

# Philip W. Kabza, FCSI

*"For your enthusiastic promotion of the Institute's objectives by developing and teaching certification classes; for creating, on your own initiative, certification e-mail study guides and on-line modules; for your consistent dedication to promoting certification programs through articles in chapter, region, and Institute publications; for your deep commitment to educating and mentoring other professionals; and for your many thoughtful monthly columns for TeamCS, you are hereby advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 11th day of April 2003."*

*Chicago, Illinois*



PHIL KABZA grew up in a Kalamazoo suburb of post-war ranch houses with 24 houses and 48.6 kids on the block. His early contact with the construction industry included riding on bulldozers excavating for the school next door as well as riding his bike on the roof of the school, an experience that led to his later specifying of durable roofing systems.

Phil graduated from Western Michigan University, writing several literature papers that revealed the promise of his later integration of his English major with his study of architecture, including *Whitewashing the Fence: A Study of Subcontracting Practice in Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer*; *Burnham Wood Comes to Dunsinane: Sustainable Forestry Practices in Shakespeare's Macbeth*; and *Lines at Tintern Abbey: Tolerances in Traditional English Stone Masonry*.

An opportunity to build a garage for a friend gave Phil the opportunity to learn carpentry – from a book, of course – which then led to employment at a carpenter apprentice with Bob the Builder, Inc. This work was interrupted by a degree in architecture at the University of Michigan, and followed by 7 years as a design-builder of passive solar construction in southwest Michigan. His most significant structure, the Community Garden Solar Greenhouse at the Kalamazoo Nature Center, was recently demolished with great difficulty. These experiences gave Phil a prejudice favoring building designs that can actually be built without leaks.

Phil worked in architectural practice in several southwest Michigan firms over the next ten years, providing construction document, contract administration, and project management for institutional and retail architectural projects.

He joined the Grand Rapids Chapter of CSI, obtaining his CDT, CCS, and CCCA certifications, and serving as certification chair, instructor, and chapter board member. Moving to Charlottesville to work at the University of Virginia in capital programs management, he served the Central Virginia Chapter of CSI in similar capacities. An interest in the internet and evolving information practice led to work with Reed First Source as editor of CSI's SPEC-DATA and MANU-SPEC libraries.

Settling in Charlotte, NC, Phil continued work with several large architectural firms while leading certification activities at the Charlotte chapter and the Southeast Region, serving as chapter president. He also served for over 5 years as a columnist and editorial advisor for *The Construction Specifier*, and continues to contribute articles. Phil also served on the AIA MasterSpec Architectural Review Committee and co-founded the Charlotte Building Enclosure Council (BEC).

During this time, Phil and his wife and business partner Nancy Kabza founded SpecGuy, a specifications and education consulting firm that has been recognized for their publication of the well-known *CDT One Day at a Time!* and *CDT One Week at a Time!* certification study programs and webinars. SpecGuy also produces continuing education programs and guide specifications for leading building product manufacturers and supports their architectural marketing through consulting and training. Phil is a frequent contributor to industry online forums and well-known for training seminars related to CDT and architectural practice.

## **CSI Membership**

Charlotte Chapter, 1998 to present  
Grand Rapids Chapter, 1991-1998  
Central Virginia Chapter, 1993-1994.

## **Institute Offices, Committees**

MentorQuest Task Team, 2001 – 2002.  
Construction Specifier Editorial Advisory Board, 1999 – 2007.  
TeamCS Online columnist, 1999 – 2004.

UniFormat Update Task Team, 2006.

## **Region Offices, Committees**

Southeast Region Certification Chair, 1999 – 2002.  
Southeast Region Bylaws Chair, 2004 – 2006.  
Southeast Region Awards Co-chair, 2003.

## **Awards**

Institute Publication Commendation, 2002.  
Southeast Region, Frederick Bucky Award, 2002.