



Knowledge for Creating
and Sustaining
the Built Environment

The Predicator

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Portland, Oregon Chapter — The Construction Specifications Institute

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CSI Portland Chapter Presents a Panel Discussion

MasterFormat 2004 is here. Are you ready? Tuesday, November 9, 2004

For several years, we have been hearing and reading about big changes to the construction industry's premier information organization tool: **MasterFormat**. With any change comes questions and resistance, and this one is no exception. Architects, contractors, product representatives and their related manufacturers will all be affected.

The question of *WHEN* has been answered. MasterFormat 2004 has been released. Tuesday, November 9, our panel of experts will discuss and answer your other questions.

Rick Heiserman, CSI, CCCA, AIA, Ankrom Moisan Associated Architects and the NW Region Institute Director will present an overview of MasterFormat 2004 changes and will offer tips on making the transition.

Robert Dean, AIA, CSI, CCS, and President of Building Systems Design, Inc., a national software company that provides master specifications to architectural and engineering companies, will show how their *Speclink* product is addressing the changes and what they are doing to assist users through the revision.

Steve Watt, Estimating Product Director for Timberline Software Corporation - A Best Software Company, a leading company that produces data base and cost estimating software for contractors and subcontractors, will discuss how Timberline has dealt with the concerns of contractors who need to make the transition and maintain historic data.

Originally published in 1961 as the CSI Format for Construction Specifications, CSI developed **MasterFormat** and the 2004 update is considered the most significant revision over those forty years. Designed in response to changes in the construction industry, it addresses new materials and processes, all types of construction, facilitates increased database uses, addresses project life-cycle issues and provides flexibility for future use.

Join us **November 9**, and get ready to make this change work for you and your firm.

The Princeton Ballroom - 614 SW 11th, Portland, OR
Dinner & Program: \$30 per person, preregistered by November 5
Buy a table of eight for \$230

Late registrations & walk-ins \$40, if space is available.

5:30 meet your Colleagues, 6:30 Dinner catered by Jake's, 7:30 Program

Please see enclosed Event Registration Form for registration.

1 LU will be available, sign up at the registration desk.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Cherie McNabb, CSI, CDT



Welcome to November.

It is amazing how quickly time seems to be flying by. Before we know it the year will be over.

I want to start out by sharing an experience that I was able to have again this year. I and five other women went on a 47 foot catamaran trip in the British Virgin Islands for ten days.



It was just a captain and the six of us were the crew. We enjoyed the view of the area plus had the pleasure to sail the Catamaran too. We sailed to a different island every day. The BVI is a part of the country you all should experience. The islands are very remote and so wonderfully relaxing. I tell you it is pure paradise.



This month Portland has the honor of hosting the US Green Building Council's Greenbuild International Conference and Expo at the Oregon Convention Center. This is the nation's largest environmental building conference. Greenbuild will bring information on the latest advancements in green building design, construction, project financing and building management. This is all guided by the desire to achieve recognition in the USGBC's LEED program.

Portland was chosen to host the Greenbuild conference because of its recognized leadership in green building design and construction. Portland has the most LEED-registered buildings in the country and Oregon leads the nation in LEED buildings per capita. Of this we should be proud.

This event will be held on November 10-12. There will be more than 450 green companies displaying products and services in the conference expo hall.

My company, Forbo, will be included in the companies displaying.

You can always check out the website for more information on the seminars, tours and exhibitors that will be displaying. This website is www.greenbuildexpo.org

Forbo is also included in a few seminars. Because we are an exhibitor and presenter for seminars I have the opportunity to give away 50 Free VIP passes for November 10 – 11. These passes will get you into the expo at the Oregon Convention Center. Please give me a call or email me if you are interested in getting a few of these tickets.

Cherie 360-281-1918 or email: cheriemcnabb@comcast.net
I would be happy to get them to you by mail or hand deliver them.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

November 9th, 2004, 5:00 PM, Princeton Ballroom.

New members are invited to join us in an informal group discussion about CSI, who we are, where we have been and where we are headed. This is your chance to meet the Board Members of your chapter. Wine and cheese will be served.

