

Gregg Borchelt*, FCSI



"In recognition of your technical excellence in the field of masonry technology, and your unselfish willingness to share your expertise with others in the construction industry through numerous educational programs and publications, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on this 24th day of June, June 1990"
Chicago, Illinois



JONATHAN GREGG BORCHELT, a native of the Midwest, was born in 1944, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He obtained his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from Purdue University in 1966 and 1968, respectively. His major study areas were structures and materials. He was a registered professional engineer in Colorado and Texas.

His professional career began with Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan, providing technical services for the introduction of additives to masonry mortars. This nurtured an interest in expanding the technology of masonry that led to working for Masonry Systems in Denver, Colorado, a firm that licensed systems to build masonry panels. The opportunity to head a masonry promotion organization took Borchelt to Houston, Texas. Educational seminars, technical services, presentations, advertising, and funding research came into his domain.

Gregg joined the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) in 1974. He authored numerous articles and technical papers on masonry materials, design, and construction. His membership on ASTM Committees C12 on Mortar for Unit Masonry, and C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units, which he chaired for several years, allowed him to help formulate and update standards for masonry specifications, test methods, and practices. He received the Alan Yorkdale Memorial Award in 1996 and 1999 and the Gilbert C. Robinson Memorial Award in 2009, and was made a Fellow of ASTM in 1997. During his career, Borchelt developed an international reputation as a source for information on masonry construction.

In 1988, Borchelt accepted the position of Director of Engineering and Research at the Brick Institute of America (BIA) in Reston, Virginia. From this venue he continued the tradition of BIA of providing accurate technical information to the users of brick through educational programs, research,

and liaison with construction industry organizations. In 2010, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award, having served as the organization's President and CEO, Director, and Vice President of engineering and research. He retired from BIA in 2014.

Gregg was a Founding Member of The Masonry Society (TMS), where he served in several offices and on numerous committees. He received the TMS President's Award in 1993, was made a Fellow in 2005, and in 2011 was made an Honorary Member.

In 2014, the Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) awarded Borchelt the C. DeWitt Brown Leadman Award, making him the second person outside the contractor community ever to receive the award. In 2016, he was elected to the MCAA Hall of Fame.

As a CSI member, he spoke to at least 17 chapters at more than 35 chapter meetings. Seven regions heard his presentations on Institute activities and masonry technology. Borchelt presented masonry information at two Institute conventions and authored several articles in the Construction Specifier. Borchelt was also co-founder of a competition for Division 4 Masonry specifications in the South Central Region.

Gregg and his wife Kathy lived in Reston, Virginia. In 2006, they joined the Herring Bay Yacht Club in Herrington Harbor on Chesapeake Bay, Maryland. Gregg served four terms as Treasurer, and was a Commodore Emeritus. In 2018, Gregg and Kathy transitioned from a sailboat to a Formula performance cruiser named Copping. They moved to North Beach, Maryland, in 2009.

Borchelt passed away on 28 September 2025, in North Beach, Maryland.

CSI Membership

Houston Chapter, 1976-1990
DC Metro Chapter, 1988-2005
Northern Virginia Chapter, 1992

Institute Offices, Committees

Director, FY 1985-1987

Vice President, FY 1990
Treasurer, FY 1993-1994

Region Offices, Committees

Middle Atlantic Awards Committee and Chair, 2001-2002

Awards

Institute President's Plaque, 1990