

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

October 2004

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

AIA Board Votes on *MasterFormat* 2004

The AIA Board of Directors voted at their September meeting to support an educational program for *MasterFormat* 2004 in February 2005. Our sources tell us that the Board believes that the education of architects in the new structure is critical to the industry and the AIA intends to pursue this goal strongly in 2005.

Ecobuild America Premieres in 2005

Ecobuild America premieres June 20-23, 2005 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, FL. This event will focus on the needs of the expanding green building market, the unique event combines sustainable building techniques with the technology that supports the entire process from concept, through design, construction and long-term operation.

The folks that are sponsoring Ecobuild have also designated the educational portion of the show as the National Specifiers Conference. Topics under consideration for this event are: Marketing Spec Services to Design Professionals; Improving Spec Production by Advanced Use of Microsoft Word; Trends in Specifying Glass, Masonry and Roofing; GreenSpecs/LEED Specs; and Creating Master Specifications for Firms and Corporations. Who knows, *MasterFormat* 2004 might even find a place in there somewhere?

For more information go to: www.ecobuildamerica.com

Schinnerer Supports *MasterFormat* 2004

Professional insurance carrier, Victor O. Schinnerer & Company has come out in support of *MasterFormat* 2004 in a recent article. The article states, “[W]e feel that the changes are needed, are logical, and are beneficial to architects and engineers.” This is the first professional liability insurance carrier to endorse the new edition, but it seems to be just a start of the folks jumping on the *MasterFormat* 2004 bandwagon. Okay, maybe it’s not a bandwagon yet, but it has four wheels and it’s rolling.

New Version of BSD SpecLink Now Available (with *MasterFormat* 2004)

In September, CSI and BSD announced the release of the latest version of SpecLink, the first national master guide specification system to convert to the new *MasterFormat* 2004. The new software will also include Perspective, the performance-based specification database, and other cool stuff. For more information on SpecLink, contact BSD at www.bssoftlink.com or at 888.273.7638.

PRM Now Available, Really!

The Project Reference Manual originally scheduled for release in June, then July, then August, is now available. If you didn’t buy it at the prepublication price, you have no one to blame but yourself; after all, how many more delays in publication could you expect? I’m still waiting on my copy to arrive; I’m sure it’ll be worth the wait.

UFGS Deadline for *MasterFormat* Conversion Slips

According to our sources, the DOD plans to revise their previously unannounced schedule to convert to the new *MasterFormat* 2004 by the end of the year to a new unannounced schedule to convert by October 2005. Don’t expect any further announcements on this.

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 tradition construction practices or work results using those great, almost new *MasterFormat* 2004 numbers and titles. Below are a few things that we thought you might like to know.

13 60 13 – Hurricane Straps



SFA Industries is proud to introduce to you the latest technology in wind uplift restraints. Our good friend from Florida, contractor Sheldon McCartney, CSI, sent us this photo of this new system in use in the Sunshine State. And who says imagination is dead?

While neither *MasterFormat* 1995 nor 2004 actually has Hurricane Straps as a title, the new structure gives us plenty of room to assign numbers and titles when new stuff like this is developed.

00 72 00 – General Conditions



The AIA General Conditions require the contractor to keep a set of drawings and specs on the job site for use by the architect. They just don't bother to tell them they must be kept in usable condition. This set of drawings was found on a job site by Vito Tamborrino, one of our regular readers. I guess the contractor is technically in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

05 51 00 – Metal Stairs



This month we are going to Virginia to make a *MasterFormat* presentation and so our ole friend Joe Anetrella, sent us this photo of a fire escape at a hotel in that great state. Humm, I guess this may confirm our suspicion that there is a need for a national building code or that the folks in Virginia are just different from the rest of us. Either way, they at least could have coordinated the color of the storefront entrance with the color of the mullions.

Oh yea, and what's with those door pulls?

