



## Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice

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# SCIPping Along

September 2008

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

Welcome to Fiscal Year 2009 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 by informing Dave Metzger of any changes. Here's to a good year! sdh

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

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

Vote Early and Vote Often

What summer? Seems like the seasons blend together as our work deadlines roll along. Google 'architect shortage' for the 872,000 entries on this topic and it seems we'll be busy writing specs forever. But we still need to communicate with each other and share knowledge. Rather than start our own wiki and forum (as discussed at the last annual meeting) SCIP members continue to contribute entries on SCIP and Sustainable Design in the CSI wiki, at <http://wiki.csinet.org> and on LEED and the other active discussions on CSI's forums at <http://www.csinet.org>. I encourage you to participate as well.

And now a new SCIP member benefit – free consultations for your legal questions! Call 800-688-9787, identify yourself as a SCIP member, and speak with a legal expert at no cost to you. SCIP has bought a national subscription with this service, and it is provided as a SCIP member benefit. Several SCIP members have used this service for years in their firms and are very pleased with the results. See an expanded description of the service later in this *SCIPping Along*!

## **2009 SCIP Annual Meeting Schedule**

Planning ahead? Please join us for the 2009 SCIP Annual Meeting to be held in conjunction with the CSI Show in Indianapolis, Indiana on June 16-19, 2009. The agenda:

SCIP Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2009, 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

Integrating Unifomat, Masterformat and BIM

Tuesday, June 16, 2:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Arkema Reception and Dinner

Tuesday, June 16, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Annual SCIP Business Meeting and Specifier's Forum  
Saturday, June 20 (includes breakfast and lunch)  
8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

**ECOBUILD – DECEMBER 10, 2008 – WASHINGTON DC**

Ecobuild America and the National Specifier's Conference for Specifiers in the Federal Government will be held on Wednesday, December 10 in the Washington DC Convention Center. Anyone interested in attending, please check out the Ecobuild America website for more information at [www.ecobuildamerica.com](http://www.ecobuildamerica.com). Mark Kalin will be leading the SCIP delegation at the conference. The schedule:

Welcome and Overview, Mark Kalin FAIA, FCSI, SCIP  
President, Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice (SCIP)

**8:05am - Specifying on Federal Government Projects**

Federal Government departments/agencies use different approaches to prepare specifications. This panel will look at the design-practice procedures that guide these various departments/agencies in their selection of an appropriate system. It will explore project and "built environment" life cycle specifying practices to support agency guidelines; current options for master specification systems used in practice in federal construction; the available resources and support from leading professional associations; and the needs of system users.

Panelists:

Michael J. King FCSI CCS, Vice President of Engineering Specifications, ARCOM  
Kathleen Alberding AIA LEED AP, Principal, Heller & Metzger  
Mark Kalin FAIA, FCSI, SCIP, President, Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice (SCIP)

**9:00am - Working Together: Specsintact and the Unified Facilities Guide Specifications**

As the Unified Facilities Guide Specifications represent the combination of the USACE, NAVFAC and NASA guide specifications, recent advances in SpecsIntact software allow users to expect high quality specifications, better cost control during bidding and reduced costs to maintain specifications. As SpecsIntact and UFGS become XML compliant, benefits of software will extend to better designs and reduced life-cycle costs.

Speaker: Bill Brodt, Experimental Facilities Engineer, NASA

**1:00pm - Ecobuild/AEC-ST Keynote****2:15pm - Federal Green Specs and the Whole-Building Design Guide**

Learn about technical guidance supporting the sustainable building requirements of Executive Order 13423. Focus on a key implementation tool -- the recently updated and expanded Federal Green Construction Guide for Specifiers which includes model green language for federal solicitations for offers (SFOs) and 70+ specification sections.

Speaker:

Alison Kinn Bennett, Co-Chair EPA Green Building Workgroup, US EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics - Pollution Prevention Division

**3:00pm - Carbon Neutral Construction Basics**

What are carbon neutral, climate neutral and net zero energy buildings and products? How will proposed federal climate initiatives be incorporated into our construction documents and contracts? This session also explores green building rating systems, high performance building guidelines, climate neutral theory as well as new concepts such as cap and trade, carbon taxes and trading in design and product manufacturing.

