Marvin Martin*, FCSI



"In recognition of your distinguished achievement in construction specifications, for tireless efforts in service to your chapter and region, for unselfish contributions of time and sharing of knowledge, for service on the Technical Documents Committee and for furthering of the aims and objectives of the Institute, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on this 26th day of June 1974."

Portland, Oregon



MARVIN CHARLES MARTIN began his career as a specifications writer in 1966 for Barber & McMurry, Architects in Knoxville, Tennessee. Soon thereafter, he began receiving recognition for his proficiency and dedication to excellence by numerous awards in regional and national competitions.

During the Korean War, he served in the United States Air Force Security Service as a radio intercept operator, which led to a ham radio hobby. His call sign was WA4PJD.

Martin and Ben F. Greenwood, FCSI, addressed the Institute national convention in Washington DC in 1973, in a featured presentation, "Using Division One," following which Martin was invited to conduct many similar Manual of Practice workshops at chapter and regional level from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Syracuse, New York. He also was a speaker or panelist in several professional development courses at the University of Wisconsin.

Because of his status as a noted specifier, he was a regular guest lecturer in the fourth-year Professional Practice class at the University of Tennessee School of Architecture (UT). In 1974, he joined the faculty as a part-time instructor, teaching the third-year Construction Materials and Processes, a three-quarter sequence course.

Martin received the inaugural Outstanding Teacher award, presented by the UT Student Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, in 1976.

While at UT, he founded the UT Student Chapter CSI, the second in the nation to be chartered. Martin, Don Hanson, UT Dean of Architecture, and 25 architectural students attended the 1975 Institute Convention in New Orleans and spoke on CSI student activities.

When the school's curriculum was changed to make the fifth year one of specialization, Martin became a full-time Lecturer in Architecture, exclusively teaching the administrative concentration of study. He introduced 40 quarter-hours instruction in this new graduate level option.

A new dean and the subsequent further changes in the curriculum ultimately led to the end of Martin's teaching at UT. Not surprising, since – although he later received a degree in Business Administration and pursued graduate study in education at Tusculum College – Martin, at that time, had only completed one year of college himself.

Ever a teacher, his later employment at architectural firms in Memphis, Nashville, and Birmingham always included inhouse education and helping the employees obtain CSI certification as Construction Contract Administrators.

Marvin Martin's legacy will be his former students at the University of Tennessee, their leadership in CSI, and the increasing number of them who are fellow Fellows.

Martin passed away on 7 May 2022, in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

CSI Membership

Knoxville Chapter, 1967

Memphis, Nashville, and Birmingham Chapter, concurrent with employment in those cities

Adviser, UT Student Chapter, 1974-1978

Institute Offices, Committees

Technical Documents Committee, FY 1972-1974

Region Offices, Committees

Region 5 Technical Coordinator, FY 1970, 1971

Chapter Offices

President, FY 1971

Awards

Ben John Small Memorial Award, 1972

Region 5 Technical Excellence Award, 1971

Region 5 Director's Certificate of Merit, 1972

Region 5 Citation, 1973

Knoxville Chapter Certificate of Appreciation, 1973