



Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice

11 DuPont Circle NW, Suite 601

Washington, DC 20036

www.scip.com

SCIPping Along

October 2009

Sheryl Dodd-Hansen, FCSI, CCS, CCA, SCIP
Editor

Welcome to Fiscal Year 2010 and the first of several *SCIPping Along* Newsletters that are intended to keep members informed about the activities of the organization during the year. In order to receive this newsletter, members need to keep their email address and other contact information up-to-date. Here's to a good year! sdh

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark J. Kalin, FAIA, FCSI, CCS, LEED-AP, SCIP

Please mark your calendar for our next Annual Meeting, Saturday May 15 in Philadelphia in conjunction with The CSI Show (more info at constructshow.com). There will also be a sumptuous SCIP reception on Tuesday evening May 11, and SCIP sponsored seminars on BIM, Specs and Property Sets on Tuesday afternoon.

Consider joining other SCIP members at the CSI booth at Greenbuild in Phoenix November 11-13, and attending sessions at Ecobuild America in Washington DC on December 7-10, including the very-first buildingSmart/NIBS/SCIP/CSI sponsored demonstration of integrating specifiers property sets in BIM.

Welcome to what is left of Fall. It's snowing in Boston today (October 18) and the temperature is a brisk 33 degrees. Jerome Lazar in Ft. Lauderdale reports he had to take out a sweater as the temperature had dropped to 60! I hope you're weathering the economy, keeping up with friends who have sadly had to leave the design and construction professions, and mentoring those new young-ones who seem to be everywhere! A few hot-items for you below, and I sincerely hope to see you in Philly.

LEED 2009 Update: The LEED 2009 Project Scorecard for New Construction and Major Renovations has the same look and feel as the LEED NC2.2 scorecard with the addition of a new category for Regional Priority points. Download the Regional Priority Spreadsheet from the USGBC.org and enter the zip code of the project, to determine which credits can earn the project more points. The Indoor Environmental Credit IEQ 4.3 credit is expanded from carpet only to include all flooring and floor coverings. For LEED for Commercial Interiors and LEED for Schools, there is a new IEQ 4.5 which requires that furniture and furnishings must be Greenguard-certified or meet comparable emissions. For LEED for Schools there is IEQ Credit 4.6 which is a composite point including 4.1 through 4.6 (these reference the California Department of Health Services standard used by CHPS.)

ARRA Made in America Requirements: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 requires that designated federally and state-funded projects must use manufactured products and

un-manufactured construction materials which are sourced domestically. The requirement does not seem to require components be made in the US, just assembled here. For applicability to your projects, download a copy of the legislation and look for the state-by-state breakdown of agencies that must comply for ARRA-funded projects. There is a rigorous procedure for qualifying non-domestic products which includes proof of 25% cost benefit, with a potential consequence of ARRA funding not covering the portion of the project that does not comply.

Architectural Woodwork Standards: Dated October 1, 2009, the new standards published jointly by the Architectural Woodwork Institute, the Architectural Woodwork Manufacturers Association of Canada, and the Woodwork Institute are now available. A few stray comments: More field inspections are required for certification. If your specs are silent on how paneling is attached to walls, the default value is for the mill option, typically adhesive; specify mechanical attachment if you want it. Cherry with a water white conversion varnish (crystal clear) meets Class B requirements. Note also that if the Building Code in your area requires a Class I Fire-Rated Assembly the definition has expanded: The entire wall panel assembly – including surface materials, backer, core and adhesive has been tested and is certified as a Class I Fire Rating by UL or another authorized organization, and must be manufactured by an approved company of the certifying agency. Manufacturers of Class I Fire-Rated Wall Surface Assemblies require specific methods of installation and trimming in order to label and certify their products (AWS page 173). Look for seminars in your area.

Legal: A recent legal ruling in Arizona stated that proof of economic financial harm is sufficient to sue a design profession for negligence – not just personal injury or property damage. The Arizona Court of Appeals found that an owner who had to rebuild portions of a project that did not meet accessibility guidelines could sue the architect based on defective plans and specs, when those plans and specs did not incorporate the accessibility requirements – Case reference Flagstaff Affordable Housing v Design Alliance (1 CA-CV 07-0743).