Speaker:

Paul R. Bertram Jr. FCSI, CDT, LEED AP, Director, Environment and Sustainability, North American Insulation Manufacturers Association

4:00pm - Advances in Master Specification Systems

Providers of master specification systems now offer advanced automation for specification production, from custom word processing, to automatic document assembly to integration of specs and the parametrics of BIM. Product selection, cost links and sustainable design elements are also key to specification writing. Learn what's available now, and take a look at the specifications of the future.

Speakers:

Mark Kalin FAIA, FCSI, SCIP, Kalin Associates, Specifications Consultants  
 Gilles Letourneau, Chief Technology Officer, InterSpec and e-SPECS

5:00pm - Closing/Adjourn

**Legal Information for Specifiers from Architects who are Lawyers**

As a member benefit, SCIP has paid for a subscription to the same legal service provided by the AIA Trust to its LegaLine members. At **no cost** to you as a SCIP member, you may call **800-688-9787**, identify yourself as a SCIP member, and receive prompt responses to your legal questions all year long. Your inquires will be answered by Charles R. Heuer, FAIA, Esq., or a member of his staff. Mr. Heuer is an architect, attorney, professional liability consultant, arbitrator and mediator. These legal experts can deliver information which will help you:

- Negotiate and interpret contracts.
- Manage risks and prevent lawsuits.
- Improve communication with clients.
- Determine whether you actually need a lawyer in a specific situation.
- Resolve or mitigate disputes with clients, employees, and contractors.
- Recognize the traps and pitfalls to be avoided or mitigated.
- Increase profits by keeping you focused and doing what you do best.

You might want to know about:

- Ways to structure profitable joint ventures.
- The benefits of incorporating your practice.
- Considerations when hiring or firing an employee.
- Options for collecting past due or disputed fees.
- Factors in transferring ownership of your firm.

**New CEU Sustainable Design Requirements for AIA Members**

Beginning in 2009, of the total 18 CES Learning Units (LUs) required in a given calendar year for AIA members, four LUs will be required to focus on sustainable design and meet the established guidelines for sustainable design mandatory continuing education. The Sustainable Design MCE does not replace the original requirement for 18 total hours, eight of which must be in Health, Safety and Welfare (HSW) subjects, as HSW is a subset of Learning Units, and Sustainable Design may be a subset of HSW. The new AIA requirements designate that four of the total hours be in sustainable design topics. The AIA Board of Directors approved this change to begin on January 1, 2009 and will apply to membership renewal beginning January 1, 2010.

**PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT**

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

See Minutes of SCIP Day, June 7, 2008 below.

**Message provided by President-Elect Giglio:**

Arkema, makers of Kynar, are already making plans for the SCIP dinner to be held on June 16, 2009, in Indianapolis as part of the CSI Annual Convention. Each year this becomes a more and more popular event so as time draws near, make certain to make your reservation. More details will be available next spring. Arkema arranges this event in appreciation of our support in specifying Kynar products, and SCIP appreciates Arkema's ongoing support of SCIP.

**TREASURER'S REPORT & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION****David Metzger, FAIA, FCSI, CDT, SCIP**

We had a well-attended SCIP annual meeting and Arkema-sponsored SCIP dinner, including several recently-joined members, at the CSI Convention in Las Vegas 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 a few members who have not yet renewed. Members who have not renewed will be removed from the SCIP roster, and their names will not be sent to McGraw-Hill to receive Sweets catalogs free of charge.

Including those members who have not renewed by August 31, we have a total membership of 225, consisting of 174 Members and 51 Affiliates.

*Note from Editor: Treasurer Dave's photo "Prague Sunrise" has just been published in the 2009 AIA Calendar. The photo had received an honorable mention in the 2007 AIA Photography Contest.*

*According to Dave, It was taken on the Charles Bridge in Prague, looking towards the Old Town, about 6:00 am. During the day and late into the night the bridge is packed with people; very early morning is almost the only time that one can have the bridge to oneself. The bridge is named after the Czech king and Holy Roman Emperor, Charles IV, and dates back to 1357.*

*See page 9. Thanks for sharing, Dave, and congratulations on the publication. sdh*

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT****David Lorenzini, FCSI, CCS, SCIP – VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS**

Update of Website Member Directory Back on Track

Completion of the membership database on scip.com has been a major goal of SCIP for several years. In early 2007 web developers were hired by SCIP to transform the static webpage into a dynamic one in which clients could input search criteria and produce a focused list of potential specifications consultants.

