

Anne F. Whitacre, FCSI

*"In recognition of your outstanding contributions to education through your Saturday jobsite visits and monthly "spec talks"; for your work on the MasterSpec Architectural Review Committee and the refinement of master specification systems; for your effectiveness in guiding and mentoring others; and for your ability to facilitate and encourage communication among the construction industry's numerous disciplines, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 1st day of April, 2006."
Las Vegas, Nevada*



ANNE F. WHITACRE is a Washington State native who has found herself unwittingly transplanted to Southern California in pursuit of the perfect job.

Denied access to the drafting and architectural drafting classes in high school (there was no girls' bathroom in the shop building) and slowed down in college ("we don't have good luck with women in this program, so come back after you have five years' work experience"), she got the only job in architecture that no one else wanted: specifications writing. Her history and urban studies background perfectly prepared her to memorize obscure facts and connect them in a plausible story, and the fact that no one wanted to write specs – especially architects – kept her well employed. Her educational endeavors (mentioned in citation above) came about because she didn't know anything about architecture and quickly figured out that most of the people her age didn't know anything either. The fact that she was one of three women in a 158-person professional staff meant that her ideas were usually remembered – not always well thought of – but remembered.

Job changes ensued. The first time Whitacre heard about CSI was from a (very) former boss who mentioned the organization. She stopped sort of open-mouthed and asked,

"You mean there are other people who do what you do, and they actually admit it in public?" Well, 30 years later, she was one of them, and she admits it in public. She also admits that she stopped apologizing for it perhaps 10 years ago.

In general, Anne's work history has mostly been about large healthcare and laboratory projects, probably \$4 billion worth of them. The 10 years of self-employment saw her working on projects that ranged from a single car garage (with art studio on top) to public healthcare hospitals; and a lot of very expensive single family homes for Microsoft owners. Her work with Zimmer Gunsul Frasca gave her the opportunity to "go national," and her job with Gehry Partners provided untold expansion. Anne later moved to HOK.

As for life in general, I can sum up by saying:

"Always drive a convertible if you have the option."

"Life is better with a dog than without a dog."

"Shoes and chocolate ... make a lot of things better."

And some of the best friends she ever had have come from CSI.

Anne was the first woman president of the Puget Sound Chapter. She also was the first woman chair of AIA's Masterspec Review Committee.

CSI Membership

Puget Sound

Los Angeles

Institute Offices, Committees

Certification Committee, FY 2003-2005

Region Director, Northwest Region, FY 2007

AIA Masterspec Review Committee: 2001 through 2007

Region Offices, Committees

Too many to mention and not important at this time. Mostly certification.

Awards

Too many to mention and not important at this time.