# The SPEXpert

*The Newsletter by and for the Members of the Housatonic Chapter of The Construction Specifications Institute*

***April Showers***
***Tuesday, April 15***

The Housatonic Chapter was incorporated in 1969. The chapter has an active membership which meets the third Tuesday of the month September through June.

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Articles are welcome for The *SPEXpert*. Send submissions to the email address above.

**Advertising in The SPEXpert? You bet.**
Just $35 for a business card size ad in each edition of The SPEXpert. Such a deal!

## WRITE, WROTE, WRITTEN, WHAT SAY YOU?

Time to once again sharpen your specification skills. Hear it from the panelists as they respond to the questions supplied by the panel leader.

The **7th Annual Specifiers Roundtable** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15th at Eli's On Whitney, 2392 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT. Parking is across the street.
**Reservations - Contact:** Roy Olsen at rolsen@jcj.com or 860-240-9335.
**Panel Leader:**
Ross Spiegel, FAIA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED AP BD+C, Specifications Coordinator - The S/L/A/M Collaborative
**Panel Members:**
Craig A. Battisto, AIA, LEED AP, CSI, Associate Principal / Director of Project Operations - Amenta Emma Architects
Mark Convertito, CDT, Associate - Perkins Eastman
Dan Dryzgula, Project Manager - FRIAR ARCHITECTURE
Roy C. Olsen, RA, CCS, CSI, LEED AP, Associate Principal / Director of Technical Resources - JCJ Architecture
Heather Van Deusen, AIA, CCS, Senior Associate / Architect - The S/L/A/M Collaborative

**How well can you answer these questions?**

As experienced specification writers continue to age out of the workforce, who do think will take their place or do you think the 'who writes specifications' will totally change in the future?

In last year's Specifiers Roundtable, we discussed the shortage of materials and how design and construction teams are dealing with it. Have conditions improved from last year or are projects still experiencing problems? If so, how are you dealing with the problem on your projects.

Has the relationship with manufacturer's representatives changed over the last year or so? If so, has it improved or worsened?

## 2025 Region Conference

*Longevity/ Durability/ Resiliency-*
*Building on History to Create the Future*

AEC professionals need a strong and reliable network- one that is responsive and that spans various technical and logistical capabilities. CSI is known for providing that kind of network, and one of the best places to build and nurture that network is at the annual regional CSI conference. This year it is May 15-17, in Plymouth MA. More information and registration links can be found at: https://nercsi.com/2025-region-conference-about-schedule/.

Attendee (and sponsor) registration is open; please confirm your attendance today! This is the Region's most important event of the year.

## Why do Architects Hate Specs?

Excerpt from Mike LaValley at mikelavalley.com

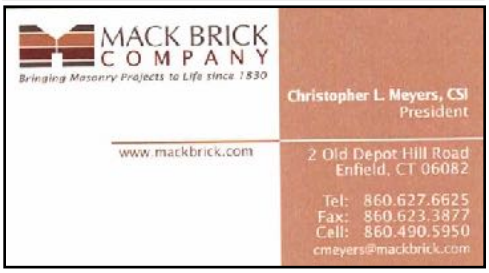
There is a common misconception among younger, emerging Architects and designers that Specifications are somehow less important than drawings.

This mentality is likely due to a few key factors:

1. Most architecture schools don't teach their students how to write specifications
2. Specifications are complicated
3. Specifications aren't as fun to write as drawings are to draw

In my own experience, I didn't go to school to write specifications. I went to school to become an Architect. That doesn't mean specifications ever did anything to me personally. I think I'm just better wired to convey information through a creative drawing process.

The kicker is that you realize very quickly on 'real' jobs in a 'real' office setting, that the specifications are just as important as drawings to the success of a project. In fact, they are weighted equally with drawings in terms of their importance to a set of Contract Documents. This is both the case for their importance in a Court of Law and in terms of how the information is conveyed to the Contractor.

In a contract that two parties sign, the supporting documents attached to the actual contract become binding just as though they were written in the primary sections of the contract.

If the specifications weren't weighted equally, then any party (e.g. Owner, Contractor, Architect) could simply say that "this part" or "that part" of the contract didn't matter over another. The result: complete chaos.