As the project neared completion the web consultants were bought out by another firm and declared their work complete. However, the database did not meet our expectations. After several attempts to finish the work ourselves, we realized the work was beyond our programming skills

and time available. Consequently, another web developer was contacted and a contract was signed earlier this month.

The new format will create a central database that will be used by both the treasurer for membership purposes, and by clients to narrow their search for consultants. Users will be able to print out the results of their search. Members will be able to update their own contact data and select up to three specialty services to include in the search criteria. In addition, members will enjoy better privacy since names and email addresses will not be in a form that can be harvested by web crawlers.

After a testing period and beta test by the board, the database will be published for all to use. The launch date will probably be sometime in early December.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Robert Johnson, RA, FCSI, CCS, SCIP – VICE PRESIDENT**

#### UniFormat Task Team Update

The task team published a proposed revision to UniFormat at the first of April, 2008 which was available for public review and comment until the middle of June, 2008. The CSI UniFormat Task Team then held another workshop in late August, 2008 which focused on reacting to the review comments received during the public review period. The workshop was attended by representatives of ASTM, GSA, NAVFAC, NIBS BIM, CSI, commercial master specification providers, and RS Means. Decisions were made on the basic organizational structure for the upper levels of the format.

Work will continue through the rest of the calendar year to resolve issues related to the lower more detailed levels as well as to provide for the coordination with MasterFormat 2004. Editorial work on the document to be published is scheduled for the first quarter of 2009. The completed new version of UniFormat with the agreed upon revisions is scheduled for June, 2009.

The next step for the task team will be to expand UniFormat to cover all types of construction similar to the expansion of MasterFormat in the past.

Bob Johnson  
Chairman, UniFormat Task Team

## **Meeting Minutes from the SCIP Annual Business Meeting**

Prepared by Nina Giglio, Secretary FY2008

### **SCIP DAY**

June 7, 2008 – Las Vegas, Nevada

#### **A. Call to Order – President Dennis Hall called the annual meeting to order at 8:30**

- o President Hall introduced the current SCIP Board
  - a. Immediate Past President John Regener
  - b. Vice President Linda Stansen
  - c. Vice President Robert Johnson
  - d. Vice President David Lorenzini (Webmaster)
  - e. Treasurer David Metzger
  - f. Secretary Nina Giglio

- g. Affiliate Director William Pegues
- o Introduction of FY08-10 Incoming Board
  - a. President Mark Kalin
  - b. President Elect Nina Giglio
  - c. Secretary John Carter
  - d. Affiliate Director Don Harris
- o Recognition of Special Guests – President Hall recognized CSI President Elect Gilman Hu. President Elect Hu addressed the SCIP Membership.

*CSI President-Elect Hu expressed his plan to focus on CSI membership. Communication with the CSI membership will be an equally important focus this year. President Elect Hu expressed he felt the meeting with the SCIP leadership earlier in the week was positive and is looking forward to additional visibility of SCIP's membership. President Elect Hu encouraged the SCIP membership to mentor and support the emerging professionals.*

- o Attendee self-introductions – Approximately 45 SCIP members and affiliate members introduced themselves.