This event immediately precedes the regular dinner meeting. Contact Jane Phifer, CSI Office for more information and to secure your spot.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? .. News and views from the Specifiers Share Group

By: Dave Shelman, CSI, CCS



Specifications U.

It has often been observed that a lot of what an architect actually does as a professional is not taught in schools of Architecture. Business management, marketing strategies, representing Owners in land use decisions, writing reports and meeting notes, are a few examples. One or more of these skills may be included in some professional degree programs

but it would be rare to find all of them. It would be rarer still to find a school that included a bonafide class in specification writing. Yet this is a vital part of normal architectural services—project documentation for construction. So, how do specification writers learn how to write specs? How is this skill transferred to others and where might CSI fit into this gap?

It is safe to say that, like all the other “tasks” mentioned above, specifications are produced by individuals who have learned this skill “on the job.” The “specifier” may be a project manager or a principal who has picked up a lot of “wisdom” over the years. Or he/she may be a project architect who has found that writing the project specifications is the best way to achieve a well-coordinated set of documents. In some offices the task of writing specs is the responsibility of many individuals and in others there may be a single person that “specializes” and becomes the office “spec writer.” However this configuration evolves, it is probably the outcome of circumstances and need rather than part of a long-range office plan. For many years, the office I am in “farmed” the specifications out to consultants before realizing that there were advantages to doing them in house. At that point there also needed to be a staff member (that would be me) foolish, ahh, willing enough to take on the job. With that decision we put ourselves on a steep learning curve, which we are still climbing today, five years later.

There are many good resources for the novice specwriter, but none more essential than the Construction Specifications Institute. CSI’s Manual of Practice* provided me with a clear understanding of the overall document production process and contractual relationships between the construction parties. I continue to refer to it for clarification and often refer others to it for their better understanding of some aspect of professional practice. But, by far the best resource for me has been our local chapter Specifiers Share Group (SSG). That is where I have been able to meet veteran spec writers, to listen to their

experiences and to seek their advice. I don’t know how I would be doing what I am today without that group. Yet the SSG has one undeniable demographic characteristic (besides a male majority): we are all getting older. So, it is natural to wonder about the future of specification writing in our community. Will Portland firms be able to transfer these skills and knowledge to the next generation?

Fortunately, there are a growing number of firms who have younger people in training and many are getting involved in the SSG. This has got me thinking about some opportunities for our Chapter. Perhaps we could develop some kind of a program of training specification writers that would augment the mentor relationships already existing in some offices and give a means for other offices to “grow” interested staff into competent specification professionals. This could be thought of as modest but serious “Specifications University.” Before thinking “not another program!” remember that we have already had classes for candidates for the Construction Documents Technologist for a number of years. We have some really good teachers and perhaps a once-a-month class could be started, with rotating staff to cover the many topics that specification writing entails. A few examples:

- Specification language (grammar)
- Contract documents and the law
- How contractors bid drawings and specifications
- Describing product “salient features”
- Coordinating the Owner and consultants in assembling a Project Manual
- Creating office masters
- Getting the most out of electronic spec software and word processing programs
- Performance, prescriptive and proprietary specifications
- Working effectively with Product Representatives
- Quality control: Checking documents before bid.

Food for thought.....

*A revised edition under the new title “Project Resource Manual” has been issued by CSI and McGraw-Hill.

There are usually two SSG meetings each month, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Announcements are sent out to Share Group attendees approximately a week ahead of each meeting. If you do not currently receive the announcement and wish to, send an e-mail message to either Isaac Tevet (itevet@ffadesign.com) or Fred Herbold (fherbold@sera.com).

PERKY'S NOTES

By: Perky Kilbourn, CSI



The one neat thing about only directing Public Service Laboratories is that I have time to sort into categories the many articles and references which I had collected while directing Public Service Laboratories and Consulting Clinical and Microbiological Laboratory. Two of the

categories are sort of related so will discuss them in these notes since they may not be unique to science and medicine.

