The Southern Fried Architect

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

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April 2004

Special CSI Convention Issue

Each year in April, (since the CSI Convention was moved to April last year) we bring you the special CSI Convention edition of The Southern Fried Architect. In this issue we try to preview some of the stuff that may not show up in the “official” CSI Show On Site Guide.

MasterFormat 2004 to Debut at CSI Show
Last month we announced that MasterFormat 2004 numbers and titles would debut at the CSI Show. To get a first good look at the details of the new numbers and titles, just come by the CSI Showcase Booth anytime during exhibit hours and take a gander. Members of the MasterFormat Expansion Task Team will also be in the technical area of the CSI Showcase Booth and will be happy to explain the revisions and answer questions.

SFA Coffee Mugs to Debut at CSI Show
Now for the really important news! The fine folks from AEC Daily, distributors of The Southern Fried Architect, promise that the highly anticipated and coveted SFA/Sticks + Stones coffee mugs will be available in time for the Show. And better yet, they’re FREE! All you need to do in order to get your very own mug is ask. That’s it! No long survey to take, no time-share presentation to watch, and no purchase necessary. Just come to the AEC Daily booth and say “Hey, Southern Fried Architect, give me the mug.” And as usual, mugs are available while supplies last, this offer not available in stores, and we do not ship.

McGraw-Hill to present 2004 Sweets Marketplace Awards
In early March, four incredibly talented architects from across the East and Mid-West (the only true centers of design and culture) met in Chicago to judge print and electronic catalogs in this year’s Sweets Marketplace Awards. The winners will be recognized at a special event held on Thursday evening at the CSI Show. Congratulations to all the winners including Construction Specialties, named this year’s Best in Sweets.

SCIP Holds Annual Meeting after CSI Show
The Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice, better known as SCIP (pronounced “skip”) will hold their annual meeting on April 24-25 at the Chicago Athletic Club. If you’re interested in attending, please contact SCIP President, Kern Dodd-Hanson, better known as Dane (pronounced “Dane”). This year, SCIP is planning a dinner cruise on the Chicago River for Thursday evening. Let’s see, trapped on a boat with a bunch of specifications pinheads for several hours in sub-freezing weather with a 30 MPH wind blowing, yeah, that sounds like just my idea of a real fun time. Please come join us on the cruise, as we’ll need the body heat for warmth.
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. Once again this month, *S+S* will provide a little more insight into some of those highly sophisticated MasterFormat 2004 numbers and titles.

**00 70 00 – Conditions of the Contract**
Currently, the AIA defines Conditions of the Contract to include General Conditions, Supplementary Conditions and other Conditions. This is one of those changes to be made in your AIA documents, as MasterFormat 2004 only includes General Conditions and Supplementary Conditions, in addition to Contracting Definitions, as parts of Conditions of the Contract. Supplementary Conditions include insurance requirements, MWBE requirements, wage rate requirements, and all kinds of other stuff, mostly Owner or statutory requirements.

**22 07 00 – Plumbing Insulation**
Plumbing Insulation is a new title for MasterFormat 2004. In MasterFormat 95 there was only Mechanical Insulation. In MF 04 there are two divisions where the number 07 appears at Level 2, Division 22 - Plumbing and Division 23 - Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning, and in both cases this number is for insulation.

**03 30 00 – Cast-in-Place Concrete**

Speaking of plumbing, today boys and girls we will discuss construction tolerances in concrete forming. This photo was sent to us by Todd Stine, AIA, from Seattle, and indicates a slight problem in “plumb” on a parking deck project. We had this problem once on another project. In order to correct the “plumb,” the contractor chipped away the concrete on one side of the column, removed some of those pesky steel stirrups, and patched the column so it achieved plumb. This is not the procedure we recommend for this type of concrete repair, but once again, it proves the construction creativity that those contractors are famous for.
09 65 00 – Resilient Flooring
Occasionally, we find a contractor that likes to get the structure under roof prior to pouring the concrete slab on grade. This can present several problems with resilient flooring. First, if a curing compound is used, the UV rays help to break down the compound. Second, a concrete slab under roof dries very, very slowly and can still have moisture in the slab when the flooring is installed. This can create problems with some adhesives. We are currently investigating some schools where the VCT is moving. When we removed the tile, the adhesive looked like mayonnaise. Final chemistry is not complete but it looks like the slab did not fully dehydrate prior to the VCT being installed.