**B. President's Remarks - State of SCIP: Hall**

- o Incorporation of SCIP – Incorporation of SCIP has been completed, which has been a goal that has been in progress for the last 3 years.
- o Current Alliances (expiration May 2009)
  - a. CSI - SCIP leadership met earlier in the week with CSI leadership. The alliance agreement will be renewed between the two organizations and signed in early November. Most SCIP members are also CSI members, and the desire is to support the specialized activities of both organizations: Plans include a joint booth at Green Build; potential of SCIP taking a leadership role in the Specifier's Academy once CSI brings the Academies back; quarterly meetings between the boards; support of GreenFormat. President Hall indicated that CSI has inquired about SCIP assisting in supporting interested manufacturers in the input of product information into GreenFormat. Program hasn't been established yet, but by signing up on the list interested parties will be notified.
  - b. CSC – SCIP leadership has had informal meetings with CSC representatives who are interested in enhancing the coordination between CSC and SCIP. It is currently the intent to send a SCIP representative to the CSC convention next year.
- o Conventions/Conferences –
  - a. Purpose of attending and displaying at conferences and conventions is two-fold – Grow membership and drive business to our members.
  - b. AIA Convention – SCIP has arranged to have a booth at the 2009 AIA convention in San Francisco. Will look into a social event at this event.
  - c. EcoBuild fall/FEDspec - Washington DC – December 8 – 11. Program is in development. Check in with [http://www.aececobuildfall.com/attend-fall08/events\\_FEDspec.html](http://www.aececobuildfall.com/attend-fall08/events_FEDspec.html) SCIP encourages its membership to attend this event.
  - d. EcoBuild America – Denver – May 19 – 21, 2009. SCIP will be supporting the spring event – planning is underway.
  - e. USGBC – Working with CSI about sharing their booth.
  - f. CSI – CSI continues to provide both meeting space and booth space for use by SCIP for the Annual meeting. Based on the interest at the booth this year, we spoke with many potential new Members and affiliate Members and also numerous manufacturers that were interested in what services our membership provide.
- o Publication/Booth

- a. Because of growing interest in our membership we need to be using the resources available to us and upgrading some of the outdated membership literature.
    - SCIPping Along – Sheryl Dodd-Hansen has done a great job at editing the newsletter and has agreed to continue.
    - KnowHow – Mark Kalin has continued a great tradition. In December a substantial mailing was sent to all members. Future edition of the KnowHow will only be provided electronically.
    - Website – Improvements and updates are ongoing – Webmaster Lorenzini will provide additional information.
    - New SCIP Marketing Brochure and Booth to be updated and produced.
  - o Sponsorships
    - a. National sponsorship policy was approved by the board; this will provide additional funding for supporting new initiatives.
  - o FY09 Monthly Board Meetings - Board has been meeting monthly via conference call. If you have any business that needs to be brought in front of the board please contact any of the board members.
- C. Minutes of 2007 Annual Business Meeting: Giglio**
- o Minutes were read from the 2007 Annual Meeting. No amendments - Minutes approved as read.
- D. Treasurer's Report and Membership Report: Metzger**
- o Treasurer Metzger reported that the organization continues to be solvent. With incorporation, Organization will have its own Federal ID number.
  - o Membership continues to grow; currently at 225 total, 174 members and 51 affiliates. Received 27 new members last year and currently have received 8 new members thus far this year.
- E. Webmaster's Report: David Lorenzini**
- o Web Developer completed some of the updates, but work is still incomplete. Board has agreed to bring in another consultant to finalize the process. Anticipates 6 months to complete database. Some of the other features to be added or have been included:
    - a. Storage area for information sharing.
    - b. Adding SCIPping Along and Ralph Liebing
  - o Webmaster is looking for suggestions for improvement of the website and encourages input.
- F. Old Business**
- o Brochure – Information has been requested for the SCIP marketing brochure. 2 firms have submitted information. Looking for work that is representative of the membership. Provide to the Board, graphic and project information. Need to verify permission with designer and graphic provider.
- G. New Business**
- o Awards - William Pegues was recognized for his work on the Board as the first Affiliate Director. Other members who are leaving the board were recognized at the Arkema Dinner on Tuesday night.
  - o President Hall recognized Affiliate Member Marc Chavez
    - a. Inquiry made as to the correct use of initials for affiliate members. President Hall referenced Article V, Section 3, Paragraph B of the bylaws indicating that the correct use is either "SCIP Affiliate" or "Affiliate Member of Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice"
  - o President Hall recognized President Elect Kalin for his comments.
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- a. President Elect Kalin is looking forward to building on the past several years of organizational development. It is his vision to promote more involvement from the membership in the development of the organization, and also provide resources to the membership for information sharing. He is looking forward to the next 2 years and welcomes input from the membership at any time.

**H. Adjournment**

- o President adjourned the Annual Business Meeting at 10:20 am, June 7, 2008.

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