorial Advisory Board.

SFA to Introduce Editorial Section

Beginning this month; we will introduce our new Editorial Section, “Section E” to *The Southern Fried Architect*. This section will include our opinion (as if we don’t like to sprinkle that in everywhere anyway) on current topics, as we will try to provide our unique leadership style to the industry. This is also where we will publish “Letters to the Editor.” Please e-mail and give us your opinions on stuff affecting the construction industry. Letters may be edited for length, strong language, and dumb statements. Please e-mail to *SFA* Letters to the Editor at dhall@hallarch.com.

MFETT Expands Numbering

After some complaints from folks that the new proposed numbering structure does not allow sufficient room in the three levels, the MasterFormat Expansion Task Team has expanded the numbering by assigning some of the Level 4 numbers in MasterFormat. A decimal point delimiter will be displayed between levels three and four.

Sticks + Stones

SFA - Section B

Welcome to another issue of *Sticks + Stones*, where we enlighten our readers on technical issues that we discover out there while we're trying to save the world, one architect at a time. We're pretty sure that engineers can't be saved but occasionally we try anyway. S+S is organized by those highly sophisticated MasterFormat 04 numbers and titles, but don't worry even architects can figure them out.

22 10 00 – Plumbing Piping

Our ol' friend Bob Caldwell from Gensler has sent us a photograph proving once again that plumbing and Porsches don't mix. Why do these opposites seem to attract? If you know the captain of this U-boat, you may want to suggest that he or she invest in some plumbing piping insulation (22 07 19) or heat tracing for plumbing piping (22 05 79). We also have some good friends with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada that would be happy to talk to them. I wonder if AAA covers this?



01 40 29 – Code-Required Special Inspections

Many jurisdictions are taking a closer look at Chapter 17 of the International Building Code and in particular, 1704 – Special Inspections. While some jurisdictions have decided to ignore this Chapter altogether, others have created elaborate requirements for both the design professional and the contractor. MasterFormat 2004 has recognized this fact and has created a section number to allow the design professional to include code specific special inspection requirements in the project manual.

Now Available in Canada!

LeSPECTra

Are your specifications not up to the job? Do they lack that “edge?” Having problems with your construction documents not being able to go the distance? Then you may need **LeSPECTra**, the new project manual and drawing review service from the editors of *The Southern Fried Architect*. We won't just review your performance and tell others of its “shortcomings” behind your back. We will give you that little bit of help that you may need so you don't embarrass yourself. Don't be fooled by other so-called “peer review” or specification services. Get the original **LeSPECTra** and **perform with confidence**.

Side effects may include confusion, dizziness, drowsiness, headache, stomach pain, nausea, and vomiting. We accept cash and certified checks from firms and professional liability insurance carriers.

For-real advertisement, don't laugh. This service is not connected with any other product or service with similar name or claims.

33 44 00 – Storm Water Drains

We recently did an investigation of a facility and ran across an area drain where the contractor did not compact the ground around the catch basin or drain piping and we got a little settlement causing the storm drainage structure to be several inches in the air. I guess that is better than the photograph below where the contractor set the catch basin on top of the concrete median. Either way, the water has an uphill battle.



www.engineeringnot.netfirms.com

We want to hear from you

If it weren't for YOU, we would quickly run out of material to write about. Please write and let us know how you are doing. We love to hear from our readers and learn what you have screwed up recently.

Legal Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this section represent only those 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. Although 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. Actual reading of this disclaimer is considered acceptance of the conditions both stated and implied, as well as forfeiture of all legal rights you may have. Gotcha! Ha ha.

Technically Speaking

SFA - Section C

Tar and Feathering: On the Road for a better MasterFormat

We begin this month with a trip to the great state of Canada, for two presentations to mechanical contractors' middle management groups. It seems that Yankees can't get enough of this MasterFormat stuff. That is why we will alternate visits between Florida and various cities in the frozen North this Spring.

