

# Rolf T. Retz\*, FCSI

*"In recognition of your distinguished and dedicated service to the Construction Specifications Institute, as a member, as a leader of your chapter, as a member of the National Board, and as chairman of national committees wherein your efforts have stimulated provocative thought throughout the membership, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on this 24th day of May, 1961."  
New York, New York*



ROLF T. RETZ was born in Levanger, Norway in 1899. He obtained a civil engineering degree from the Norway Institute of Technology, Trondheim, Norway and was a licensed professional engineer, land surveyor and civil engineer.

Retz began his professional career as a specification writer with TVA in Tennessee in 1935. Later, he worked as a specification engineer with the Corps of Engineers and as senior specifications engineer on architectural specifications for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. In 1949 he moved to Sacramento, California and began service with the California State Division of Architecture.

Retz served as Institute Director for Region 11 in 1957 through 1960. During this period of time he was also chairman of the Institute Committee on Chapter Affairs and Programs. He presented the Chapter Affairs Program at the

CSI national conventions in 1958, 1959 and 1960. He also developed the first Institute Chapter Guide.

Retz also served as chairman of CSI's T-3 Committee on Specifications Methods, earning the title of "Father of the CSI Format." At the annual convention in 1961, he presented the proposal for a Manual of Practice with the "Format" at the New York Convention of CSI in 1961.

Retz was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Concrete Association, the Structural Engineers Association of California, and the Building Research Institute. He was also an associate member of the Sacramento Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

In 1964 Retz retired after serving several years as chief of standards for research for the California State Division of Architecture, but remained active in CSI affairs for many years following his retirement.

## **CSI Membership**

Sacramento Chapter, 1953-1987

Member at large, 1951-53

## **Institute Offices, Committees**

Director, 1957-1960

## **Chapter Offices, Committees**

President, Sacramento Chapter 1956-1957

## **Awards**

Institute President's Plaque, 1960