09 01 60 – Maintenance of Flooring



All construction work must be properly maintained, and sometimes individuals get creative in the techniques they use for this purpose. David Wyatt sent us this photo of a mechanical attachment that can be used in lieu of an adhesive for vinyl base. We suspect this photo was taken at an architect's office, based on the other photos that accompanied this one and the fact that a competent maintenance worker would never use push-pins. Duct tape or caulk "yes," but never push-pins.

Technically Speaking

SFA - Section C

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

In September, we hit the road again for more *MasterFormat* fun and excitement. Below are our stops in the early fall.

Oct 2	AIA Louisiana Design Conference	Baton Rouge, LA
Oct 5	CSI/AIA Maine	Portland, ME
Oct 7	CSI Tidewater	Virginia Beach, VA
Oct 14	AIA Georgia	Atlanta, GA
Oct 21	CSI Triad	Greensboro, NC
Oct 26	ASPE National Conference	Cleveland, OH
Oct 27	CSI Product Representative Academy	Denver, CO
Nov 5	Construction Owners Association of America	Nashville, TN
Nov 8	CSI Willamette Valley	Eugene, OR
Nov 9	Northwest Construction Consumer Council	Seattle, WA
Nov 10	Port of Tacoma	Tacoma, WA
Nov 11	CSI Seattle	Seattle, WA
Nov 12	CSI Idaho	Boise, IO
Nov 16	Build Boston	Boston, MA
Nov 16	CSI New Hampshire	Manchester, NH
Nov 22	CSI Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA

UDS Program Task Team Updates Document

Under the quasi-expert guidance of Rick Green, RA, CSI, CCS, LEED 2.0 AP, the Uniform Drawing System Program Task Team has been busy updating the document to reflect the new *MasterFormat 2004*. The major changes will include expanded discussion on schedules in the Specifications and reorganization of Symbols by *MasterFormat 2004* Divisions.

Specifications Competition

With CSI canceling this year's National Specification Competition, the CSI Gulf States Region now conducts the largest specifications competition in the country. This competition is open to all design professionals and students as well. For more information contact Dudley L. Flotte, CSI, CCS, AIA; CSI 2005 Gulf States Region Competition, Chairman at 251-968-6700 or Email:

architect@iname.com.

Stonework Symposium 2004

The Stone Foundation and the American College of the Building Arts will present Stonework Symposium 2004 in Charleston, SC on November 13-15. Other related stone stuff is planned the entire week so this should really be a rockin' good time. Okay, I'm sorry. For more information see www.stonefoundation.org.

Other Stuff

SFA - Section D

Book Review

Architectural Office Practices and Standards

by Larry D. Jenks, AIA, CSI

If you are starting a new architectural firm there are several things one must have; a good attorney, a banker, an accountant, an insurance agent, and a copy of *Architectural Office Practices and Standards* (AOPS). While the first four will set you back thousands of dollars and only make you feel worse about your decision to start your own firm, the latter will provide you with guidance on the fundamentals of setting your practice up and working toward that great concept of “profit.” And while I have known many firms that have operated for years without achieving this elusive goal, it is not a pretty thing to watch.

Most firms develop their office practice standards by stealing them from their previous employer, who stole them from their previous employer, who...I think you get the picture. And while tried and tested is good, it is not always true. The problem is sometimes we just keep repeating the same old mistakes. Larry Jenks has taken his many years of experience as a principal and Director of Operations with a large architectural firm in Denver, CO and applied current national thinking to the subject of architectural office practice standards. The result is this document that comes in both hard copy and electronic format (you should order both), and which includes dozens of office forms, checklists, and templates that can be customized to fit your practice. When I complained that there wasn't an index of these electronic forms, Larry created one and sent it to me. How's that for being responsive to your users?

AOPS is copyrighted in 2004 and the document is the most complete and up-to-date book available on this subject. There are currently changes in the works (like the update to the UDS, new PRM and *MasterFormat* 2004) that will require the document to be updated within the next year to stay current, but since it comes in an electronic version, this would be relatively easy to do.

