

OPPORTUNITY LOST?

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As is its nature, opportunity is knocking again--offering its services, for the taking.

There is on-going comment, commiserating, grousing, wondering and worry about the future of specifications writing and the lack of a pool of new spec writers. CSI has, of course, a viable and good student affiliate program which could use more support, exposure, utilization, volunteers and wider use in the schools and as chapter activities.

But that all is another issue.

Now there is a new and fairly rare opportunity that seems to be one CSI, SCIP, their members and influence should jump on. Let's start with the context through use of these links--

<http://blog.aia.org/whitepaper/>
http://www.naab.org/usr_doc/2004_CONDITIONS.pdf

Seems the AIA is in process of producing a white paper for its discussion with the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) in the near future. In reading through the link information you'll see the smidge of an opening for specifications input.

NAAB sets the criteria and conditions for the accreditation of architectural schools. In that, it sets out levels of student achievement--"Understanding", and "Ability" for examples. These are to indicate the type and depth of introduction that bring the student to those levels.

Professional Practice instruction overall, is an issue in that there is not a uniform level established, and this instruction has been squeezed out by other "necessary" or "preferred" instruction. Seems there is reluctance to even broach the topic of the profession as a while--a mystery for another time.

As part and parcel of practice instruction, it is hereby suggested that specifications are a viable and important topic, so important that student exposure-- prior to the IDP--is an imminent necessity. For it is here that the future viability of specs and their creators start. And why should student not understand that along with their wondrous computerized graphics, there are other documents, including specs!!!!, that provide the facilitation for getting their future designs, built!

The thought is that due, direct/pointed and strong urging/comment, and sincere outreach from all the readers of this piece--design professionals and AIA members notwithstanding is appropriate, past due, and critically important to improvement of academic instruction and more aware student/graduates/interns/future professionals. Would be great if CSI as an organization (and its regions and chapters) would see fit to address this issue also.

The NAAB criteria need not, at this point rise to Understanding or Ability--can't we suggest, settle for, and get!!!! simply "Introduction"--broaching the topic(s) and providing some insight into them (and perhaps creating interest for further student investigation).

Look!!! SPECS is not a four-letter word. It can be used in relation to young people.

Knock-Knock; who's there?

Hopefully each one of you, other groups--and opportunity!