07 07 00 – Firestopping
Our ol’ friend Richard Weatherby, FCSI, of Baltimore, sent us this detail for a duck penetration. Yea, we know it’s an old joke, but Dick is an old guy. By the way, it’s still funny. Did you know that firestopping comes in several colors, not just red. Some contractors actually mix red chalk in with joint sealant or “drywall” compound to try and fool the less informed architects and inspectors into thinking that they are using firestopping materials. Silly contractors.

08 06 00 – Schedules for Openings
Where do you put schedules in a project manual? Well, in MasterFormat 2004 there are now two locations that are recommended. Schedules can always be included at the end to Part 3 of the specification section for that work result, for example, a door hardware schedule would be placed at the end of the door hardware section (08 71 00). But what if your schedule is for doors and frames and you have a wood door section (08 14 00), a metal door section (08 13 00), and a metal frame section (08 12 00)? Where is the schedule located in the project manual?

This is where one of the new common numbers for all divisions comes in handy. The number 06 at Level 2 is used as a common location for all schedules, giving us one location for a schedule with subject matter that can be found in multiple sections in the same division. You may even have several schedules that can be located at XX 06 XX depending on the subject. “06” was selected as the common number for schedules to correspond with the sheet type designator for schedules in the Uniform Drawing System and the U.S. National CAD Standard.

We want to hear from you
Okay, you’re not doing your part to keep us supplied with new material. Pretty soon, we’re going to start remembering some of our own problems that we’ve spent years trying to forget. Please write and let us know how you’re doing. We love to hear from our readers and learn what you’ve screwed up recently.
**Tar and Feathering:** On the Road for a better MasterFormat
April is the beginning of the convention season. We begin this month with trips to:

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<td>Apr 13</td>
<td>CSI Michigan Conference</td>
<td>East Lansing, MI</td>
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<td>Apr 23</td>
<td>The CSI Show and Convention</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>CSI Eastern New York</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>International Construction Information Society</td>
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**How Can You Tell When a Product Rep is Lying?**
Last month we got an e-mail from a product representative saying that he was greatly offended because architects, engineers, and contractors were getting all the bad publicity and we had not bad mouthed product reps. He assured me that “his kind” was worthy of our caustic humor and threatened to file legal action if we did not give product reps equal “insultive” time. Being that we are always eager to please our readers, below are some true stories on “how to tell when a product rep is lying.” I know they are all true because I was there.

**Product Rep:** It’s fine to specify only one product on state work if we are the only manufacturer that produces a product that meets the specification.

**Fact:** In North Carolina, state law requires three products be listed in specifications on all public projects. Violators are subject to fine and imprisonment.

**Product Rep:** We have taken samples of the coating and tested for minimum mil thickness. We will issue this project our ten-year warranty.

**Fact:** Independent testing showed the mil thickness of the coating to be approximately one-third of the manufacturer’s required thickness. They admitted that they knew the coating was less than required, but were willing to issue the warranty anyway.

**Product Rep:** Our siliconized coating is “self-cleaning.”

**Fact:** The silicone in the coating caused the product to attract dirt in the urban environment and require regular cleaning of the building.

**Product Rep:** No other manufacturer makes an “or equal” product.

**Fact:** Okay, everybody knows this guy is lying.

How can you tell when a product rep is lying? Beats the heck out of me. You just need to find people you can trust. You local CSI Chapter is a good place to start. If he or she is a member and lies to a professional member about their products, the word spreads pretty quickly about who is not to be trusted.
Document Coordination

Document coordination is one of those elusive concepts like “profit,” but it sure seems like a good idea. During one of our consulting projects, we ran across a minor problem in the coordination of drawings and specifications that even surprised us. We thought the readers might learn a little about the quality of construction documents that some of us highly skilled design professionals are producing by this example.

