Robert Paul Dean, FCSI

"For your ground-breaking and extraordinary contributions to construction technology by creating the first automated intelligent decision-making environment for writing construction specifications; for brilliantly linking cost estimating to specifications that launched the era of interoperability; and for your passion, persistence and idealism in pioneering information modeling systems to benefit the entire construction industry, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 27th day of September 2013."
Nashville, Tennessee

ROB DEAN is a military brat who went to first grade in Germany and graduated from high school in Illinois after living at 18 different addresses. He liked college so much he attended for ten years, managing to acquire a couple of degrees in architecture but never managing to complete his Ph.D. from Berkeley.

He graduated first in his class from Tulane University School of Architecture in 1968 and became a licensed architect the same month, having had the good fortune of passing his licensing exam on the first try.

His first job out of school was a position with General Electric's Re-Entry and Environmental Systems Division in Philadelphia, designing industrialized housing. Later he returned to Tulane as an Assistant Professor of Architecture, developing all the technical classes that no one else wanted to teach – subjects like architectural lighting, acoustics, mechanical and electrical equipment, and building construction technology. To supplement his teaching income, Rob worked part time and summers at several small architectural offices in New Orleans, where he first became acquainted with specifications.

In 1976, he joined the New Orleans Chapter of CSI and subsequently passed the CCS exam in 1978 – the first time the credential was offered. He has remained a CCS ever since. He has also remained a CSI member since 1976, with a short 3-month gap between jobs twenty years ago.

After Tulane, Rob worked for a year at AIA's PSAE, Inc., in Washington, D.C., helping develop MasterSpec 2. It was his next position at Heery International, Inc., in Atlanta, that led to his continuing interest in computers and specifications automation. At Heery, Rob originated the concept for what ultimately became McGraw-Hill's SweetSpec, the first commercial automated specification system.

In 1993, Rob took what he had learned on the SweetSpec project and joined Building Systems Design, Inc., in Atlanta, where today he continues as BSD's president. At BSD, Rob has been responsible for development of BSD SpecLink, AGC's DocuBuilder, the PerSpective product for CSI and DBIA, and BSD LinkMan, which achieves interoperability between BSD SpecLink and Autodesk's Revit.

CSI Membership
Atlanta Chapter, 1980-1993, 1994-present
District of Columbia Metropolitan Chapter, 1979-1980
New Orleans Chapter, 1976-1979

Institute Offices, Committees
MasterFormat Maintenance Task Team, FY2007-present
Building Information Standard Task Team, FY2012-2013
MasterFormat Integrators/Sponsors, FY2005-2010

Awards
CSI National Construction Technology Award (to BSD) for Innovative Specifications Technology, 2007
Atlanta Chapter Bodin-Wells Memorial Award for special proficiency and outstanding stature as a practicing specification writer, 2010
Atlanta Chapter Organizational Certificate of Appreciation (to BSD) for improvement of specifications and assistance in MasterFormat implementation, 2005