Title: "Flawed study raises concerns about practices"

Article on page A3 of The Oregonian March 17, 1994. The subtitle for this article was *"The discovery of falsified data in a major breast cancer study prompts questions about the quality of medical research"*. Quoting from the article a . . . Dr. Roger Poisson, falsified data on more than 100 of the 1,511 patients he enrolled in his part of 22 studies from 1975 to 1991.

What was the "falsified data"?

Apparently, there had to be a certain length of time between when the breast cancer was diagnosed and surgery was performed. Unfortunately, it took some women too long to make up their minds to have the surgery done and thus they were ineligible to be included in the study.

Rather than discard the patient's data, Dr. Poisson changed some of the dates so the data could be used. Unfortunately, Dr. Poisson was not a good "changer of data dates" so the discrepancy was noted by staff members in Pittsburgh.

There was one problem, Dr. Poisson had which I could really relate to. Patients are suppose to sign the "Informed Consent Form" before they start on the study. The first thing you always do when you start someone on a study is to get a signed "Informed Consent Form". In my case sometimes the patients wanted to think about it so I gave them the "Informed Consent Form" to take home and bring back with the next sputum specimen for bacterial culture. In my case, the patient was going to bring in a sputum specimen for bacterial culture anyway and I just wanted to use the data from the sputum specimen for bacterial culture for research purposes as well as to help the patient. I would continue to remind them as they brought back more sputum specimens until they finally signed the "Informed Consent Form". Sometimes this would be a month or so after the specimens had been collected. If you really wanted to include the patient's data in the study, what do you do? Change the date on the "Informed Consent Form"? Make a note on another sheet of paper that there was a problem?

"Plague Researcher Recants Account about Fate of Vials" by David Malakoff in October 24, 2003 issue of SCIENCE. You might remember the interview with Thomas Butler on *60 Minutes* on October, 2003. Apparently Butler couldn't find some vials of Plague and was concerned they might have been destroyed by accident. Also he was charged with improperly labeling or packaging bacteria vials that he carried in his luggage into the United States from Tanzania. His conviction was of defrauding Texas Tech by cutting secret "shadow" contracts with two pharmaceutical companies. This meant that Texas Tech received half the money of the grant and Butler received the other half directly into his bank account. Butler felt that what he was doing was not breaking the law. The Courts disagreed and he ended up spending some time in jail.

Again it all started out with failing to file patients' consent forms, and ordering tests before obtaining their consent. Unfortunately Butler was charged with billing the patients instead of the study's sponsors and putting funds in a personal bank account rather than have the funds go through the University. This last charge is the most serious one and was Butler's undoing because the University decided to "get him" and did. Again, I can relate to some of his problem. I have received research grants and the paper work required to get paid for expenses for doing the research sometimes take longer than the research. Often I put the money in an account where I can get the money easily and quickly as needed. I still need to keep track of expenditure but it is much easier than going through a large organization like a University to get paid for small items.

I can relate to the problems of transporting of plague vials. How do you transport pathogens? I sometimes have had to transport pathogens. Since I don't drive I have done it on Tri-Met Buses. You ask "How?" I say "Very carefully".

Lee says I should relate these two topics to CSI and ethics. I can because of the comments which were made with regard J. E. Dunn's work on the Pioneer Courthouse remodel. When people really care about what they are doing they will do a good job.

In MEMORIAM

From the Oregonian, Monday, October 18, 2004

Alice Coggins, CSI, AIA

Alice Maude Coggins died Oct. 3, 2004, at age 67. Miss Coggins was born March 22, 1937, in New York City. She moved to Portland and graduated from Lincoln High School. She also graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she later taught. She was an architect with her own firm, and she returned to Portland in 1992 from Cambridge, Mass.

Survivors include her brother, George A.C.; and sister, Mary Ann Coggins Kaza.

Remembrances to charity.

Lee notes Alice joined AIA in 1982 in another city; she joined CSI and Portland Chapter in 1993. The website of the Oregon Board of Architect Examiners shows her license to practice in Oregon was issued in 1995.

