

Richard L. Levin, FCSI

“For your remarkable advancement of the principles of CSI through your excellence in building materials research; for your perseverance in developing and implementing sustainable construction waste management specifications; for your tenacious promotion of environmentally responsible design; and for your inspiring commitment to education and the mentoring of others seeking knowledge of CSI and specifications, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 19th day of June 2009”
Indianapolis, Indiana



RICHARD LESLIE LEVIN graduated from the University of Illinois (Urbana) in 1974 with a B.S. in Architecture, spending his senior year studying Beaux-Arts architecture in Versailles, France.

Immediately upon graduating, Rick interviewed with Chicago's A. Epstein & Sons and, with nothing else available, was “thrown” into the Specifications Department. Four years later he became Specifier with Murphy/Jahn, acquiring invaluable experience in specifications writing and materials research under the tutelage of the late Bill Lohmann, FCSI. During that time, Rick also became active with Chicago Chapter CSI (CCCSI). In 1989, Rick moved to Madison, Wis., having accepted a position as Specifications Manager for Flad Architects. In 1999, he began work across town with his current employer Kahler Slater, also as Specifications Manager. Rick is a CCS and a LEED AP.

Rick's 35-year career includes an abundance of projects (many LEED-certified) for government, healthcare, laboratories, higher education, hospitality, sports/recreation, corporate, and Chicago's O'Hare Airport expansion projects.

Rick's contribution to a USGBC pilot project helped establish the LEED Rating System. He created construction waste management master specifications for Wastecap Wisconsin and the State of Wisconsin for implementing reduction, recycling, and reuse. Rick also underwrote the State's

Fenestration Guidelines. Each document is readily accessible on the Internet.

Rick served on CCCSI's Education Committee, as Secretary, Technical Chairman, and President. Under Rick's leadership, 13 CSI technical documents were published, including a Wood Door Monograph that Rick individually authored. He also helped organize specifications-related seminars and roundtables for CCCSI. Rick was North Central Region CSI Certification Chairman and he co-chaired a Region Conference. He has also helped advance professional initiatives by serving as CSI liaison to AIA, AWI, and USDA Forest Products Lab.

Rick enjoys presenting CSI principles and sustainable design concepts to CSI groups, other professional organizations, co-workers and university students (at his alma mater and UW-Madison). Rick's passion for his profession and distinctive teaching style are always endearing to his audiences.

Rick's tenacious research skills guide all his pursuits. He pushes technology to its limits and doesn't fear taking paths less traveled to unearth information when straightforward approaches won't do. Rick relishes making the “specifications experience” enjoyable for his associates by means of creative problem solving and respectful collaboration. Consequently, he's regarded as a precious resource to whom colleagues keep coming back for more.

CSI Membership

Chicago Chapter, 1980 to present
Madison Chapter, 1989 - 2002

Institute Offices, Committees

CSI Credentials Committee, 1988

Region Offices, Committees

Certification Chairman, 1993 - 1995
Planning Committee, Univ. of Wisconsin Contracts & Specifications Seminars, 1989 - 1996
North Central Region Conference Co-chair, 1988

Awards

Institute

Technical Excellence Award, 1987

Region

Education Commendation, 1997

Technical Commendation, 1987 and 1986

Chapter

Technical Excellence Award, 1989

Technical Award, 1986

Education Award, 1986 and 1984