

# Robert L. Petterson\*, FCSI

*"In recognition of your distinguished achievement in construction specifications for ingenuity and technical excellence in the development of a master system of automated specifications, for the unselfish sharing of knowledge, for your devoted and continued service to the aims and objectives of the Institute and in particular your valuable contributions as a member of the Technical Documents Committee, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on this 21st day of June, 1972."*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*



ROBERT L. PETTERSON was born in Oxnard, California, in 1932. He attended California State Polytechnic University from 1950 to 1954 earning a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering.

He began his career as a junior specifier for the California Office of Architecture and Construction. During this time, he developed a standard specification for Army National Guard Armories. When the Northern California Chapter of CSI, later the Sacramento Chapter, was organized in 1954, Petterson became a charter member. In 1965 and 1966 Peterson won awards in CSI's annual Specification Competition.

In 1966 he moved to Detroit to join the A/E firm of Giffels and Rossetti. His specific assignment was to develop SPECSINTACT, an automated specification system for the National Aeronautics and Space Association (NASA). This system continues in use today as the master guide specification used by the Federal Government.

In 1969, Petterson helped co-found the Production Systems for Architects and Engineers (PSAE), developer of the American Institute of Architect's (AIA) MASTERSPEC

automated specification system. He served as Vice President and Secretary of PSAE until AIA acquired PSAE in 1972 and moved the operation to Washington, DC. Petterson continued to serve AIA as Technical Director, and later as Senior Program Director until 1992.

In 1992 Petterson founded Petterson Associates, an independent consulting service for architects, engineers, and construction product manufacturers.

Petterson is the author of various technical articles published in The Construction Specifier over the years. He has also lectured on specifications before colleges and university audiences. From 1971 to 1977 he was visiting critic/lecturer at California Polytechnic University.

Petterson was appointed to serve as a member of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Task Force to develop a model guide specification for the abatement of asbestos in buildings in 1985. He continued to serve in this capacity until 1990 when NIBS published the Model Guide Specifications - Asbestos Abatement in Buildings.

Petterson passed away on 25 February 2018 in Lewes, Delaware.

## **CSI Membership**

Sacramento Chapter, 1954-1956

Detroit Chapter, 1966-1969

Chicago Chapter, 1969-1972

DC Metro Chapter, 1972-1992

Delaware Chapter, 1992