Detail on the Drawings: Horizontal Sliding Metal Window

Words on the Detail: Double-Hung and Fixed Window

Specifications Table of Contents: Wood Casement Windows

Title of the Section in the Specifications: Fire Rated Aluminum Windows (Yes, you read that correctly)

Product specified in the Section: Steel Windows

Now I know what you’re all saying, “this would never happen on one of my projects.” Well maybe so, but if you haven’t looked at your construction documents recently, you might be in for a surprise. And that’s the point. Quality control is a tough job, but somebody has to do it, and better you than your Owner’s attorney. By the way, we are the ‘expert’ on behalf of the architect in this litigation.

AIA Document Update

Once again, we bring you our suggested changes to AIA documents. This month we present changes to AIA Document A201-1997: General Conditions of the Contract for Construction. Below is an annotated copy of the text that we recommend will require modification. Since MasterFormat 2004 will be released later this year, you’ll need to modify the AIA documents to keep pace with the changes until the AIA gets around to updating the documents in 2007.

AIA - Document A201 - 1997

ARTICLE 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS
1.1 BASIC DEFINITIONS
1.1.1 THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS
The Contract Documents consist of the Agreement between Owner and Contractor (hereinafter the Agreement), Conditions of the Contract (General and Supplementary and other Conditions), Drawings, Specifications, Addenda issued prior to execution of the Contract, other documents listed in the Agreement and Modifications issued after execution of the Contract. A Modification is (1) a written amendment to the Contract signed by both parties, (2) a Change Order, (3) a Construction Change directive, or (4) a written order for a minor change in the Work issued by the Architect. Unless specifically enumerated in the Agreement, the Contract Documents do not include other documents such as Procurement Requirements bidding requirements (Solicitation, advertisement or invitation to bid, Instructions for Procurement to Bidders, sample Project Forms, sample forms, the Procurement Forms and Supplements, Contractor’s bid or proposal, or portions of Addenda relating to the Procurement Requirements bidding requirements).

1.1.5 THE DRAWINGS
The Drawings are the graphic and pictorial portions of the Contract Documents showing the design, location and dimensions of the Work, generally including plans, elevations, sections, details, schedules and diagrams that compose the Drawing Set.
1.1.7 THE PROJECT MANUAL
The Project Manual is a volume assembled for the Work which may include the Procurement and Contracting Requirements (Introductory Information, Procurement Requirements, and Contracting Requirements) bidding requirements, sample forms, Conditions of the Contract and Specifications.

1.1.8 THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS
The Procurement Requirements are that portion of the Project Manual that may include Solicitation, Instructions for Procurement, Available Information, and Procurement Forms and Supplements.

1.1.9 THE CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS
The Contracting Requirements are that portion of the Project Manual that may include Contracting Forms, Project Forms, and Conditions of the Contract.

1.3 CAPITALIZATION
1.3.1 Terms capitalized in these General Conditions include those which are (1) specifically defined, (2) the titles of numbered articles and identified references to Paragraphs, Subparagraphs and Clauses in the document or (3) the titles of other documents published by the American Institute of Architects and the Construction Specifications Institute.

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

**Spring in Chicago**
Yes, Spring in Chicago! The sound of birds chirping, trees in bloom, a cool breeze blowing off the lake, and Conventions everywhere. In case you are frozen and missed the news, here is a list of some of the construction conventions, conferences and seminars in the Windy City this spring and early summer. And these are just the ones that have invited us.

- **March 24 - 25** CWB Conference & Woodworking Show
- **April 2 - 4** Kitchen/Bath Industry Show
- **April 15 - 16** What’s Next: Executive Briefing Conference (an AWI conference)
- **April 22-24** CSI Show and Convention
- **June 10 - 12** AIA National Convention
- **June 14 -16** NeoCon
- **July 15 - 16** NIBS- M6: Mold, Moisture, Misery, Money, and Myth – Plus MANAGEMENT

**Civil Engineering Association Wants Us**
Well, after the firestorm in February over the Civil Engineering Poster, we got a letter from the World Headquarters of the American Society of Civil Engineers inviting us to become a member of ASCE and the Architectural Engineering Institute. For only $139 (a 25% discount because we are special) we can join our fellow 133,000 other ASCE members in all kinds of engineering fellowship. The thought of this is almost too much to bear. I wonder what kind of discount I could have gotten if I had said *nice* things about engineers?

