

ENTER BY THE....?..... DOOR!

by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI

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When you go home tonight, by which door will you enter your house? Yes, I realize that some of you merely go through the tent flap!!! Or like me, close the lid on the pasteboard box.

Like many of you, perhaps, in my previous life, Mom said we come in the back (kitchen door) and not through the front or living room door! Didn't care to have the mess from dust off the ball diamond to mud from just slogging, to snow and ice dripping off the galoshes (remember them?) In the kitchen with linoleum on the floor, the clean up was easier.

`Course all of guests came through the front, be damned the conditions they dragged in.

At my Aunt's the entry was the side door (again not the front) into a little entry way that led to either the downstairs apartment (where Grandma lived) or upstairs to my Aunt's "place".

When we went to the speak-easy we entered by the "green door"--but that is another story for another time. Also, it was far easier to enter by the rear door coming home from a 3AM date and not having to travel through the entire house to sneak into you bedroom.

Yes, all this trivia does have a point.

It is that when you are part of a group (like you are part of your immediate family) you do things differently than when you are a "guest", or relative once removed. Seems to me that this is a consideration that we might explore,

We bemoan the bleak future of our profession (spec writing, that is) and the non-existent pool of "spec-writers-in-waiting". We well know the lack of attention in most college curricula to even mere mention of specifications, much less any pilot light to ignite interest that would produce a newbie--even eventually!

Aren't we using the back or side door of our organization and projecting an unenterable facade to those who might--just might--have some meager interest. Hey, those are our "guests" and I suggest they deserve some attention; some welcome; some outreach; some very open and attractive initiation to "come on in"!

Like our families, old and new, we are comfortable, and function easily and well, but guests and outsiders still are in a standoffish position. Even some relatives you see only during the holidays or at funerals are almost foreigners in our homes (but they do enter by the front door, due to our invitation--don't they?) And it is all those "on the inside" garner and benefit from the goodies, the closeness and the rewards not open to others.

Doesn't follow that we should just "be"--here "for" you if you want to join us! Action from within would seem to something well worth considering.

Doesn't it follow, then that those on the Student Affiliate Committee have it right. They work with students and have *reached out* to create interest and to send out invitations to those who just might "come our way". The student activates at the June "gathering" last year were marvelous affairs--rewarding to those close to it, and from their expressions (verbal and non-verbal) most interesting and valuable to the students.

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March 2008

When you have a minute, check www.naab.org for a list of all of the accredited architectural schools, and know there is a scant few who "mention" specs. Then add the engineering schools, community and vocational colleges, technical institutes and even the directly construction oriented classes, who may well have some interest too.

These, ladies and gentlemen, are untapped resources to which no door is visible much less open and inviting, on our facade facing them!

Why not?

Is there something we can (and should) do?