Submission for 2015 Ben John Small Specifications Award

Anne Whitacre, FCSI, CCS, LEED BD+C

Building Knowledge
Improving Project Delivery

San Francisco Chapter
Construction Specifications Institute

THE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION INSTITUTE
Nomination for Ben John Small Award
By the
San Francisco Chapter

March 10, 2015

Chairman, Awards Committee
Construction Specifications Institute
100 South Union Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Awards Chairman,

The San Francisco Chapter, at its meeting held on March 10, 2015 nominated Anne F. Whitacre, FCSI, CCS, member of this Chapter, for the Ben John Small Award for Specifications Writing.

We certify the resolution as follows:

"Whereas, this Chapter believes Anne F. Whitacre, member of this Chapter has made significant contribution to the profession of specifications writing, and she has attained special proficiency and outstanding stature as a specifications writer."

The President and Secretary have been authorized to prepare the nomination papers and forward them on to the Institute Awards Committee to complete this nomination.

The qualifications of the nominee are indicated on the attached CSI Awards Forms and documents.

President – John E. Sellen, CSI,CDT

Secretary – Jerry L. Pozo, CSI, CDT, BS

PO Box 2356, San Francisco, CA 94126
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The Construction Specifications Institute

NOMINATION FOR AN INSTITUTE AWARD

DATE: March 10, 2015

AWARD NAME: Ben John Small Award

NOMINEE'S NAME *(Individual, Chapter, Firm, Team or Organization)*

Anne F. Whitacre, FCSI, CCS, LEED AP BD+C

Address:

Phone:

Email:

NOMINATION BY *(Check applicable box, documentation of nominations to be provided on subsequent forms)*:

☒ Chapter: San Francisco Chapter

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION *(The person primarily responsible for preparation of the nomination; person who can answer questions about the nomination)*

Full Name: Paulette Salisbury, FCSI, CDT
Home Chapter: San Francisco

Address:

Phone:
Email:

SIGNATURES: *(Nominations by Chapter must include Chapter President and Secretary signatures.)*

Name /Office (if Applicable)	Chapter	Signature
President_____	San Francisco	
Secretary_____	San Francisco	

INTRODUCTION

At the time Anne Whitacre began writing construction specifications full time in 1978, she was the first woman hired for the job in Washington State, joining a handful of women along the west coast who made specifications their primary job. In addition to that, she was the youngest specifier on the west coast – breaking into a field that had previously been occupied by older men, typically licensed architects. Anne broke that mold too – she was a history graduate of the University of Washington, with the intention of going back to Architecture School. As a not-typical specifier, she broke open the field to a wider variety of non-traditional specifier backgrounds with an emphasis on the quality of work and strong vendor relationships.

Specifications was such a good fit for Ms. Whitacre, that she never did go back to architecture school and she is still writing specifications full time 37 years after starting that first job. During these past almost 4 decades, Ms. Whitacre continued in her field, and hit the following high points in her career:

- First woman and youngest president of the Puget Sound (Seattle) Chapter of CSI.
- Masterformat Accredited Instructor: The Northwest Region had a smooth, quick transition to MF2004, and Ms. Whitacre was a strong leader in influencing the firms across the region to adopt January 2006 as the cut-off date to accept MasterFormat 2004.
- Member and Chair, Masterspec Review Committee, Arcom, 6 years total, plus an appointment to the Architectural Review Committee for this fiscal year.
- Fellow, Construction Specifications Institute, elevated 2006

Ms. Whitacre was one of the first three people in Seattle to sit for the CCS exam – she took it after 5 years of specification writing, in the second year of the certification, before the CDT program was developed. She has maintained that certification throughout her career.

In addition to her 30 year career in Seattle, Ms. Whitacre established herself in two other major markets: Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area. Her current position at HOK has her covering the Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles offices, maintaining professional relationships along the entire West Coast of the United States with both consultants and product vendors. As such she is cognizant of the difference in construction markets and practices along the 1200 mile stretch of the west coast.

The bulk of her career has been spent at Engineering News Record "Top 100 " firms: starting with NBBJ Design in Seattle; moving to the Seattle office of Zimmer Gunsul Frasca (based in Portland Oregon); in Los Angeles with Gehry Partners, and at Gensler and HOK in San Francisco. During the 12 year interlude (between NBBJ and ZGF) she established a thriving solely-owned consulting practice with clients in Seattle and Los Angeles. Ms. Whitacre has managed to move between large firms with sophisticated projects to small neighborhood projects and back again, which underscores her flexible work approach.

Ms. Whitacre helped to develop the first sustainability specification section that was used as a template for Arcom Masterspec to develop their current series of Sustainability specification masters. She was a guest in 2014 as Arcom discussed transitioning to LEED Version 4 and the potential modification of specifications. She has worked on dozens of LEED projects (Version 1, 2, 2009 and Version 4) and is part of an ongoing dialog within HOK to address sustainability issues in the documents. As part of this endeavor, she has also consulted with local San Francisco organizations regarding Health Product Declaration forms, and their improvement.