The document, while particularly helpful to new firms, is also a great tool for any firm looking to bring their current office standards up to date. And while your office practice standards may not ever be evaluated as to how they meet the requirement to practice to the standards of care of the profession, one never knows, they just may. If so, the correct use of these practice standards could end up saving you hundreds of thousands of dollars in court.

The cost is \$300 for all five volumes of the document in both the hard copy and electronic. We consider this an *SFA* Best Buy. To get your copy, contact The JNX Group at 720.231.0634 or e-mail at larry@jnxgroup.com for more information.

SFA Wins Electronic Media Award

Believe it or not, the Southeast Region of the Construction Specifications Institute awarded *The Southern Fried Architect* its prestigious Electronic Media Award at the Region Conference in Atlanta, GA on September 23. Dennis J. Hall, guy who writes this stuff, picked up the award for the publication. The award will be prominently displayed in the world-wide headquarters of the *SFA* organization.

Editorial Section

SFA - Section E

A couple of months ago, our good friend Joy Davis asked me to write a short article for the October issue of the *CSI NewsDigest*. Below is a reprint of that article, which will run in this month's issue. I thought I would get double-duty out of this work.

Understanding “Work Results”

MasterFormat is defined as master list of numbers and titles classified by work results or construction practices, that's used primarily to organize project manuals, organize detailed cost information, and relate drawing notations to specifications. The Procurement and Contracting Requirements Group of *MasterFormat* 2004 is based upon the tradition construction practices for these efforts, while the Specifications Group is based upon classification of information by “work results.”

The term “work results” is often misunderstood. Its origin can be found in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standard 12006-2: *Organization of Information about Construction Work - Part 2: Framework for Classification of Information*. This ISO standard underlies *OmniClass*, a North American effort to classify all objects that comprise the built environment and describe them from various points of view. *OmniClass* defines work results as “construction entities viewed as the result of applying particular skills and techniques to construction products and resources,” or, put more simply, what “results,” what's left behind by the proper completion of the work. The Divisions in the Specifications Group of *MasterFormat* 2004 provide the content for and are an application of *OmniClass* Table 22 - Work Results. As such, a specification section may also be considered to be a “work results” section.

A work results section describes the general requirements, product requirements, and the execution requirements for the work included in the section. Therefore, the work results section for “Carpeting” is not only about describing the requirements for the product “carpet,” but also the requirements for the approval, installation, and support of that and the other products (adhesive, padding, etc.) that will ultimately comprise the work result. As an example, the requirements for the Carpeting work result section might include the following information.

General Requirements

- Product submittals
- Warranty

Product Requirements

- Carpet
- Adhesive
- Padding
- Tack Strip

Execution Requirements

- Preparation
- Installation
- Protection

Of course, an object may be both a product and a work result. When I was in graduate school in St. Louis, I visited the Anheuser-Bush brewery. The expert care and effort applied to the various products of water, hops, malts, rice, and other ingredients, along with the bottling process, resulted in the work result of “beer.” However, beer in my refrigerator is a consumable product. Clearly, the finished work result of one person’s actions may be only a product in another person’s eyes. For example, a 2 x 4 may be a work result for the lumber mill and a product when they’ve been delivered and are sitting in a pile by my back deck where I consume my beer.

This concept of differing products from work results is at the heart of many of the changes in Section titles in *MasterFormat* 2004. The use of verbs instead of nouns is intended to imply the results of these actions or “work results.” Of course, some subject matter still has titles that are nouns because one simply can not make a verb out of every Section title. In these cases, just assume the word “Work” is included in the title, such as Wood Door “Work” or Cast-in-Place Concrete “Work.” Doing so will help reinforce the notion of work results.

I hope this has given you a better understanding of “work results,” but if you’re still confused, I suggest you sit down, have a beer, and just think about it a little more. If you just do that, I’m sure that you’ll soon feel much better about your understanding of “work results.”