Based on material published in The Oregonian on 9/16/2004, with additions by Lee Kilbourn

Andrew B. "Andy" Olson, CSI, Member Emeritus

Andrew B. "Andy" Olson died in Gresham on September 12, 2004 at the age of 84.

He was born on August 27, 1920 in Portland. Andy grew up in Portland and graduated from Benson High School. After graduating, Andy enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served his country during WWII. He was Honorably Discharged on November 10, 1945 with the rank of Sergeant. After returning home to Portland, Andy enrolled at the U of O, studying architecture.

Andy's career spanned over 50 years. He worked for several large firms in Portland, including Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. He joined CSI in 1968 and was a Certified Construction Specifier. During the last 15 years of his career, Andy worked for Portland Public Schools as a Specifications Writer for their buildings, retiring in 1990. Andy was an avid golfer.

Andy led the Portland Chapter committee responsible for the "Green Sheet" Guide Specification for Elevators published in The Construction Specifier in 1968. He wrote several articles on Specifications Language for The Predicator in the late '70s and early '80s (Lee's favorite topic). His last major story was titled "A More Readable UBC" published in the July 1993 issue of The Construction Specifier.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara of Gresham, OR, and his two children: Thomas A. Olson of Riverdale NY, and Kimberly Kline of Aloha OR.

By Relta M. Gray CSI Emeritus

Robert H. Isles, CSI, Emeritus



Bob Isles, loveable curmudgeon that he was, prone to try and keep everyone on the right path according to his philosophy, gave up the good fight on August 28 and slipped away in his sleep. Because Rob, his eldest son, was in the hospital at the time, fighting for his life against viral meningitis, he was not told of his father's death until after his release from the hospital. The family elected to have a private service for Bob, so this may be the first knowledge of his passing that many friends and colleagues have.

Bob was born in Chicago but came West early in life. He joined the US Marine

Corps, serving in Korea, where he was awarded service medals. He retired as a Sergeant in the Corps, coming back to Portland to be near his mother.

He met Janice, his wife, in Portland, and they were married in 1957. He is survived by Jan, his two sons Rob and David, and two grandsons, Christopher and Patrick, all of Portland. He loved to brag a bit about his grandsons.

Bob's work life centered around the building industry where he performed inspections, was a manufacturer's representative, and in later years, was a consultant.

In the 1970s he joined the Portland Chapter CSI, and was active in that chapter until the 1980s, when he came to Seattle and affiliated with the Puget Sound Chapter.

Bob was in and out of committee assignments for a number of years until he found his true interest in working with students, helping to establish scholarships and student memberships. He was an advocate and friend to all the students. Even more, he was instrumental in raising funds for the scholarships, especially through contacts with companies within the industry.

Because the scholarships are given to students wishing to pursue a career in the design/build professions, many have found positions (some with CSI firms) and many have maintained memberships in the organization.

Bob was their greatest cheerleader. All of them, from the first to the most recent appreciated his interest and friendship. They would all say "thank you" many times over to Bob, for his support, his expectations, and for the push he gave them toward working for their own success. His distinguished service to the chapter was recognized in 2001 when he was presented with the Hugh S. Hallet Award.

Bob's outgoing presence will be missed at chapter meetings, Friday noon gatherings, special events, as well as on the phone and in person. He never missed an opportunity to have his "say," and for whatever our personal reasons may be, he will never be forgotten.

The Puget Sound Chapter held a wake for Bob in September, with bagpiper.

Lee Kilbourn notes grandson Chris is a Student Member of Portland Chapter.

CSI SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

By: Perky Kilbourn, CSI

Pioneer Court House was the CSI 2004 Fall Construction Site Tour.

There were 8 "Stops" with 6-7 minutes talks at each "Stop" which included:

1. Outside "garage door" entrance - Joe Bolkovatz, CSI - JE Dunn
2. Foundation - Jerry Abdie - KPFF
3. Basement - John Plagmeier - JE Dunn
4. Central Lobby/Post Office - Doug Grassman - JE Dunn
5. Courtroom - Peter Meijer, Architect, LLC specialist in historic structures
6. Second Floor Judge Chambers - Jim Riley - SERA Architects, Inc.
7. Judge Area - Dave Newman - Artek, Inc.
8. Grand Stair Case - Don Eggleston, CSI, AIA - SERA Architects, Inc.