Mar 6	Canadian Mechanical Contractors Educational Foundation	Toronto, Ontario
Mar 9	CSI Palm Beach/CSI Ft. Lauderdale/AIA Miami	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Mar 16	CSI Jacksonville	Jacksonville, FL
Apr 13	CSI Michigan Chapters	East Lansing, MI
Apr 23	The CSI Show and Convention	Chicago, IL

NCARB to Offer New Monograph

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) will introduce a new monograph later this year or early 2005 on preventing moisture mold problems. The monograph was written by David Odom (IAQ Man of the Year 1998) of CH2M Hill and George Dubose (some other guy) in cooperation with Disney Development Company back in the early 1990's and has been updated several times with the latest revisions in 2003. If you wish to obtain a copy prior to the price increase when NCARB republishes the document, you can do so through Dave at CH2M Hill for \$75. He can be reached at jodom@ch2m.com.

Canadian Best Practice Series is the Best

A couple of months ago I ordered a copy of "Woodframe Envelopes in the Coastal Climate of British Columbia," part of the Best Practice Guide Building Technology series by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). A couple of Canadian specifiers turned me on to this series of documents, and to my surprise, this is one of the best technical documents on wood frame construction I have found. The three-ring binder is packed with detail and explanation. It also has a CD with all the details in .dwg file format. And even better, it was pretty cheap when you consider the exchange rate in US dollars.

Now I want the entire series. So, I plan to spread out the \$89 Canadian per document and order a new document every couple months. If you are interested in a really good document that is worth the price for a change, you can order yours at 1.613.748.2003 or at www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca.

AIA Document Update

We continue to bring you our suggested changes to AIA documents. This month we present changes to AIA Document B141-1997: Form of Owner-Architect Agreement. Below is an annotated copy of the text we recommend that require modification. Since MasterFormat 04 will be released later this year, you will need to modify the AIA documents to keep pace with the changes until the AIA gets around to updating the documents in 2007. We have sent a copy of our suggestions to Barbara Heller, CSI, FAIA, Chairperson of the AIA Documents Committee and we hope to hear back from her soon. As soon as we do, we will let you know. Here are our recommendations to Barbara.

AIA Document B141-1997

2.4 DESIGN SERVICES

2.4.4 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

2.4.4.2 During the development of the Construction Documents, the Architect shall assist the Owner in the development and preparation of: (1) ~~bidding and procurement information which describes the time, place and conditions of receipt of bids or proposals; bidding; bidding or proposal procurement forms and supplements; and the contracting forms of agreement between the Owner and the Contractor;~~ and (2) the Conditions of the Contract for Construction (General, and Supplementary ~~and other~~ Conditions). The Architect also shall compile the Project Manual that includes the ~~Conditions of the Contract for Construction~~ **Procurement and Contracting Requirements** and Specifications ~~and may include bidding requirements and sample forms.~~

2.5 CONSTRUCTION PROCUREMENT SERVICES

2.5.4 COMPETITIVE BIDDING

2.5.4.1 Bidding Documents shall consist of **Procurement and Contracting Requirements**, ~~bidding requirements, proposed contract forms, General Conditions and Supplementary Conditions,~~ Specifications and Drawings.

2.5.5 NEGOTIATED PROPOSALS

2.5.5.1 Proposal Documents shall consist of **Procurement and Contracting Requirements**, ~~proposal requirements, proposed contract forms, General Conditions and Supplementary Conditions,~~ Specifications and Drawings.

ARTICLE 3 CONTRACTOR

3.2 REVIEW OF CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND FIELD CONDITIONS BY CONTRACTOR.

3.2.1 Since the Contract Documents are complementary, before starting each portion of the Work, the Contractor shall carefully study and compare the ~~various~~ Drawings, Specifications, and other Contract Documents relative to that portion of the work, as well as the information furnished by the Owner pursuant to Subparagraph 2.2.3, shall take field measurements of any existing conditions related to that portion of the Work and shall observe any conditions at the site affecting it. These obligations are for the purpose of facilitating construction by the Contractor and are not for the purpose of discovering errors, omissions or inconsistencies in the Contract Documents; however, any errors, inconsistencies or omissions discover by the Contractor shall be reported promptly to the Architect as a request for information in such form as the Architect may require.