**SFA Signs Deal with AEC Daily**
Many folks keep asking us if *SFA* will go away now that MasterFormat 2004 is almost complete. Well, I’m pleased to announce that thanks to the overwhelming support of our loyal readers, we have been able to negotiate an extremely lucrative deal to keep this rag online for 2004. Yes, that’s right! Each and every month this year, you’ll still be able to learn a little about what’s going on in the construction industry and be insulted at the same time.

By the way, we’ve also been getting a lot of requests from CSI Chapters and even some commercial publications to republish the *SFA* in their own titles. This is just fine with us. Just drop us a note and let us know that you want to use our stuff and we will have our army of attorneys contact you.

**Giglio Forms New Online Company**
Speaking of AEC Daily, Michael Giglio, PhD, CSI resigned from the AEC Daily Corporation last November and has established Architectural & Construction Publications. Mike helped build AEC Daily from a start-up company to a leader in providing product information and online continuing education for the construction industry. His new company will compete with AEC Daily and other online companies as a portal for construction information.

**Tardif Leaves AIA**
Speaking of changes in employment, Michael Tardif, Assoc. AIA, resigned from the AIA staff last December to pursue other interests in the design and construction industry. Michael has been the AIA liaison to the National Institute of Building Standards’ National CAD Standard Steering Committee. Michael is one of the good guys who always shot straight. His candid style was refreshing and he could always be trusted. He will be missed.
NCS Leadership in Trouble
Speaking of the NCS, recently the NCS Steering Committee has drawn serious fire from many for failure to communicate what’s going on with Version 3. Since NIBS has taken charge of the International Alliance for Interoperability (IAI) about 1-1/2 years ago, their focus on the work of the NCS has seemed to wane. But do not fear, despite delays in the publication of Version 3, changes in personnel, and communications issues, things are going to get better. Our inside sources tell us that there are some positive changes coming from all this complaining by Project Committee members. Stay tuned.

Start of MasterFormat 2004 Training Delayed
Speaking of delays, while a session on MasterFormat 2004 will still be held at CSI University in July, the official accredited training program will not start until this fall. Delays in getting the task team appointed have caused delays in the development of the “train the trainers” program. Michael Chambers, FAIA, FCSI, Chair of the MasterFormat Implementation Task Team is dedicated to ensuring that once the program is ready, it will be first rate. General education is still expected to begin in January 2005.

MasterFormat for Manufacturers Training at Product Rep Academy
Speaking of MasterFormat 2004 training, the enormously successful CSI Product Representatives Academy will include a session on understanding the new MasterFormat 2004 geared especially for product representatives. Based solely on this one session, product reps need to be getting their registrations in for this late October event to be held in Denver, CO. With this announcement space will be going fast, so don’t delay. You can register online at CSINet.org.
Why do we not have Leadership anymore?
Have you noticed the lack of real leadership in the design/construction industry? Why is that? Maybe it’s because people don’t know what leadership is. This is not a difficult concept to grasp. It only involves three simple points.

1. A leader must have a vision of the future.
2. A leader must have a plan to accomplish the vision.
3. A leader must be able to share that vision with a critical mass, and convince them to adopt the vision as their own and accomplish the vision through the plan.

To better understand vision, let’s see what a Duke and two Kings have had to say on this subject. Duke Ellington said, “Vision is a dream with an end.” Is the problem that some people don’t dream or is that they never seem to wake up? Elvis advised us to “follow that dream.” Maybe people just keep getting lost and can’t find their dream. Another man of vision, Martin Luther King said, “I have a dream!” Well, vision is more than just a dream. Why is it that some people’s visions seem less like dreams and more like nightmares?

Okay, this may be more difficult than it sounds, but I think the big problem with most “leaders” is that they simply don’t have a vision of the future, or at least nothing beyond the next 2 hours. And for those few who do have a vision of the future, they’re usually unable to share it with others or do so in a way that convinces us to follow. Let me know if you find one who doesn’t have one of these shortcomings, though, and I’m there.