

Elias Saltz, FCSI

"For continuously working to improve the quality of construction specifications through technical articles; for developing a progressive digital platform to deliver specifications; for mentoring young professionals; for advocating for CSI certifications and advancing exam preparation materials; for selflessly serving the Chicago Chapter and North Central Region committees; and for establishing the CSI Chicago Foundation, affirming your passion for helping improve the lives of others, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 5th day of November 2020."

Alexandria, Virginia (virtual)



A lifelong Chicagoan, ELIAS SALTZ developed a passion for design and drawing while a middle-schooler at Baker Demonstration School in Wilmette, Illinois. He began drawing elaborate geometric mazes, which led him to gaining a general interest in design and subsequently to pursuing a career in architecture. Architecture, he believed, offered the best mix of practical application and conceptual design, and would give him good options for a career.

Elias graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with an undergraduate degree in 1990, and obtained his Master of Architecture from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 1994. He then joined the architectural firm Prisco Serena Sturm in Northbrook, Illinois. He worked at several architecture, technology, and specifications firms, before landing in a position as Senior Specifier at Conspectus, Inc., in 2018.

As an architect, Elias quickly discovered his talent and interests lay more in solving problems than in big-picture design, which led him to learn about building technology and product application as they pertain to design, construction documents, and contract administration. In 2008, while working at Eckenhoff Saunders Architects, he was offered the opportunity to take on the position of specifications

writer. As soon as he began that role, he joined CSI and began preparing for the CDT.

His earliest memory of a CSI Chicago event was when he attended the board meeting in advance of a regular meeting. Everyone around the table introduced themselves and stated their current CSI board or committee positions. Not having one, Elias quipped "Future president." He went on to become actively involved in leadership in the chapter, taking on committee and board roles, such as coordinating volunteers at trade shows, chairing committee planning for a bi-region conference.

Despite dedicating hundreds of hours to CSI as a leader at the chapter, region, and institute levels, Elias always insists he has gotten back far more than he contributed, simply by taking advantage of the education and professional relationships he's gained by being involved in the organization.

Elias and his wife Sharon have lived in Buffalo Grove, Illinois since 2007, where they raised their identical twin sons and sent them off to college. For fun, Elias bicycles around 80 miles per week (but not in the winter!), officiates high school football, and reads about science and skepticism.

CSI Membership

Chicago Chapter, 2008

Institute Committees

Certification Preparation Committee, FY 2014

Practice Area Curriculum Committee, FY 2015-16

Region Offices, Committees

Treasurer, FY 2018-21

Electronic Communications Chair, FY 2017-21

Chapter Offices

Vice President, FY 2013-14

President, FY 2016

Treasurer, FY 2018-21

Awards

Institute

Certificate of Merit and Appreciation, 2016

Outstanding Contribution Award, 2019

Region

Region Commendation, 2017

President's Certificate of Appreciation, 2017

Certificate of Appreciation, 2019

Chapter

Rookie of the Year, 2012

President's Award, 2013, 2015

Award of Excellence, 2014, 2018, 2019

"I Just Can't Say No" Award, 2017