



Alan B. Itzkowitz, FCSI, CCS, CCCA
Candidate – Institute Director from the North Central Region



Year Joined CSI:	1987
Home Chapter:	Chicago
Firm:	ABI Specifications Consulting
Occupation/Position	Owner/Specifications Consultant
Email:	alan.itzkowitz@gmail.com
Education:	University of Illinois at Chicago, Bachelor of Architecture in Structures 1973 DePaul University, Masters in Business Administration (Systems) 1979
Professional Registrations, Licenses and Certifications:	Licensed Architect, Illinois, 1979 Licensed Architect, Louisiana, 2000 (Inactive) Licensed Architect, Indiana, 2004 (Inactive) Licensed Architect, Colorado, 2006 (Inactive) Construction Documents Technologist, 1995 Certified Construction Specifier, 1995 Certified Construction Contract Administrator, 1998 Record Holder, NCARB, 2000 MasterFormat™ Accredited Instructor, 2006 LEED Accredited Professional, 2009

CSI Awards:

FY1994 Honorable Mention, Construction Specifications Institute: Annual specifications competition for the Municipal Building HVAC System Modifications project, Hanover Park, Illinois.

FY1995 Honorable Mention, Construction Specifications Institute: Annual specifications competition for the outline specification prepared for the Noise Abatement Project at Forest View Educational Center, School District 214, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

FY2001 Dick Dashner Memorial Award for Service, Northern Illinois Chapter: "For your devoted and selfless service to the Northern Illinois Chapter. As a leader in innovation, you are presented this Award on the 17th day of May 2001."

FY2012 President's Award, Chicago Chapter: "For rendering distinguished service to CSI and the Chicago Chapter by significant dedication and contribution of time and talent in organizing and executing the Chapter's Certification Study Class. You are presented this Certification of Appreciation in March 2012."

FY2016 President's Plaque (Institute): For your exceptional contributions to the improvement of the CCPR exam for the Spring 2015 exams, your dedication in continuing to serve on the CMG, to ensure the work continues from exam cycle to exam cycle, and mentoring new members of the group to guarantee cross-training in maintaining the exam, as the primary contributors of the CSI Certified Construction Product Representative program, and implementing industry changes to the CSI Certification Body of Knowledge to the exams, you are hereby presented with this President's Plaque on the first day of October 2015, at CONSTRUCT 2015 & The CSI Annual Convention in St. Louis, MO.

Other Professional/Civic Organizations and Awards:

Chicago Chapter:

FY1993 CDT Class Instructor

FY1994 CDT Class Instructor

FY1995 CDT Class Instructor

FY1996 CDT Class Instructor

FY1997 CDT Class Instructor

FY1998 CDT Class Instructor

FY1999 CDT Class Instructor

FY2000 CDT Class Instructor

FY2001 CDT Class Instructor

FY2002 CDT Class Instructor

FY2003 CDT Class Instructor

FY2004 CDT Class Instructor

FY2005 CDT Class Instructor

FY2006 CDT Class Instructor

FY2007 CDT Class Instructor

FY2008 CDT Class Instructor

FY2009 CDT Class Instructor

FY2010 CDT Class Instructor

FY2011 Certification Chair and CDT Class Instructor

FY2012 Certification Chair and CDT Class Instructor

FY2013 Certification Chair and CDT Class Instructor

Northern Illinois Chapter:

FY1999 CDT Class Instructor

FY2000 CDT Class Instructor

FY2001 CDT Class Instructor

FY2002 CDT Class Instructor

FY2003 CDT Class Instructor

FY2004 CDT Class Instructor

Seminar Presenter:

Presentation to members of a local contractor association. The presentation included sections on the "Project Team and Project

Phases” and “Drawings and Specifications.” The “Project Team and Project Phases” section gave attendees an understanding of the composition and responsibilities of each of the four components of project teams that come together in a project as well as knowledge of the activities and documents produced during each stage of the project and the team member responsible. The “Drawings and Specifications” section gave attendees an understanding of what the basic roles of drawings and specifications are and how the A/E standardizes and coordinates the Construction Documents into a collaborative, effective, and productive product.

September 2010: Masonry Contractors Association of Greater Chicago Presentation to product representatives of various organizations and companies. The presentation included sections on how specifications are written, the substitution process, and a section titled “Some Questions to Ponder” that reviewed the value of master specifications (both guide specs and specification systems), how product selections are made and by whom, the use of product binders versus manufacturer’s websites, and the qualities, both good and bad, of product representatives.

April 2011: Miller Brooks Symposium titled “Marketing to the A+D Community: Engage, Interact and Connect with Architects and Designers.”

May 2011: Tubelite, Inc.

March 2013: Sto Corporation

January 2014: Crane Composites

Multiple presentations to office staff on how specifications are written, the substitution process and how to enforce it, and how product selections are made and by whom.

1989 - 2007: Earth Tech, Inc.

2007 - 2010: DeStefano Partners.

Current/Previous Experience as a Board Member for Organization(s) other than CSI:

Religious Organization: Committee chair and member of various committees.

Candidate Statement:

I joined CSI and the Northern Illinois Chapter in 1987 at the urging of a colleague and have never regretted it. After attending my first few meetings I was elected to serve on the Board of Directors and joined several committees. Since that time, I have held every Board position including President in FY2000 and most recently Treasurer in FY2016 and Vice President in FY2017 and chaired or participated on numerous committees.