Drafting Culture - A Social History of Architectural Graphics Standards, MIT Press 2009: A fantastic read. The book traces the roots of drafting from 1850, to the publication of the landmark Architectural Graphic Standards in 1932 and later. Fascinating to me as a specifier is the conclusion of the book, which notes the loss of technical expertise in the profession, with a few starchitects getting all the press, and those coming out of school relegated to the drafting positions of the past as they sit in front of their computers hoping for a bright future.

National SCIPo Strike To Start November 1: By an overwhelming majority, members of the Specification Consultants in Post Offices (SCIPo) have voted to go on strike starting November 1st. The SCIPo leadership was unable to establish a collective bargaining agreement with the Designers of America (DOA). Reportedly, the major stumbling blocks were the requirements for specifiers to provide unlimited unpaid overtime without notice, and a new DOA requirement for a day-long class on mind-reading. According to a SCIPo spokesperson, healthcare benefits were not an issue as many SCIPo members are already on life-support. DOA members are reportedly getting ready to write their own specifications, and are signing up in record numbers for classwork from regional COSOC groups (the Change Order Society of Contractors). (humor)

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT

Nina Giglio, CSI, CCS, SCIP – PRESIDENT-ELECT

SCIP at the Construct2009

Despite the gloomy economy, SCIP members had a strong showing at Construct2009 in Indianapolis this past June. Again, we thank our sponsors for their generous support of SCIP events. The board met for breakfast on Tuesday morning before Construct2009 opened, to discuss initiatives that the organization hoped to undertake over the coming year, and concerns of how best to assist our membership during these trying times. As the membership gathered at

the ARKEMA cocktail party on the Tuesday evening we all had a great time visiting with old friends, renewing acquaintances and making new friends. So often we rush through the events during the show that we don't have enough time to visit with each other and catch up. Through the remainder of the week as we attended educational courses, social events and spent time on the show floor, it was obvious the slow construction environment was certainly an elephant in the room.

It was unfortunate how empty many of the aisles on the show floor seemed to be throughout the show, though for those of us that had the chance to visit with people about SCIP at the SCIP booth we had the opportunity to showcase the work of our membership. Thanks go to Linda Stansen for her work in developing the SCIP Booth prior to the AIA show and also thanks to those of you who submitted work to be displayed.

Saturday morning approximately 40 SCIP members gathered for the Annual Meeting, followed by the Discussion Forum. The minutes of the meeting have been posted on the SCIP website. After 41 years, SCIP continues to be a leading force, and a healthy organization of some of the brightest minds in the industry. Though certainly a topic of concern, the economy and the slowed construction industry didn't dominate the conversation, but instead members shared ideas of capitalizing on the hours to do many of the things that we have recently been too busy to do. The Discussion Forum extended into the late afternoon on Saturday, with many of us returning home that evening.

Each time I depart from a SCIP event I have noticed a feeling of rejuvenation, and invigoration. I appreciate each of the members that shared, as I find that I learn so very much from what everyone has to offer.

As we prepare for next year, please be thinking about how you can contribute to SCIP. Elections will be held in the spring and we will be looking for a slate of nominees for each of the positions. Contact Dennis Hall (dhall@hallarch.com) if you are interested in being considered for nomination, or contact any board member if you are interested in getting involved in any capacity.

TREASURER'S REPORT & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

David Metzger, FAIA, FCSI, CDT, SCIP

We had a well-attended SCIP annual meeting and Arkema-sponsored SCIP reception, including several recently-joined members, at the CSI Convention in Indianapolis in June. The most enjoyable part of serving as SCIP treasurer continues to be corresponding with members from all over the country, and then meeting them in person at the annual meeting.

This is a reminder that there are still some members who have not yet renewed. Members who have not renewed will be removed from the SCIP on-line roster.

