

# The Southern Fried Architect

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

September 2005

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**Nina Giglio, CSI, CCS, Assoc. AIA, SCIP:** Ghost editor, Spec Winch, and she who fixes this stuff

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## MasterFormat 2004 Translated into Spanish

Soon, in addition to English and French, you will be able to get your favorite “work results” organizational structure in Spanish. The CSI Costa Rico Chapter is approximately sixty (60%) percent complete with the translation. We are still waiting for the Southern version, but so far no one has stepped up to translate it.

## Construct Canada 2005 Expects 21K+

This year will mark the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Construct Canada show, with participation from more than 40 professional and industry groups and more that 1,000 exhibitors. They tell me that they expect more than 21,000 attendees, but only one *Southern Fried Architect*. On Wednesday, November 30, the Presidents of Graphisoft and Gehry Technologies will be making presentations on how technology is affecting the design, construction and facility management professionals. They will be speaking at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. respectively. This being the day to discuss facility information and the future, yours truly will be expatiating on the topics of OCCS, BIM, the changing profession of architecture, and other stuff beginning at 2:30 p.m. If you happen to be in Toronto on this day and have nothing more important to do, you may want to drop by.

Tom Dunbar, FCSC a really smart guy who works with the Canadian Public Works and I will also do a presentation on MasterFormat 2004 and how to specify moose goosing, ice hockey, and other Canadian stuff, on December 1. Okay, we will just be talking about MasterFormat, but I am sure this other stuff will come up sometime.

## AIA Holds Sustainability Policy Summit

In August we attended the AIA Sustainability Summit in Washington at the AIA Headquarters. In attendance were leaders in government, sustainable design rating systems, media, material suppliers, professional and industry organizations, and many more. We learned a lot about how things work and what you need to know is: the AIA is political; the USGBC is political; the government is political and the Green Building Network, the Health Building Network, and the forest, steel, plastic, and concrete industries are all political. Occasionally, good things get done despite all the other stuff.

## MasterFormat 2004 Moves West

Despite the perception that all new and innovative ideas move from the left coast east, in August members of the Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice (SCIP) and other specification professionals in the LA/Orange County met to discuss MasterFormat 2004 implementation. Their conclusion was that this is not as bad as first thought, it solves a lot of problems, and so let's just do it. Duh, we in the South came to that conclusion months ago. The implementation curve STILL anticipates that by April 2006, the majority of design firms will have implemented the new structure.



## 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. This month we salute workers around the world. There are many tasks that folks just want to hire out and Dr. Ted Smith of ARCOM has sent us a few. I guess preparing master guide specifications might be one of them, but we could not find a picture of a specifier actually working.

### 26 01 50 – Operation and Maintenance of Lighting



#### Lamp Replacement Specialist:

Did you ever wonder who changes the lamps at the top of all those radio and TV towers? Well, here is a “bird’s-eye” view of those brave souls, hard at work.

BTW: TIA –22-G, Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Support Structures is coming out soon. It will include a section on how many men it takes to change a light bulb on an antenna structure.

### 34 01 13 – Operation and Maintenance of Roadways



#### Street Cleaner:

Keeping the streets of your average city in China clean is a tough job and it takes the right equipment. And they talk about “yankee know-how.” Here we see a clever street sweeper performing regular maintenance.

### 02 56 13 – Waste Containment



#### Zoo Waste Disposal Specialist:

Those of you that grew up on a farm understand this procedure, but when you have an entire zoological park full of these waste-producing specimens, it takes a real professional to deal with this situation.

## 11 67 23 – Shooting Range Equipment



### Shooting Range Target Holder:

This job does not require much skill, but it does require confidence in your co-workers and nerves of steel. I understand that a few new openings have recently become available, so you may want to get your application in now before they're all gone.

This job is considered a good training position for CSI Institute President as the only difference is that you have stand while holding the target as Institute President. Other than that, it is pretty much the same.

