



## SCIP-CSI Alliance Announced

A message from John Regener, President of SCIP, on 4specs.com Forum, Sept. 28, 2005:

At a meeting in June 2005, the Board of Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice (SCIP) approved an alliance partnership agreement with The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI). As President of SCIP, I have held off making a public announcement regarding this alliance --- one that is similar to what CSI is establishing with other construction industry organizations --- until the agreement was formalized by signed documents.

The CSI-SCIP alliance recognizes the relationship that exists between CSI and SCIP, and it formalizes commitments to mutually-beneficial activities. Simply put, SCIP will promote CSI's membership and education activities and will be a tangible expression of the specifier community. CSI will provide support for SCIP in the form of booth and meeting spaces at the annual CSI Show/Convention and will offer other promotional considerations, to be worked out over time.

On one hand, this is merely expressing in writing what has been reality for many years. On the other hand, it reaffirms CSI's founding commitment to construction specifiers and it provides a means for the specifier community to be represented to the leadership of CSI.

Let it be clearly understood: SCIP is not a subsidiary or a "special interest group" of CSI. SCIP has a long, proud (!) tradition of independence. Trying to lead SCIP is much like trying to herd cats. SCIP receives no direct financial support from CSI.

Looking at all the major initiatives within CSI in the past 5 years, it can be seen that SCIP members --- and particularly SCIP officers --- have had major leadership roles. Looking at Chapter and Region leadership positions, it can be seen that SCIP members are very prominent leaders. SCIP's commitment to CSI should be unquestionable. SCIP is not an alternative to CSI but is a partner with CSI.

The SCIP membership recently voted and passed a SCIP bylaws revision to change "Correspondent" to "Affiliate," in order to more clearly establish that in-house specifiers, specialty design consultants and others who do not fully qualify for SCIP Member status are welcome to participate in SCIP. This is consistent with the CSI-SCIP alliance partnership agreement for SCIP to represent the general specifier community (i.e., CSI Professional members). The relative number of CSI Fellows in SCIP's membership far exceeds the proportion in the "Professional" category of CSI's membership.

CSI and SCIP are working out details for the 2006 CSI Show and Convention, in Las Vegas, for SCIP meetings. There have been significant scheduling conflicts in recent years. 2005 will not be an exception. Plans now are for SCIP to hold its meetings on Tuesday March 28, before the official start of the show and convention. This conflicts with CSI University and the Accredited Instructor Program for MasterFormat 2004. Alternative scheduling is not feasible. Choices will have to be made by specifiers regarding which activities to attend.

SCIP "commends" many education programs of the 2006 CSI Show, some of which will be presented by SCIP members. SCIP also encourages attendance at the CSI Academy, for CCS, CCCA and CCPR certification, in San Francisco October 12-14. SCIP is expressing its "maverick" nature also by participating in specification-related activities at EcoBuild conferences. SCIP will do what its Board determines is in the best interest of its members.

The purpose of this posting is to bring to light and emphasize the positive relationship between CSI and SCIP. It is a relationship that is expected to continue to grow stronger in the future. However, it should not be read that the silence from SCIP regarding the recent controversy about CSI ("Is There a Coup in Alexandria?") is an endorsement of anyone or any position stated in that discussion thread. If and when the facts of that controversy become known, the SCIP Board will determine what, if any, response is appropriate.

I have posted this publicly and associated my name with it. Anonymous postings in response will be considered inappropriate and ignored. I can be contacted directly by email using my address listed in the CSI Member directory and on the SCIP website ([www.scip.com](http://www.scip.com)) for private correspondence.