HEALTH CARE

Swedish Hospital, Seattle, WA

Multiple projects including nursing, birthing and surgical towers. Swedish Hospital is the largest hospital campus in the Seattle area, and known for quality medical care. In total, Miss Whitacre worked on 2 dozen projects on the campus between 1978 and 1985. She helped to establish a standard format for the projects, and was involved in continuing remodels of the existing facilities.

Virginia Mason Hospital, Seattle, WA

Multiple projects including nursing and surgical towers, installation of MRI and lithotripter medical equipment; early imaging equipment, and birthing center. These projects were the first in the Seattle area to install sophisticated treatment and imaging equipment, ranging from Cobalt treatment centers, to the first MRI equipment installed in the area.

Providence Health Care Systems, Portland, OR

Replacement hospital on the North Campus. This was a multi-phase project erected next to an operational hospital; infection control was a critical concern, as was noise.

Travis Air Force Base Hospital, Fairfield, CA

Original project 1984-85; and later did a small renovation while working for another firm in 2009. This critical care and teaching facility was built with 360 beds, but designed for an overflow of an additional 180 beds in case of national emergency. Facility was built with MRI equipment, hyperbaric chambers (2); CT scanners; lithotripter and full physical therapy suites for the treatment of military personnel. This job also included cardiac research areas, including pigs and their facilities – including pig treadmills.

Duke University Durham, NC

Included laboratory buildings for nuclear imaging, nuclear research and power plant.

UNC (University North Carolina) Health Center, Chapel Hill, NC

Consisted of Level 4 Trauma Center, Medical Office Building, teaching wing and garage. This was a complete replacement hospital and expansion of level 4 trauma center for the Chapel Hill campus.

St. Anthony's Hospital, Gig Harbor, WA

New 115 bed facility for underserved area on green field site including medical office building and parking. This was the first new hospital built on unoccupied ground in the Puget Sound Region in over 50 years, for a growing community west of Tacoma Washington.

Memorial Sloan Kettering, New York City, NY

Infill tower, imaging center and Medical office building; Midtown Manhattan, New York. This project was constructed on an existing campus in mid-town Manhattan and involved the construction of animal labs and critical diagnostic equipment that had to be isolated from car, train and subway vibrations.

Kaiser Health Care Medical Office Buildings: Vancouver, WA; Portland, OR; Los Angeles, CA

The new Medical Office Building in Los Angeles is a prototype LEED Platinum facility that will be rolled out in Southern California as Kaiser changes its delivery model. This project is designed to incorporate community outreach, a Farmer's Market and meditative garden spaces to encourage a healthier community in the neighborhood of Baldwin Hills.

NOTABLE PROJECT WORK
OFFICE + PERFORMANCE SPACES

Beekman Tower, New York City, NY

Sixty-eight story residential tower including a medical clinic and public elementary school at the lower levels. In addition to the mixed use facility, this building is located in lower Manhattan and required coordination with multiple agencies, and a tight construction site. This building has no two apartment spaces with the same floor plan, and also included custom fixtures for kitchen and bathroom; plus innovative products for countertops and casework.

New World Symphony, Miami, FL

Symphony hall and teaching campus for New World Symphony, founded by Michael Tilson Thomas. This facility was built as an infill project that provides teaching facilities for musicians and a community outreach program that involves screening selected concerts on an exterior white wall. The performance driven acoustics required ongoing acoustical observation and a complicated local approval process. The result has been a facility lauded for both the player and audience experience.

Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Las Vegas, NV

Fundraising and clinical treatment area. In addition to the dramatic fund-raising space, the rear side of this project includes clinical treatment and research space for Alzheimer's patients and other patients with brain injuries. The site is a prominent corner and visible from multiple locations in the Las Vegas area. The sophisticated shapes of the exterior required close coordination with the fabricators to achieve water-tightness.

The Tower at PNC Place, Pittsburgh, PA

The Owner's stated intent is to build the "greenest office building in the world"; 38 story high rise in downtown Pittsburgh with solar chimney and double skin ventilating wall. This facility is designed to be "more than LEED Platinum" and is an example of a sophisticated ventilation system and exterior wall. This is a signature project for PNC Bank in downtown Pittsburgh. This project involved a site archeologist, 7 stories of below grade parking, and several changes to Pittsburgh infrastructure.

PJKK Federal Office Building, Honolulu, HI

This project was a complete gut and renovation of an existing nearly 40 year old federal building in Honolulu. The original project was built in a 1970's brutalist style and had many of the problems typical of that age and style of building. The interior was gutted and rebuilt in 17 different stages, in order to keep as many employees in the building as possible while still allowing for the work to continue. In addition to replacing windows, refinishing precast concrete exterior walls, and reroofing, the building involved large skylights, new security entrances and new planting for the enjoyment of the occupants.