## 01 93 16 – Recycling Programs



The alternate section title and number would be 14 90 00 Other Conveying Equipment. Yet another example of the flexibility built into MasterFormat 2004 to allow the user to determine the most appropriate application.

## 11 44 00 – Food Cooking Equipment



### Short Order Cook:

Yes, you to can learn fine culinary skills at the Ho Chi Minh School of Culinary Arts. This work/study program guarantees you a job upon graduation.

I sure hope they washed those utensils before making the eggs.

# Technically Speaking

SFA - Section C

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

With the creation of the *MasterFormat* Accredited Instructor program and the fact that I am old and tired, we are cutting way back on our personal *MasterFormat* speaking schedule. Below is my current schedule for *MasterFormat* speaking for the rest of the year.

<i>September 13, 2005</i>	CSI Madison	Madison, WI
<i>September 22, 2005</i>	CSI Sun Coast	Sarasota, FL
<i>October 17, 2005</i>	SMACNA	Palm Springs, CA
<i>November 9, 2005</i>	CSI San Diego	San Diego, CA
<i>November 10, 2005</i>	FCIA Conference	San Diego, CA
<i>November 30, 2005</i>	Construct Canada	Toronto, ON
<i>January 19, 2006</i>	CSI Dallas	Dallas, TX

## **Autodesk Makes Business Case for NCS**

Is it possible that soon a set of US National CAD Standard template documents will be just a mouse click away on your AutoCAD desktop? Well, maybe. On August 23, Jerry Jackson, with Autodesk spent some time in our office discussing just that possibility. After more than ten years of discussions with Autodesk, it now seems the stars may be in the right place for this dream to come true. Jerry is working on preparing a business case for Autodesk.

What would this mean to AutoCAD users? NCS compliant formats would be established as templates for standard drawing sheets, cover sheets, code-requirement (General) sheets, schedule and diagram sheets, and more. The AIA CAD layering guidelines could be set up as layering formats for different project sizes. By selecting a standard door symbol and placing it on the drawing it could be automatically numbered and then placed in your door and hardware schedule. Just type an abbreviation and the entire term is placed on the drawings, and much, much more.

Rumor has it that Bentley has now signed a deal to put the NCS on their platform. With Bentley on board, can Autodesk be far behind?

## **NCS Guide Book Scheduled for Release for AIA Convention**

Speaking of the NCS, *The Architect's Guide to the US National CAD Standard*, a reference guide to the standard is still scheduled for release next April, just in time for the AIA National Convention in LA. This AIA book, published by John Wiley & Sons and written by a couple of yahoos that can hardly write their own names, is sure to make the Mt. Pleasant, SC best sellers list. I suspect they will be in LA for the Convention, signing copies of the book for their adoring public, and generally making a nuisance of themselves. Being accustomed to construction, I am expecting some publishing problem to cause a delay, change orders, and the whole thing eventually going into litigation. Yea, I am an optimist.

## **CSI Creates Directory of MasterFormat 2004 Users**

CSI is in the process of pulling together a national list of owners, designers, and information providers that have made the switch or are scheduled to switch to the new MasterFormat 2004. The problem is that this list may be

growing faster than anyone can keep pace with. If you would like to have your group listed, contact Joy Davis at [jdavis@csinet.org](mailto:jdavis@csinet.org).

# Other Stuff

*SFA* - Section D

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## ***SFA* Names New Ghost Editor**

We are pleased to name Nina Giglio, CSI, CCS, Assoc. AIA, SCIP as the new ghost editor of the *Southern Fried Architect*. She replaces the extraordinary Greg Ceton who after several years of excellent work has decided not to exercise the option to renew his contract.

Nina, the Spec Winch, brings years of experience in fixing my stuff and will add a more feminine and softer side to the publication (God help us). After all, women make up twelve (12%) percent of the construction industry and we at *SFA* want to continue our goal of being one step ahead of both the knowledge curve and the law.