Everyone then moved up to the Princeton Building for dinner followed by a panel discussion.

Joe Bolkovatz, CSI - explained how JE Dunn Construction got contract for remodel.

Don Eggleston AIA, CSI - the architect started his talk by advising there were 20 months between bid and signing of contracts. Construction went well because contractor, sub-contractors and suppliers seemed to care about the building. Everyone signed on to the partnership agreement resulting in frequent meetings of contractor, sub contractors and suppliers.

Jerry Abdie of KPFF Consulting Engineers advised that Grant Davis started the conceptual engineering design and now Jerry is the person in charge. Upgrading this building

in a conventional way would not work. So they used 75 isolators under building so the building would withstand an up to 6.8 magnitude earthquake or a movement of 18 inches.

Peter Meijer was the Historical Consultant because SERA was required to preserve the "Historic Nature" of the Building. The building had been remodeled and added on to over the years so they're trying to get back to the original structure when possible. There was also some concern about finding anything of archeological significance while they were digging out the basement. Fortunately, nothing was found so work continued uninterrupted. There was some interest in a "ghost" in the attic. Apparently it was a harmless "ghost" and just liked to turn off the lights when nobody was looking.

All the contractors looked at the project in the same way. They kept their part of the project as close to bid price as possible so the whole project would stay within in total bid. The cost of materials was controlled as well as scheduling because time is money.

The discussion of what happens to the landscaping interested me. Apparently, they saved seeds and are matching them to what they think was there originally. The trees on the South Side had to be removed but these trees will be replaced with large trees of the same species. Thus the Courthouse should look like it did years ago with trees and shrubs around it.

When my laboratory was downtown on 11th and Yamhill Streets and also when it was on 11th and Taylor Streets, I used the Pioneer Post Office because it was closest. When I moved the laboratory to 5th Avenue, I changed Post Offices to one that was a block away. I still enjoyed going up to the Pioneer Post Office when I had the time.

Now, since I no longer work downtown, I need a special event to visit the Pioneer Court House. Thanks, everyone, for the fall construction site tour.

Panel discussion at The Princeton ballroom



Peter Meijer talking to a group



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NORTHWEST REGION CHAPTER MEETINGS

Cook Inlet, Anchorage, AK (Third Tuesday)

Dan Graham, CSI, CDT.....907-261-9203

Puget Sound, Seattle, WA (Second Tuesday)

Andrew Estep, CSI.....206-382-3393

Mt. Rainier, Tacoma, WA (First Thursday)

Jerry Litwin, CSI, CCCA.....253-584-5207

Spokane, WA (Second Thursday)

Eric Rieckers, CSI..... (509) 535-0301

Portland, OR (Second Tuesday)

Jane Phifer, CSI.....503-805-2500

Capital, Salem, OR (Third Thursday)

LaVone Clausen, CSI.....503-371-2070

Willamette Valley, Eugene, OR (Last Thursday)

Rodd Hansen.....541-687-9600

Idaho, Boise, ID (First Tuesday)

Jon Farren, PE, CSI, CDT.....208-429-1307

November 2004

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- 11/2 CSI Board Meeting
- 11/8 CSI Membership Meeting, Billy Reeds
- 11/9 CSI Chapter Meeting, New Masterformat:**
*Making a successful transition -
New member Orientation*
- 11/11 CSI Specifiers Share Group Meeting
- 11/25 Happy Thanksgiving

**Mark your Calendars!!!
The 2005 Portland Products
& Services Fair**

**May 10, 2005
Oregon Convention Center**

December 2004

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 12/7 CSI Board Meeting
- 12/9 CSI Specifiers Share Group Meeting
- 12/13 CSI Membership Meeting, Billy Reeds
- 12/14 CSI Chapter Meeting, What's Hot in Hillsboro!**
*Meet and mix with the planners and designers
making it happen in Hillsboro.*
- 12/23 CSI Specifiers Share Group Meeting



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