

# Richard L. Levin\*, FCSI

*"For your remarkable advancement of the principles of CSI through your excellence in building materials research; for your perseverance in developing and implementing sustainable construction waste management specifications; for your tenacious promotion of environmentally responsible design; and for your inspiring commitment to education and the mentoring of others seeking knowledge of CSI and specifications, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 19th day of June 2009"*  
Indianapolis, Indiana



RICHARD LESLIE LEVIN graduated from the University of Illinois (Urbana) in 1974 with a BS in Architecture, spending his senior year studying Beaux-Arts architecture in Versailles, France.

Immediately upon graduating, Rick interviewed with Chicago's A. Epstein & Sons and, with nothing else available, was "thrown" into the Specifications Department. Four years later he became Specifier with Murphy/Jahn, acquiring invaluable experience in specifications writing and materials research under the tutelage of the late Bill Lohmann, FCSI. During that time, Rick also became active with the Chicago Chapter (CCCSI). In 1989, Rick moved to Madison, Wisconsin, having accepted a position as Specifications Manager for Flad Architects. In 1999, he began work across town with his current employer Kahler Slater, also as Specifications Manager. Rick is a CCS and a LEED AP.

Rick's career included an abundance of projects (many LEED-certified) for government, healthcare, laboratories, higher education, hospitality, sports/recreation, corporate, and Chicago's O'Hare Airport expansion projects.

Rick's contribution to a USGBC pilot project helped establish the LEED Rating System. He created construction waste management master specifications for Wastecap Wisconsin and the State of Wisconsin for implementing reduction, recycling, and reuse. Rick also underwrote the State's

Fenestration Guidelines. Each document is readily accessible on the Internet.

Rick served on CCCSI's Education Committee, as Secretary, Technical Chairman, and President. Under Rick's leadership, 13 CSI technical documents were published, including a Wood Door Monograph that Rick individually authored. He also helped organize specifications-related seminars and roundtables for CCCSI. Rick He also helped advance professional initiatives by serving as CSI liaison to AIA, AWI, and USDA Forest Products Lab.

Levin enjoyed presenting CSI principles and sustainable design concepts to CSI groups, other professional organizations, co-workers, and university students at his alma mater and at UW-Madison. Rick's passion for his profession and distinctive teaching style always endeared him to his audiences.

Rick's tenacious research skills guided all his pursuits. He pushed technology to its limits, and didn't fear taking paths less traveled to unearth information when straightforward approaches wouldn't do. Rick relished making the "specifications experience" enjoyable for his associates by means of creative problem solving and respectful collaboration. Consequently, he was regarded as a precious resource to whom colleagues keep coming back for more.

Levin passed away on 3 March 2014.

## **CSI Membership**

Chicago Chapter, 1980  
Madison Chapter, 1989-2002

## **Institute Offices, Committees**

CSI Credentials Committee, FY 1988

## **Region Offices, Committees**

Region Conference Co-chair, FY 1988  
Planning Committee, Univ. of Wisconsin Contracts & Specifications Seminars, FY 1990-1996  
Certification Chairman, FY 1994-1995

## **Awards**

### **Institute**

Technical Excellence Award, 1987

### **Region**

Technical Commendation, 1986, 1987  
Education Commendation, 1997

### **Chapter**

Technical Award, 1986  
Education Award, 1986, 1984  
Technical Excellence Award, 1989