3.11 DOCUMENTS AND SAMPLES AT THE SITE

3.11.1 The Contractor shall maintain at the site for the Owner one record copy of the Drawings, Specifications, Addenda, ~~Change Orders,~~ Clarifications, and ~~other~~ Modifications, in good order and marked currently to record field changes and selections made during construction, and one record copy of approved Shop Drawings, Product Data, Samples and similar required submittals. These shall be available to the Architect and shall be delivered to the Architect for submittal to the Owner upon completion of the Work.

Other Stuff

SFA - Section D

A Conversation with Me

In October of last year, I made a MasterFormat presentation at a joint meeting of AIA Akron, CSI Akron-Canton, and Kent State University School of Architecture. About 300 folks showed up for dinner and the presentation. In the course of negotiations for my sizable speaker's fee, David Wyatt and I exchanged e-mail for about a week. Below is a portion of those e-mail communications that appeared in some publication or another.

An Interesting Conversation....

While in the process of planning the October meeting, this email came across my Inbox and it is too funny to keep to myself or those parties involved. If you all have been reading this newsletter from cover to cover (and you better be - we all work hard on this each month!), you would have read the article on the previous page discussing the changes to MasterFormat and the October meeting. The following conversation took place over several days between Dave Wyatt, our Past President Professional, and Dennis Hall, our speaker for the October meeting. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did! (I did take some liberty of reformatting this from the email for your reading ease) - Brandilyn Fry, CSI

Dennis: I am confirming airline reservations and am planning to fly into Akron, on Oct 16, and out the next morning. If this is correct, please advise.

Dave: Yes! And I am glad you contact me, because I wanted to see if you need a check to secure your reservations. Let me know if you do, as well as the amount you need, and the chapter treasurer will send one to you... as soon as we can find him. Now for some unimportant stuff: Many North Carolinians do not regard beef as the basis for genuine barbeque, nor ketchup-based sauce. Is this true?

Dennis: True. Real Bar-Be-Que, (BBQ) is made from pork. It is chopped or sliced. Chopped is better and preferred by true BBQ aficionados. Beef is used for steaks, burger, and chili. All good stuff, but it is not BBQ. Ketchup-based sauce is for beef and generally not very good period, regardless of the type of meat one applies it to. It should only be used for polishing Oxblood shoes and never for real BBQ.

Dave: Are vinegar-based sauces available in stores, or do you have to make them at home from scratch?

Dennis: Yes, the Eastern style and Lexington style are the best. Mustard based is available from South Carolina, but it is not as good as Eastern style.

Dave: Also, is tobacco considered a vegetable in North Carolina? My sister-in-law, who is from Winston-Salem, has not spoken to me since I asked her this.

Dennis: No. It is considered an accessory ingredient. Good BBQ sauce already had the proper mixture of spices and does not need extra Tabasco, but we put it on the table if needed. Winston-Salem is one of only two cities in NC that uses a hyphen in its name, but we will excuse her anyway since she obviously knows BBQ well.

Dave: Thanks for your answers, Dennis. Perhaps I can exert some change in the area before you get here. By the way, my last question was about tobacco, not Tabasco. But thanks anyway. Perhaps it was my 'Northern' accent (as if we really have one) that caused the confusion.

Now that you have enlightened me about ketchup, I have noticed that my dogs don't appreciate ketchup or ketchup-based products served with their food. And dogs will try just about anything.

Dennis: Tobacco is a weed like kudzu, except it is not as healthy for you. Sorry, I was still thinking about BBQ and lost my concentration.

