

Testimonial – SCR CSI Student Competition

Serving as President of The Construction Specifications Institute for FY2007, I looked forward with great anticipation to participating in the celebration of the **Dallas Chapter CSI's 50th Anniversary** at the South Central Region Conference. The event met all of my expectations: warm camaraderie, relaxing social events, top-notch educational offerings, amazing architectural tours and, best of all, a novel Region Student Competition that should be emulated by CSI chapters across the country.



As I related the specifics of how the competition was run to the Executive Committee of CSI Board of Directors via a teleconference call on Wednesday 2 August, the rest of ExCom shared the enthusiasm and echoed the charge that such an approach expand across the US. My hat is off to **Grant Easterling, Brian Gardiner, Paul Glenn, Doug Hartman, Frank Fuller** and **Daniel Hargreaves** for a masterful show.

The opportunity to be included as one of the five judges of the competition to determine the winner of two of the categories was an honor:

1. *Most Likely to Be Developed and Manufactured*, and
2. *Most “Out-of-the-Box” Application*

The concept of each student working with a specific exhibitor to get to know the products involved and how best to create a novel application for that product or system tested the design, logic, expressive and technical skills of each. To delineate that concept in a brief period of time before an inquiring group of techies...the true test of a would-be architect!



All eleven of the five-hour sketch problems were quite creative with diverse presentation modes. It was most difficult to determine the winners of the scholarships as the judges argued for half an hour over the finalists; finally, numbered ballots were drawn and two candidates were declared winners. Also, all those in attendance at the conference voted on the most popular project to round out the awards.

After chatting with most of the students during their exemplary tour by **Beck** of the **Hunt Towers**, I felt the enthusiasm they exuded for their chosen profession and wished them all well. Many of them said they were looking forward to the CSI Convention in Baltimore in June (nice to get back to that timeframe), especially after I mentioned that **Margaret Chewing** was planning a similar competition and the students ought to assemble a team and compete with architecture schools from around the country.



With this type of involvement for students and young practitioners, CSI should have no problem attracting a more youthful generation to the benefits of membership in The Construction Specifications Institute!

Edd

**Edward L. Soenke, FCSI, CCS, AIA, NCARB
President, CSI FY 2007**