

Thomas I. Young*, FCSI



*"For conveying the CSI message in service to the construction industry and for your success in converting major engineering and public utility specifications to the CSI format, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on this 28th day of June, 1985."
Orlando, Florida*



THOMAS ISHAM YOUNG was born in Liberty, New York in 1931. In 1955, he graduated from the University of Colorado with Bachelor of Science degrees in architectural-engineering and business management and, following a brief tour of duty with the Army Corps of Engineers, went to work for Stearns-Roger Corporation of Denver as a field engineer and surveyor on construction projects in Utah, Nevada, and Texas.

In 1963, he joined the architectural firm of Georgius Young Cannon, FAIA, FAID, where he discovered the pleasure and pain of construction specifying, and joined the Salt Lake City Chapter of CSI. In late 1964, he accepted a position in Detroit as a specification writer with Albert Kahn Associates, Architects-Engineers, and settled in the Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe, transferring membership from Salt Lake City Chapter to the Detroit Chapter.

Young left Albert Kahn Associates in 1967 to join the Detroit firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, now SmithGroup, and progressed there to director of general building specifications and, in 1981, to Associate and Director of Specifications.

Young became active in the Metropolitan Detroit Chapter in early 1970, was elected President in 1980, and went on to

become Institute Director for the Great Lakes Region in 1986 after having served on and chaired the Institute Certification Committee through the years that were seminal in the development of the CSI's certification program.

From 1975 to 1985, Young was the Metropolitan Detroit Chapter's representative to the Construction Industry Council of Southeastern Michigan, serving as chair in 1978 and 1979. He became a member of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) in 1954, a member of the Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD) from 1971 to 2004, and a member-at-large of the Michigan AIA-AGC Construction Industry Council from 1989 to 2000.

In 1990, Young was elected a Vice President of the Institute and went on to become President in 1993. And, while Immediate Past President, he was elected to a six-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences, serving as chair in 1997 and 1998.

Young retired from SmithGroup in May 2004. He passed away on 26 May 2026.

CSI Membership

Metro Detroit Chapter, 1964
Salt Lake City Chapter, 1964 to 2022
Saginaw Valley Chapter, 1979 to 2022
Blue Grass Chapter, 1986 to 2022

Institute Offices, Committees

Institute Director, 1986–1988
Vice-President, 1990
President-Elect, 1992
President, 1993

Chapter Offices, Committees

Secretary, 1976-1977
President-Elect, 1978-1979
President, 1980
Vice-President, 1984

Awards

J. Norman Hunter Memorial Award, 1983
Institute President's Plaque, 1986
Institute President's Plaque, 1994, 1995