

David E. Brandt, FCSI

*“For your belief in well-written specifications, your efforts to educate not only those in the construction industry, but also lay clients such as church building committees and government administrators; and your efforts to promote specification competitions as a means to increase appreciation of good specifications, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 23rd day of June 2001”
Dallas, Texas*



One day while reading The Specifier a few years after joining CSI in 1967, DAVID BRANDT took note of the “green paper” inserts, especially those that began featuring the MasterFormat system as applied to the General Requirements. He had just begun his new responsibility of writing specs--in addition to serving as structural engineer and construction administrator---and soon realized the need to convince his associates that it was time to implement not only the new, orderly format for the General Requirements but also the MasterFormat numbering system for the firm’s project manuals.

Those were the days of true “cut & paste” and it was fun to revise an old fashioned specification into the forerunner of the MasterFormat, SectionFormat and PageFormat methods that we know so well today.

Some years later, while working on a large project for the State of Wisconsin University System, Dave took on the challenge of convincing the State Division of Facilities Management that the spec for the project should follow the CSI Manual of Practice. The DFM had its own methods, albeit wrong and disorganized, and insisted on following their rules. Dave persisted, however, and, after conducting a

lengthy educational session for DFM officials, was successful in using MasterFormat in Divisions 2 through 16.

The State would not budge, though, on Division 1 and the General Conditions, which were chaotic at best at that time. The director of the DFM believed that the principle of saying something once and only once was considered risky at best; it was, therefore, better to repeat things, supposedly for emphasis.

Since 1980 Dave has been an active member of a committee for the synod to which his church belongs that is made up of people that have experience in at least one phase of the construction field. This committee assists congregations that are entering building programs but lack expertise in their membership to successfully carry out the tasks in planning the desired facility

As Chair of the committee, Dave helped develop a document named “Step by Step through a Church Building Program” which is being used as a checklist by the building committees being helped. In it, samples of contracts and other construction documents are explained including well-written specifications.

CSI Membership

Milwaukee Chapter, 1967 to present

Institute Offices, Committees

Specification Competition Committee, 2000, 2001

Region Offices, Committees

Secretary, 1996-97

Board of Directors, 1995-97

Awards

Institute Certificate of Appreciation, 1993

Region Directors’ Award, 1993, 1995, 2008