Dave: Thanks for clearing that up. Now just a couple more questions and I'll let you go. Where do reinforced blue tarps fit in the new MasterFormat scheme? I have seen them used to cover broken-down cars, usually ballasted with old tires. I have also seen them used as roofing, presumably a temporary measure, but in some cases permanent. Have also seen them used as siding, again mostly temporary but sometimes permanent. The more creative uses for them have been in rural areas, which brings me to another point....*(continued)*

Dennis: MasterFormat is an organization for work results not products. Blue tarps are a product and can be found in Table 23 of OmniClass I believe under "Sheet stuff." As a product, blue tarps can be properly specified in numerous sections of MasterFormat depending on their application. Although primarily used as a temporary covering, they seem to be a permanent product when it comes to roofing materials for mobile homes. Yes, old tires are a very good ballast product, except for its attribute of collecting rainwater, which increases mosquitoes. This problem can be solved using a shotgun to install a drainage path, but this is means and methods, and we generally leave this up to the contractor except when we specified a 16-gage hole. This is also part of the recycling process of old tires and will provide the designer with several LEED points.

Dave: On trash day I notice ketchup-based product containers near the tipped-over trashcans in front of the houses of people who use blue tarps in creative ways. Is there a connection between ketchup consumption, rural lifestyle, and creativity? Note: All of these examples have involved Ohioans.

Dennis: Generally ketchup consumption is directly proportional to the number of children in the family. Large numbers of children are generally found in Catholic communities and in communities with high alcohol consumption. The phrase "I was so drunk I forgot" is commonly the excuse to explain this phenomena. The relationship of blue tarps and ketchup products is still a mystery; however I believe it has to do with the natural attraction of plastic products. When ketchup came in glass bottles, we did not have this problem. I also see old "Big Wheels" and other plastic products that are attracted to each other.

Dave: Finally, is metal detecting a sport, a hobby, or a career? I have heard of people quitting their jobs to look for lost watches and gold florins in parks and along beaches. What's up with that?

Dennis: Metal detecting is more than a sport or a hobby; it's a lifestyle. There are entire communities of these folks. Generally alcohol, children, and ketchup are not involved. Scientists are working on this problem as I type, but it is generally believed that a chemical in the brain causes the individual to become a metal detectite. This group is often shunned by so-called 'normal folk'. A cure is still several years away. Some believe that metal detectites are born and not made and this is their personal lifestyle and the government should "stay the hell out of their business". Hope I have helped.

Dave: See you on the 16th of October.

Editorial Section

SFA - Section E

Doesn't Anyone Have a Sense of Humor Any More?

It seems that more than a couple (actually three) folks have taken offense to the February issue of the *SFA*. We have heard from women about the civil engineering poster, animal rights folks about the photo of the dead and pavement marked possum, and from the National Model Railroad Association concerning actually being compared to so-called "professional" engineers. It seems the only group that was not offended by the February edition was the one group we were poking a little fun at. This is another thing I like about engineers; little things just roll off their backs like water on high viscosity rubber-asphalt fluid applied waterproofing. If it is not a matter of life-safety or violates some engineering principle, it is just not that important.

To understand this publication, one must understand one of the big primes, "God has a sense of humor." I believe this is true and I have several reasons to support my theory: 1) we are created in his image and most of us have a sense of humor, 2) we need humor to deal with all the stress and bad stuff that happens in the world, and 3) even God likes a good joke and that is where we come in.

We certainly apologize to any person or group who feels that last month's *SFA* was either demeaning or in bad taste. That was not the intent. This publication has three levels of review following the writing and prior to distribution, and in all cases the reviews felt the information was presented with humor and within the bounds of our low professional standards.

We even got an e-mail from a left coast public agency complaining about the civil engineering poster. When I responded with an apology, they countered with the fact that the complaint was only meant as humor and was surprised that I didn't read the sarcasm in the e-mail. I guess the joke was on me.