Including those members who have not yet renewed, we have a total membership of 229, consisting of 179 Members, 49 Affiliates, and 1 retired member.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Lorenzini, FCSI, CCS, SCIP – VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS

Member Database Meets Expectations

In our last report, we described the goals of our updated online database that would replace the Member Directory that had been in use on the website for about 10 years. On February 8, 2009, the new interactive online SCIP Member Directory went live. After resolving a few early problems,

the system has been performing well. It has fulfilled its dual purpose of allowing users to conduct narrow searches for members, and to reduce the task of updating the member data that frequently changes. Users can print out a list of members with contact data. It is also unnecessary for the Treasurer to send out a Roster of members each year.

Besides automating member update information, the SCIP Membership Chair (i.e., the Treasurer) uses the database to maintain current membership records. One thing the database will not do, however, is notify the Membership Chair when a member changes his/her email address. Therefore, it is important for members to notify the Membership Chair that their email address has changed. This is necessary since email notifications include member renewals, announcements, bylaws revisions, annual meeting schedules, and reservations for events.

Members who haven't updated their member profiles since the February 2009 debut should be aware that their data is unprotected. Since each member was initially assigned the same default password (by private email), the data of a non-updated member could be revised by anyone who knows the default password. Moreover, a person in the "Member" category (as opposed to the "Affiliate" category) would be losing an opportunity to promote three specialty services to potential clients.

Passwords should be recorded in a safe place since they are only known to the member. Passwords reside on a remote server at the Internet Service Provider (ISP) location and are not available to the Webmaster or to the Treasurer. If a password is forgotten, a member can request a new one at the login screen that is randomly created by the server and sent only to the member. In case of replacement, a member should choose a new password to replace the random one.

Any questions regarding the use of the website member directory, or any problems experienced, should contact the webmaster at webmaster@scip.com.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

John Carter, CSI, CDT, SCIP – SECRETARY

CSI/SCIP EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION AWARD

CSI has established a new Award – for "Excellence In Construction Information (EICI)." The Award falls under the CSI Award Committee, and the Task Team is a joint-venture between CSI and SCIP. Eligible Awards will be presented jointly by CSI and SCIP during CSI/Philadelphia activities (May 2010).

TASK TEAM

The Task Team consists of 3 CSI members, 3 SCIP members, a CSI Board Liaison and a CSI Staff Liaison. Team Chair will alternate each year between a CSI member and a SCIP member. The 3 SCIP members are Lynn Javoroski, David Stutzman, and John Carter.

AWARD DETAILS AND FORMS

There will be 3 categories considered for this Award: Product Documentation Category, Project Documentation Category, and Innovation Category.

SCIP and CSI will start promoting the new Award in the next few months; promotional advertisements will start appearing in the October issue of Specifier magazine.

Instructions and forms are scheduled to be available on the CSI website by the end of September 2009.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

Submissions are collected and reviewed annually (this year they are due by January 15, 2010 to be considered for an award in May 2010).

Task Team will meet in February 2010 to overview the submissions, then divide them into smaller groups for local/regional review and comment (by a Task Team member and local industry volunteers). Task Team will deliver submission comments to the CSI Awards Committee, for consideration.

AFFILIATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Donald Harris, AIA, CCS, CCCA, CSI, SCIP Affiliate

In these interesting economic times it is unmistakable, that whether "captured" or independent, it is becoming more difficult to "go it alone." The power of the collaboration of the members of SCIP becomes exceedingly obvious at events such as our Annual Meeting at Construct 2009. The expansion of the SCIP membership and knowledge base represented by the affiliates, in combination with the knowledge and business acumen of the independents, creates a confluence of ideas to make SCIP a unique organization within the specifications community. Continuing our dialogs amongst ourselves and on the usual discussion boards on the internet serve to bring more visibility to our group and highlight the many benefits SCIP provides to the industry at large.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dennis J. Hall, FAIA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED-AP, SCIP

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As the Immediate Past President, one of my job responsibilities is to assist the President-Elect in assembling the slate of candidates for Election to the Board. It will not come as a surprise to anyone that the one thing any volunteer organization needs to operate is VOLUNTEERS. Then why is it so difficult to find folks willing to give hundreds of hours of their personal time, away from family and personal activities to run their volunteer organizations? Could it be that we are all busy running our own businesses and working on important professional projects? Or could it be that the lack of monetary compensation is not satisfactory to meet our standards? Perhaps, some are even concerned that their level of experience does not qualify them for running a national organization such as SCIP.