## **Songs of Southern Residential Construction**

Ken Kanline has been involved with the Southern Building Show and the Chrysalis Awards for Remodeling Excellence for the past 13 years, and one of the highlights of these events has always been an original selection of humorous songs about homebuilding and remodeling. After all this time, Ken finally had enough material, encouragement, (and spare change) to step into the recording studio and put together a CD. These songs were written for industry professionals, but the joys and frustrations of the industry cross all boundaries and if you wish to plunk down \$12 you can get your own complete copy. To sample a few of his favorites go to [www.buildingsongs.com](http://www.buildingsongs.com) and check it out. Oh, be sure to let us know which ones you like.

## **SCIP Affiliates Welcome**

With the approval of amendments to the Specification Consultants in Independent Practice (SCIP) bylaws, the organization is opening up its membership ranks to non-independent specification consultants. This is the first major step in the growth of the organization in its history. And for only \$25, it is still the best deal in the industry. To join, go to [www.scip.com](http://www.scip.com) and download a membership application. Membership is on a fiscal year basis that begins on July 1 of each year. And if you are a cheapskate, you can get a six-month membership from January through June for only \$12.50.

## ***SFA* Hall-O-Ween Edition Coming Next Month**

Next month is October and time for the long awaited Hall-O-Ween edition of the *SFA*. This edition will include interviews with some of your favorite technical geeks, a special Hall-O-Ween Sticks and Stones, and lots of other stuff as we take a little poke at ourselves and others that just get in the way. This will be yet another “can’t miss” edition and I know I can’t wait to see what we come up with.

# Editorial Section

SFA - Section E

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## Taking Off the Hoods of Secrecy

by Dennis J. Hall, FAIA, FCSI, SCIP

We here in the south have a long history with a group of folks that may have begun with good intentions, but very soon became a masked group of vigilantes doing and saying bad things. They copped good and historic symbols and used them to symbolize their hate and discontent. They hid their faces and their identity from the public and became an underground movement polluting the minds of the uninformed with their anger.

Recently, one of the industry's best construction industry websites, that also provides online discussion forums for technical information, and a personal favorite of mine, seems to have been overrun by a similar group, this time spreading their "truth" via the Internet, while concealing their identity via "anonymous" postings. While their subject matter is completely different, their tactics are the same; disregard of factuality and attacking others from behind the security of anonymity. Despite my online request, calling for an end to these anonymous postings, the moderator of this forum apparently sees only the dollars gained through the activity generated.

The half-truths, innuendos, and blatant misrepresentations are certainly a concern to me, but it is the fact that these folks can do so in such a cowardly manner that has really gotten my dander up. While there have been a few individuals that have had the courage to post their names, some of them admit to secret e-mails and telephone conversations with the "anonyms" and they have become the conduit of misinformation. Freedom of expression is one of the most fundamental rights that individuals in the United States enjoy, and I for one certainly enjoy intellectual discourse. But, it is the lack of willingness to own one's expressions, that I protest, and the fear of retaliation is the excuse to which they claim the need for obscurity. If in fact they were bringing to light the truth, why would they need to hide? It is time to take the off the hoods of secrecy.

Therefore, I am beginning my personal boycott of 4Specs.com. I have removed it from my Internet browser favorites list, and do not plan to use the site for product searches or participate on its discussion forums in the foreseeable future. I know this won't do a lot of good, but it may just be the small things that we do in life that really count. Like refusing to use certain bad language or spitting on the sidewalk.

In the meantime, we will begin a search of other online discussion forums and construction product search engines and provide you, our faithful readers, with a review of each in the "Technically Speaking" section of this publication. Who knows, maybe we have been overlooking some really good folks out there.

The Specification Consultants in Independent Practice (SCIP) is in the process of reworking their website and this would be a great place for a technical discussion forum. I have encouraged Webmaster, David Lorenzini, FCSI and the SCIP Board to consider the creation of such a discussion forum. Since most of the valuable discussions on the 4Specs website is from SCIP members and affiliates, making the updated SCIP website the logical location for a new technical discussion forum just makes good sense. Besides, all the SCIP members that I know are not afraid of having their names associated with their opinions.