

Louis C. Medcalf*, FCSI

"For your pioneering and innovative contributions in developing and sharing electronic communication tools; for outstanding service to the Institute while a member of the Specifications Subcommittee, the Practice Subcommittee, the UniFormat Task Team, and as president of the Cincinnati and Memphis Chapters; for extraordinary educational contributions as Editor of the Memphis Perspective, and as mentor to students, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 22nd day of June 2007."
Baltimore, Maryland



LOUIS C. MEDCALF was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1946. He studied architecture at the University of Cincinnati.

In October of 1982, immediately after starting a new job as a full-time specifier for a prominent architectural firm in Cincinnati, he joined the Cincinnati Chapter, CSI. Although he had prepared specifications for a small office where he was previously employed, Louis soon realized the need for assistance in becoming a full-time specifier. He acquired a copy of the *CSI Manual of Practice* and studied and consulted it regularly. He also learned the need for the networking available through CSI with fellow specifiers and product representatives, gaining a new appreciation for the contribution of product representatives in the process of designing and documenting construction projects.

In 1984, Louis attended the two-week course on specifications and contracts at the University of Wisconsin, where he studied under Tom Heinemann and Hans Meier. He sat for and passed the CDT and CCS examinations that year. Louis became convinced of the importance of the *Manual of Practice* as a source of information that people in the construction industry need to know that is not taught elsewhere, and in the mid-1980s began a life-long commitment to teaching CSI principles. He has since participated every year in training sessions organized by the Cincinnati and Memphis chapters, as well as commuting to

Lexington, Kentucky on weekends for several years as sole instructor for the Bluegrass Chapter. He has been a guest lecturer on specifications and contract documents at the University of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky University, the University of Memphis, and for the National Association of Women in Construction.

Louis held several committee chairs and chapter offices in Cincinnati, eventually becoming Chapter President. In 1995, Louis accepted a position in Memphis, Tennessee and transferred his membership to the Memphis Chapter, where he served in multiple positions, including Chapter President. As newsletter editor, Louis won national and regional awards each year for the Memphis *PerSpective*, transforming it into a prominent technical magazine as well as a timely source of chapter information.

In 2001, Louis started a bluegrass band in Memphis with two other architects, both CSI members, called "Critical Path." Louis wrote some of the songs performed by the band, which performed at regional and local CSI events, and other venues.

From 2011 to 2019, Louis and David Stutzman led a monthly education series for the Specifying Practice Community.

Medcalf passed away in his home on 7 July 2021.

CSI Membership

Cincinnati Chapter, 1982–1995

Memphis Chapter, 1995–2007

Nashville Chapter, 2007–2021

Institute Offices, Committees

Specifications Subcommittee, FY 1991–1993

Practice Subcommittee; FY 1995–1996

UniFormat Task Team, FY 1997–1998

Chair, Preliminary Project Description (PPD) Task Team, FY 2008

Co-chair, PPD Task Team, FY 2015–2016

Chair, Multiple Package Projects Practice Guide Task Team, FY 2015

Awards

Institute Certificate of Appreciation, 1993

Institute Technical Commendation, 1994

Institute Certificate of Merit and Appreciation, 1995

Institute Publications Commendations, 1998, 1999, 2000

Institute Certificate of Merit and Appreciation, 2002

Institute Outstanding Contribution Award, 2019

Institute Board Chair Plaque, 2019

Great Lakes Region Certificate of Appreciation, 1991, 1995

Gulf States Region Publication Commendations, 1998, 1999

Gulf States Region Technical Commendation, 2000

Gulf States Region Certificate of Appreciation, 2002