When I started working in the City of Chicago rather than its suburbs in 1985, I also joined the Chicago Chapter and am currently a member of both chapters. I have served two terms as Director on the Board of the Chicago Chapter, served as the chair of the Certification Committee and participated as a member of numerous committees.

I am an advocate of the Certification process and served on the Institute's Certification Maintenance Group (CMG) from FY2014 to FY2018. My work on the CMG required an intimate knowledge of CSI's Practice Guides in order to write test items (questions). As a Certified Construction Specifier and Certified Construction Contract Administrator, my knowledge as a subject matter expert has resulted in the expansion of the CCA Certification test item banks and the review and updating of existing items along with the review and updating of existing items for the current CDT exam. My input to the Group discussions has also resulted in changes to existing items in the CCS and CCPR item banks.

I have served on the CSI Board of Directors since my election by the members of the North Central Region in 2017 and have had input on the activities of the Board. Being part of the Board has given me insight into the operation of our organization and an opportunity to be part of the decision-making process to help grow CSI.

While I'm proud of the awards I received in the 1994 and 1995 CSI Specifications Competitions and the many Certificates of Merit and Appreciation from the Chapters I have been awarded, I consider my elevation to Fellowship in CSI in September 2016 to be one of the greatest achievements in my career.

I enjoy mentoring young architects, engineers, and specifiers and assisting product representatives to gain perspective on specification writing. Several young specifiers in the Chicago and Northern Illinois Chapters who I have mentored have gone on to become successful architects and specification writers of their own accord.

As a member coming up to my 32-year anniversary, I am constantly promoting membership in CSI and participation in local chapters and CSI's certification programs, helping the local chapters grow, and getting more architects, engineers, and product representatives involved in CSI activities and programs. I hope to continue contributing to CSI as an Institute Director.

What leadership skills do you possess that you could apply as a member of CSI's Board?

As I grew in my career as an Architect and Specification Writer, I learned the value of becoming a good leader. In addition to the leadership roles I have had in the Chicago and Northern Illinois Chapters and on the Institute Board for these last two years, I have led several project teams that consisted of the many disciplines involved in large projects. Helping and encouraging teams to work together is the most important trait of an effective leader, in addition to being able to listen to your staff, analyze the issues presented, and delegating responsibility to complete the tasks at hand.

As a project manager and in the leadership positions I've held, I have used all of these skills to make the teams work successfully. By continuing as the Institute Director from the North Central Region, I can continue using my leadership skills and experience to help the Board reach the larger "team" working together to further the mission and goals of CSI.

What skills and experience make you uniquely qualified for the position for which you are a candidate?

Through my CSI experience as Institute Director, along with being the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Northern Illinois Chapter and in Director positions for the Chicago and Northern Illinois Chapters, my experience as a Senior Project Manager in a large architectural/engineering firm and, most importantly, my experience as a business owner for the last 8 years, I have developed a good understanding of the financial workings of organizations. I have prepared and managed budgets; dealt with billings, accounts receivables, and accounts payables; participated in business development activities; and managed project teams, all for both the projects I've managed and my own company.

As a project manager, I have a clear perspective on the overall workings of a project as well as all the minutia that goes on during the design phases of project and can continue bringing that expertise into my position as Institute Director. I am detail focused, a good team member, relate well to others, get things done in a timely manner, and most importantly I am passionate about CSI.

What do you think should be changed about CSI or what changes would you make? What shouldn't change about CSI?

CSI's structure including all disciplines in the construction industry, including Owners, facility managers, design professionals, contractors, product representatives, and manufacturers, makes CSI unique among industry organizations and should be maintained. The interaction between all of the construction industry disciplines and members is invaluable because of the knowledge transfer and relationships developed. One of the true hidden treasures of CSI is the relationships formed between the members that helps contribute to more effective communication between team members and completion of our projects.

What we primarily need to improve is the perception of CSI outside of our membership. Design professionals, Owners, and those in the construction industry, outside of our membership, aren't fully aware of CSI and our contributions to the built environment. I have spoken with other design professionals like myself and Owners who refer to "CSI specs" but don't have a full understanding of what it takes to create a specification and how it is used during the construction of a project. CSI needs to promote itself and the standards developed over the years to more non-members and those outside of the industry to help them understand the value that clear, concise, correct, and complete construction documents, both drawings and specifications, provide for a project.

We also need to bring our Certification program in line with ASTM and ISO standards to continue to make it relevant to the industry and national/international standards. This alignment would add value to those certified, by increasing the recognition of the knowledge and expertise required to perform the services required under each of the CSI certifications.

CSI is an organization of members of the construction industry. As an organization we must develop programs that provide value to our members. A good example of this is the Dynamic Chapter Program that I am proud to have been part of the decision-making process that has brought this to CSI. This will help grow CSI.

What do you see as critical to CSI's future success?

The areas for the continued growth of CSI include:

1. Continued improvement and expansion of the education and Certification programs, including bringing the Certification program in line with ASTM and ISO standards making it a nationally and internationally recognized certification program.
2. Developing a plan to find, nurture, and mentor future specifiers. They will eventually replace the vast knowledge and experience of our current specifier members and continue the important task of providing specifications to the design community.
3. CSI has continually been in the forefront of developing the technologies being used in the preparation of construction documents. We need to strive to continue doing this, to stay relevant, as new technologies in the preparation of construction documents and development of products emerge.
4. Additionally, as an organization, we need to work on the national, region, and chapter levels to increase membership.