Well, just about everyone in SCIP has all those excuses for NOT participating. Therefore, you have no unique reason not to step up and volunteer to serve on the Board of YOUR organization. Besides, you will have the opportunity to work with a group of highly skilled and motivated individuals, who possess great knowledge and share a passion for written construction documents.

Over the next few months, I will be working to put together the slate of officer candidates and I need your help. You can email me at dhall@hallarch.com or Nina Giglio at ngiglio@hbig.us. Remember, we have your contact information and will not hesitate to use it. So, it is in your best interest to contact us first.

Thanks for the support of SCIP.

Meeting Minutes from the SCIP Annual Business Meeting

Go to <http://www.scip.com/2009%20annual%20meeting%20minutes.pdf> for minutes of the June 20, 2009 meeting.

Group Photo from June 2009 Meeting in Indianapolis, IN



REPORT First Annual Great Lakes Meeting of SCIP at the 2009 CSI Great Lakes Region Conference by Randal J. Reifsnider, AIA, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP

As a result of suggestions made at the SCIP Annual Meeting this June in Indianapolis, the Great Lakes Region SCIP members contacted the CSI GLR Leaders, Lane Beougher and David Dixon, and arranged to hold an annual SCIP GLR meeting in conjunction with the CSI GLR Conference and to play a part in the conference.

Although it was late in the planning cycle when Lane and David were contacted, both were very gracious and accommodating in providing SCIP time and space to hold our annual meeting. We had also offered to provide SCIP members as instructors for educational sessions and offered to conduct a Specifier's Forum that would be open to all Conference attendees.

Our first annual meeting was held Friday morning August 14, 2009. Randy Reifsnider moderated the meeting. Because the CSI Region Board Meeting overlapped our meeting and several SCIP members were on that board, our annual meeting attendance was sparse and fluctuated. Still, the following was discussed and decided:

1. To encourage CSI to offer an educational track parallel to CSI's leadership training track with the intent of attracting more regular members to attend the Conference.
2. To offer assistance as instructors in those classes.
3. To participate on the CSI GLR Conference Planning Committee and assure SCIP's involvement in the Conference.
4. To continue to hold annual meetings at the CSI GLR Conferences in the future.
5. To establish a LinkedIn GLR SCIP Group to facilitate communication regarding SCIP Region activities.

Also on Friday, SCIP members Gary Beimers and Lane Beougher gave an educational presentation titled "MasterFormat™ in Practice – Case Studies for Implementation Success" and Randy Reifsnider gave 2 presentations, one titled, "LEED® in Specifications" and the other "How to Get Spec'd." All classes conducted by SCIP members were well attended and well received.

On Saturday afternoon, SCIP member David Trudell moderated our first annual Specifiers Forum. Although intended to be open to all conference attendees, only SCIP members participated. The following topics were discussed during the Forum:

1. BIM and how it relates to Specs, specifier experience
2. IPD experience related to specs
3. LEED specs
4. Economy/Projects/Business in general related to Specifier business
5. Pros and Cons of Liability insurance for Specifiers
6. Specifier tricks of the trade to share

The discussions during the Forum were spirited and lively. Everyone learned and gained from the experience. Hopefully, next year, with proper preparation, the Specifiers Forum will have a broader range of attendees.

Although a modest start, SCIP's GLR efforts at this year's CSI GLR Conference were very successful. As a result, Lane Beougher asked Randy Reifsnider to participate on the CSI GLR Conference Planning Committee for next year's Conference to be held in Columbus, Ohio. The first meeting of this committee will be held August 31, 2009 in Columbus. Also as a result of our first annual meeting, a SCIP GLR LinkedIn Group was created. So far, seems to be a real success. Within 5 days of its inauguration, the SCIP GLR LinkedIn Group has a total of 15 members, 3 of whom live and work outside the Region and 1 who is a prospective new member. Pretty good, considering that the entire SCIP membership within the GLR numbers only 16. Next year's SCIP GLR Annual Meeting should be an even bigger success. Look forward to seeing everyone again in Columbus.