

Marilyn G. Smith, FCSI

"For your dedication and expertise in creating drawing standards, quality control review techniques, and prolific specifications writing; for your early adoption and development of specifications for sustainable projects; for your phenomenal creation and promotion of education and certification programs for the Los Angeles Chapter; and for the great care given to the work of the Institute Certification Committee, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 14th day of September 2012."

Phoenix, Arizona



MARILYN SMITH'S early years were spent in South Dakota, where she was born, and in North Dakota until her family moved to Long Beach, California, in 1941. A fourth-generation North Dakotan, she was brought up to expect to work hard and to reach high to achieve as much as she could. At a time when women were not always encouraged to become architects, she decided it was the dream she wanted to pursue.

She is a graduate of UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design, where she was strongly influenced in the Bay Area holistic approach to design by educators such as William Wurster, Ted Bernardi, Gerald McCue, and Joe Esherick; the legacies of Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan; and guest lecturers Bruce Goff, Charles Eames, and Buckminster Fuller.

Marilyn has been a specifier, project architect/manager, and mentor to her co-workers in offices in southern and northern California, and in Northern Virginia, for projects throughout the United States, most notably for offices such as Ward Hall Associates in Fairfax, Virginia, AECOM (DMJM), and Perkins+Will in Los Angeles, California, on projects such as the Ronald Reagan Hospital at UCLA's Medical Center.

She established her own practice as SpecSmith Consulting in 2005, focusing on specifications, quality control reviewing, project coordination, staff training, and mentoring of others.

Realizing in 2005 the tremendous need to educate more people in the proper preparation and use of construction documents, she took on the daunting task of rebuilding the certification programs of the Los Angeles Chapter of CSI. The outstanding success of these programs has inspired others to become involved with the programs, take leadership positions in the chapter, and carry on the work of the Education and Certification Committees as they grow and expand their programs locally and online, and reach out to new markets such as government agencies.

In recognition of her efforts and her inspiration to others, Marilyn has received several Awards from the Institute, West Region, and Los Angeles Chapter of CSI. Since returning to her home state of North Dakota in 2008, she has provided valuable input to new CDT, CCS, and CCCA materials, and continues to promote CSI's certification programs on the Institute, region, and chapter levels..

CSI Membership

District of Columbia Metropolitan Chapter, 1986-1987
Los Angeles Chapter, 1987
North Dakota-Red River Valley (ND-RRV) Chapter, 2008

Institute Offices, Committees

Certification Committee, FY 2009-2012

Region Offices, Committees

Certification Committee Co-chair, North Central Region,
FY 2012-2013

Chapter Offices, Committees

ND-RRV Chapter Certification Committee Chair,
FY 2012-2013

Los Angeles Chapter

Chair, Technical Committee, FY 1988-1989
Professional Director, FY 1989-1992
Chair, Certification Committee, FY 2005-2008

Education Committee, FY 2005 to 2012
Vice President, FY 2008

Awards

Institute

Hans William Meier Award, 2009
Service Commendation Award, Los Angeles Chapter,
2006

West Region

Wilbur Johnston Memorial Award, 2008

Los Angeles Chapter

Citation Award, 2006
Certificate of Appreciation, 2007
President's Award, 2008
Board of Director's presentation, 2011