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

July 2004

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

100,000 and Counting

In the first two weeks *MasterFormat* 2004 has been available on the CSI web site, more than 100,000 copies have been downloaded. Needless to say, we want to renegotiate our contract. Get yours at CSINet.org/masterformat.

MasterFormat 2004 Goes International

At the International Construction Information Society (ICIS) meeting in Toronto, Canada last month, the delegation from Japan announced that Japan intends to use *MasterFormat* 2004 as the system to classify work results. WOW! With Japan joining India, we may be starting a genuine international movement here.

We're getting interest from other countries as well. Recently, we received a request for more information on *MasterFormat* 2004 from South Korea. Now if we could just get South Carolina interested.

MasterFormat 2004 Goes International, Part Deux

Tom Dunbar, RSW, FCSC, Chief, National Master Specifications, the Canadian master specification system for public work projects, announced that the National Master Specifications would convert to *MasterFormat* 2004 in January 2005.

In a completely related matter, Wayne Watson, RSW, FCSC, FCSI and President of Digicon, a Canadian master specification provider for private projects, announced that Digicon would also convert to *MasterFormat* 2004 in January 2005. Don't you just love Canadians?

Feds Converting to MasterFormat 2004

With the rest of the world now converting to the new *MasterFormat* 2004, the folks that publish Spec-Intact and the Unified Federal Specs are converting over to *MasterFormat* 2004. Actually, we've been talking to them for the last two years about the new structure and in December they expect to have their conversion complete. The expanded number of Site and Infrastructure sections will come in very handy for the Corps of Engineers and I'm sure that NASA will find the new Process Equipment divisions handy. *MasterFormat* 2004, something for everybody. Hey, we like that.

AIA / NIBS Agrees to Create BECs

On May 18, the American Institute of Architects and the National Institute of Building Sciences signed an agreement to create a "network of Building Enclosure Councils in major US cities." About a dozen cities were selected, and not surprisingly, not one southern city was on the list. I guess they're still mad at us.

Anyway, this is an outgrowth of the AIA Building Science Knowledge Community and will be patterned after the model established by the Boston Society of Architects, that was in turn modeled after the Canadian BECs. There go those darn Canadians again.

And the Winner Is?

There are three kinds of people in this world, the ones that want all the new toys NOW, the ones that will never accept any change, and everyone else. In less than 3 business days after the *MasterFormat* 2004 numbers and titles hit the electronic airwaves, 4Specs.com converted over and is giving users the opportunity to put the new structure to use. On June 14, history was made as this small but very popular web site went live with the first search tool using those funny 6 digit numbers. Atta boy Colin!

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

10 10 00 – Information Specialties



It being July, and the new *MasterFormat* 2004 titles and numbers are now published electronically, and folks are actually converting over to the new structure, we thought this sign was particularly appropriate for the occasion. Even some of our harshest critics have determined that conversion is not as bad as it first seemed. I think I'll get my winter coat back out.

03 01 40. 19 – Rehabilitation for Precast Concrete



Sometime precast concrete requires rehabilitation and sometimes it requires a little more rehabilitation. That's why we have a new Level Four number in *MasterFormat* 2004 just for this purpose. We also have 01 76 00 – Protecting Installed Construction, just in case you need that too. Special thanks to our good friend Anne Whiteacre in Seattle, WA for sending along this photo. An *SFA* coffee mug will be hand delivered in November.

01 58 13 – Temporary Project Signage



In May we expressed our concern for worker safety. This prompted our ol' friend Edd Soenke, FCSI, AIA in Des Moines, Iowa to send us the photo of a temporary construction sign in Australia. Since we know the folks 'down under' read this newsletter, maybe they can send us some photos of really stupid stuff in the heartland of America. Thanks Edd, and an *SFA* coffee mug will be hand delivered this month.

Technically Speaking

SFA - Section C

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

For the next couple of months we'll be staying home, mostly to deal with our creditors. It seems that they've been missing us something fierce, and now that it's hot out we can hardly find any really cool places that will have us. Below are our stops this summer.

Jul 11	CSI University	San Antonio, TX
Jul 22	AIA Documents Committee	San Rafael, CA
Jul 30	CSI North Central Region Conference	Lake Geneva, WI

Understanding MasterFormat 2004 Terminology

A couple of months ago we began our unofficial glossary of terminology found in *MasterFormat* 2004. This month we wanted to compare terminology used in the new *MasterFormat* 2004and several of the current AIA documents. The table below, shows similar terms used in the various documents. Now, wouldn't it be nice if we had consistency? Later this month we'll be meeting with the AIA Documents Committee and maybe we can work towards that as a goal. Next month we'll have a few more examples in this comparison.

B141-97	AIA B151-97	AIA A201-97
ge Orders t. Change Directives	Change Orders Const. Change Directives	Modifications -Change Orders -Const. Change Directives -minor change in the Work
eral Conditions litions of the Contract construction lementary Conditions	Conditions of the Contract	Conditions of the Contract -General Conditions -Supplementary Conditions -other Conditions
 	itions of the Contract onstruction	itions of the Contract onstruction lementary Conditions

MasterFormat 2004 In Action

We've been getting a lot of questions about implementation these days. In May we showed you a side-by-side comparison of a Table of Contents for a project using MF95 and MF04. Taking that a bit further, we thought we'd go back into the archives and pull out a couple of old project manuals written in earlier versions of *MasterFormat* and do another comparison. This month, we set our time machine for the year 1986 and one of the first project manuals I wrote. This project is the Duke Power: Archdale Business Office and was written using the very first version of *MasterFormat* that was *called MasterFormat*, the 1978 edition. Is anyone feeling old yet?