NOAA Western Regional Center, Seattle, WA

This 9 building project (plus pier for research vessels) came early in Ms. Whitacre's career and her specifications were designed to treat all 9 buildings as one large project. This was her first project with a full time construction manager, and in addition to that, there were seven general contractors on the project. Coordination between them needed to be addressed in the project manual as well as coordination with various local infrastructure as this project site transitioned from Navy base to other usage. This project also included public park lands, considerable public art installations, and public access to property that had long been off-limits to the non-military population.

NOTABLE PROJECT WORK
AVIATION + TRANSPORTATION

Salt Lake City International Airport, Salt Lake City, UT

Ten year terminal redevelopment project, parking and infrastructure for Salt Lake City Airport to increase passenger trips through a mountain state international airport. This project is under construction adjacent to the existing airport. The project involves LEED recognition; expansion of existing airport facilities to include "greeting rooms" for travelers returning from missions, and coordination with an expanded transit system. This multi-building facility is also being written as one large project and includes coordination with 30 consultants and sub consultants.

Salt Lake City Connector, Salt Lake City, UT

Infrastructure and Stations

Orange County Transit Authority, Orange County, CA

Infrastructure and Stations

Sound Transit, Seattle, WA

Infrastructure and Stations

NOTABLE PROJECT WORK
CORRECTIONS

King County Jail, Seattle WA

This large facility was the first in the northwest to be planned for electronic locks and monitoring. The design program included textured concrete design to mimic the appearance of shaded windows so that the building would not have such a stark presence on the Seattle skyline, and of course, coordination with Seattle courts and police station.

NOTABLE PROJECT WORK
RESIDENTIAL

High-End Private Residences, Seattle, WA

$100 million in private residences (2 residences) in the Seattle area under non-disclosure agreements. Projects included private music recital rooms; a rotating bedroom; operable skylights; docking facilities for private craft; landing area for private helicopter; 2000 square foot private gym; underground kitchen and underground garage for 200 cars, and private funicular to the beach from a hillside location.

SUMMARY

The projects in Ms. Whitacre's portfolio have ranged from a $30,000 residential garage remodel to preliminary specifications for a $6 billion development in New York City. She has worked on nearly all project types in the commercial and medical sectors. Her work has been built in nearly every state in the United States, and internationally in France and Switzerland.

Her expertise in documents covers multiple delivery methods: from the legacy design/bid/build to larger projects in which the contractor is a full partner on the project team before Schematic Design. Her projects have used GSA specifications, masters from all branches of the military; masters and guide specifications from multiple universities and health care organizations. Because of her local reputation in the Seattle area, she was asked to write master specifications for Marriott Corporation limited service facilities; Starbucks Coffee (full stores, mall stores and kiosks); and the University of Washington.

In additional to a demanding professional workload, Ms. Whitacre has been an active member of CSI and an instructor for many years for the CDT classes given by the Puget Sound (Seattle) Chapter. She is well known on architectural discussion groups such as 4Specs.com, LinkedIn, and AIA. She is currently a member of San Francisco, East Bay/Oakland and the Puget Sound (Seattle) chapters of CSI.

Because of Ms. Whitacre's outstanding professional reputation, she was asked to provide consultation for product manufacturers regarding their marketing and guide specifications. She prepared specification sections for TGP (Technical Glass Products) fire rated glazing for floors and stairs; Snaptex fabric system for fabric wall and ceiling installation; Hyload sliding hi-capacity gates; California Nevada Cement association pervious concrete; and has participated in marketing meetings for WR Grace construction products, sales training for Grace Construction products, and participated for several years on an advisory board for Kinestral technical glass. She is known for being able to connect all sides of a construction project – from the Owner's program to the constructability of projects including phasing and product availability.

In addition, she has conducted specifications classes at two of her firms – working through the architectural divisions, she presented analysis of the critical components for product selection and specification/drawing coordination. She is currently involved in early product selection, as well as aspects of construction administration that support document interpretation.

Ms. Whitacre sees her specification efforts both as project related and office related. On each project, she views specifications as supporting the design intent of each designer and each project architect. That effort carries into her participation in construction administration "which is the last chance to get the design right". At the office and community level, she sees specifications as the discipline that knits together the varying tasks of design, construction and quality control. First by maintaining firm-wide quality control standards and secondly by a wider view of the construction industry. Architectural offices consist of people with widely ranging talents, but specifications is one discipline that touches every project in the office and connects them over a long period of time. As part of her 37 year career, Whitacre brings along the threads of quality standards taught to her in the 1970's, enhanced by her hundreds of projects up to this day.

End of Submission