

# Walter Holmen, FCSI

*“For your commitment and contributions to the mission of the Institute through education and service; for over three decades of passionate and tireless work in education programs, seminars and academic liaison with East Bay-Oakland construction and education communities; and for over 25 years of creative leadership in the East Bay-Oakland Chapter and over 12 years of notable service to the West Region, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 8th day of September 2016.”*  
Austin, Texas



WALTER (WALLY) HARLAND HOLMEN joined the CSI East Bay-Oakland Chapter in 1979, the same year he opened his Architect's Office in Lafayette, California.

Although he retired in 2015, Wally maintains his business cards, Architectural Arts Unlimited (AAU) as a current sculptor (bricollage) and painter (acrylics and watercolors) and printer (block prints) the latter of which he sends as Holiday greetings every year to his classmates from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Wally served the Chapter as President, Secretary, Region Director, and chair of several committees, including Programs, House, Membership, Golf, Bylaws, Nominating, Tellers, and Academic Liaison. He chaired and served as treasurer for two West Region Conferences. He received many Awards from the chapter and the West Region.

As Academic Liaison for the East Bay-Oakland Chapter, Wally initiated personal contact with local colleges, and he explained to students in construction oriented classes the purposes of CSI and the benefits of participation in the organization. This resulted in many students attending the Chapter's dinner programs, at no cost to the students.

Serving on the chapter's Education Committee, Wally developed a co-sponsorship with the East Bay AIA Chapter, which increased attendance at semi-annual seminars from less than 20 to more than 100 participants. These seminars developed into concurrent Product Shows.

Wally's long-time service as Chapter Program Chair and related establishment of semi-annual tours of construction sites, art studios, research facilities; and the *other* CSI, the Alameda County Crime Laboratory, a fascinating exploration of general interest. These topics introduced non-members to CSI. Also, joint dinner meetings with other organizations, i.e., ASCE (Engineers) and OHA (Oakland Heritage Alliance), introduced others to CSI.

Wally introduced the public to knowledge of the "built environment" through community involvement as Chair of the City of Lafayette Walkways Commission. He also assisted in the construction of Eagle Scout Projects for Boy Scouts of America while serving as a Troop Committee Chair. Wally is also blessed with a wife, Sue, two children, and nine local grandchildren.

## **CSI Membership**

East Bay Oakland, 1979

## **Awards**

### **West Region**

Jim Butler Memorial Award