Now before I start getting a lot of grief from my specifier friends, remember that we were all young and ignorant once. And like many of you, we learned to write specifications the way we learned to swim. The learning process is not always easy or pretty to watch. But over the next few months we'll slowly expose one man's history of learning this craft.

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03300 Cast-In-Place Concrete	03 30 00 Cast-In-Place Concrete
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Not Used

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Not Used

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Good News on the Home Front

After the sad news last month of the loss of **SFA** coffee mugs during shipping, we're please to announce that three boxes arrived with only minimal loss of mugs. This means that out of the three boxes shipped, almost two boxes were received intact.

SFA Goes International

While *MasterFormat* 2004 was conceived as a North American (US and Canadian) standard, the impact of *SFA* is reaching far beyond the continent. Last month when we spoke at the ICIS meeting, most delegates had no clue who I was until Colin McGregor from the UK said, "Oh, you're the Southern Fried Architect!" Even the delegate from New Zealand told me that he looks forward to receiving his *SFA* each month. As we have always said, southern is not a location, it's a state of mind. Welcome to the South, y'all.

High Holy Days

This month the high holy days of *SFA* fall on a long weekend. Saturday, July 3 is the Feast of St. Thomas. St. Thomas, called Didymus or the Twin, is the patron saint of architects. We plan to celebrate the Feast of St. Thomas by heading to the holy grail of all BBQ fiends, Lexington Barbeque (formerly Lexington #1), for some of that famous Lexington-style barbeque.

On Sunday, July 4 we celebrate our nation's Independence Day. Actually, Mecklenburg County (our current home county) declared independence from the British on May 20, 1775, more than a year before the folks in Philadelphia got around to doing the same thing. This day is known as Meck Dec Day. And while some claim that Meck Dec Day is a fraud, we have it on good authority (conversation with the Easter Bunny) that this is just another case of southern envy. After all, we in the South will take our ball and go home in a heartbeat if we don't like the way the game is being played. To celebrate Independence Day, we plan to go to Bubba's Barbeque here in Charlotte for some good Eastern NC-style barbeque.

Finally, on Monday, July 5, as regular readers know, we will celebrate my twin brother's birthday. He will turn 50 and this deserves a special treat. For this blessed event, we plan to travel the 30 minutes back to our real hometown and dine at Gary's Barbeque. Now this is the really good stuff. We might even call our brother in Tennessee to say "Happy Birthday." Then again, we might not.

As you can plainly see, early July is a celebration of God, country, and family. And the barbeque isn't bad either.

MasterFormat Jackpot

To the surprise of many, excluding us of course, there has been an explosion in the interest in the new *MasterFormat* 2004. Within the first 24 hours the document was posted on the CSI web site, the Institute had 3,700 downloads. Prior to this, the typical maximum number of hits on the website was around 100 in a 24 hour period. We are also expecting increased interest in implementation and expect that CSI better react quickly to meet that groundswell.

Now with over 100,000 copies downloaded in the first two weeks, our prediction of 300,000 copies a year ago does not look quite as ridiculous to the big muckidy mucks at CSI as it did back then. Who knows, they might even give us a 20% discount on the final version, if we ask real nice.

Happy Birthday SFA

This month marks not only the historic delivery of *MasterFormat* 2004, but also the conclusion of the third year of the *Southern Fried Architect*. It's hard to believe that just 36 issues ago we were just a small one-page newsletter. And while you may only think of us as a humorous and informative Internet publication, millions of you probably know better. Today, *SFA* is a global conglomerate with our fingers in all kinds of stuff. One of our lesser-known enterprises is *SFA* Laboratories. At *SFAL* we engage in improving the construction industry through the development of new and innovative products. We would like to tell you about some of our really cool stuff but we will save that for a later issue.

It seems that at the end of every year, we all get at least one of those darn perky letters from people we haven't seen all year, telling us of all the boring stuff that has happen to them and all of their cousins over the course of the year. And since this is the end of an era for us, we thought we'd see if you've been paying attention. Here's a little test to recap the "highlights" of the last three years.

In the summer of 2001, my twin brother Delbert and his wife Kathy came to visit us in Charlotte. Everyone felt their pain and dismay when they learned that I...A) was a pimp; B) was insane; C) was a Republican; D) was not an insane, Republican pimp as they had thought, but the guy who writes the **Southern Fried Architect.**

In the fall of 2002, the MFETT published Draft 2 with multiple schemes. This draft...A) instantly became a hit; B) instantly made us the target of hits; C) made us want to hit people; D) had something for everyone to hate.

In April 2003 at the MFETT meeting in Chicago, Draft 3 of *MasterFormat* 2004 met with a horrible death. In a solemn ceremony the pages of the document were cremated and we...A) scattered the ashes over Wrigley Field; B) scattered the ashes over Marshall Fields; C) scattered the ashes over W.C. Fields D) thought we were in a scene from *The Killing Fields*.

In April 2004 *MasterFormat* 2004 titles and numbers had their debut at the CSI Convention. Most people were surprised that...A) it had a six digit numbering structure B) it had an eight digit numbering structure; C) people did not care about the numbers; D) the task team chair was not wearing numbers.

The answers will appear in next month's edition if we can find old back issues and look them up.

So what does the future hold in store for this silly publication? Over the next six months we'll be shifting our emphasis toward the implementation of *MasterFormat* 2004 and the integration with other industry documents. Folks are starting to make the switch and naturally have questions about some of the new concepts.

After that, who knows? We have another writing gig for the AIA and John Wiley & Sons due in early summer and we may take some time off to complete this work. I believe the *SFA* has done the job we intended, and that is to be a communications tool for the new changes in *MasterFormat* and provide a little humor to what is considered by most to be a pretty dry industry.