

## John C. Anderson, FCSI



John C. Anderson, FCSI, Honorary Member of the Institute, was a charter member of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, CSI, and its first president; he also was the fourteenth president of the Institute. A visionary, John foresaw the value of computers for bringing automation and consistency to specifications, and was a founder of the Construction Sciences Research Foundation.

John continued to serve CSI in many ways long after his term as president. His volunteer work was not limited to CSI; he also was active in AIA Minnesota, a member of its Professional Development and Intern Development Program Committees, and was a member of the National Panel of the American Arbitration Association.

In 1986, the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter named its highest award in his honor, the John C. Anderson Award of Excellence.

This evening, the fourteenth of May, 2007, we remember John, and how he affected our chapter, our organization, and the construction industry as a whole.

### Special Guests

*Lynn Anderson, St. Louis, Missouri*

*Scott R. Anderson, Bloomington, Minnesota*

*Matthew and Julie Anderson, Cottage Grove, Minnesota*

*Cheryl VanKempfen, Eagan, Minnesota*

## John C. Anderson

Born March 23, 1919, in Calumet, Michigan.

Died January 28, 2007, in Edina, Minnesota.

Graduated from Edison High School, 1937.

Served in US Army Medical Corps 1941-45, including 27 months overseas in Africa and Europe.

Married Madelyne Anderson 1943, who passed away in 2002.

Children: Lynn Anderson, St. Louis, MO; Scott Anderson, Bloomington, MN; Cheryl Van Kempen, Eagan, MN.

8 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren.

### Professional Volunteer Career

1949: Graduated from University of Minnesota, with a Bachelor of Architecture degree.

1956: Registered Architect, Minnesota. Also registered in North Dakota.

1955: Joined CSI.

1957: Charter Member, Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, CSI.

1958: Joined AIA.

1958: First president of Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter.

1962: Institute Director.

1963: Received Institute President's Plaque.

1964: Received Institute President's Plaque.

1964: Institute Vice President.

1965: Elevated to Fellowship.

1968: Fourteenth Institute President.

1970: Secretary, AIA Minnesota.

1970: National Panel, American Arbitration Association.

1970: Executive Director, Medical Facilities Association.

1970: Secretary, Construction Sciences Research Foundation.

1987: Received Institute President's Plaque.

1988: Elevated to Honorary Member of the Institute.

### Work Career

1949-62: Hills, Gilbertson and Fisher

1962-66: Lang, Raugland & Brunst, Inc.

1966-76: Thorsen and Thorshov

1976-87: Hammel, Green and Abrahamson

1987-02: Armstrong, Torseth, Skold and Rydeen

## Remembering John

My first encounter with John Anderson was not with CSI or even specifications, it was architectural. Three Minneapolis firms were engaged to do architectural work on the remodeling of the Mpls. Auditorium and an Exhibit Hall addition, the "old" new convention center. I was "farmed out" from my firm to help with working drawings, and John was the Project Architect. The design was settled, so there was little room for creativity, but we did what we could in small ways. John had a habit of coming to us as we were bent over the drafting board, putting his arm around our shoulders and saying, "How's it going?" This kind of behavior we were not used to. When I joined CSI and started attending conventions, John and his wife Madelyne were always welcoming me and putting their arms around my shoulders.

At Madelyne's memorial service, John admitted to me "I don't know what I'll do without Madelyne." Then it was my turn to put my arm around John's shoulders.

- Pete Norum



1943 Madelyne and John

John was a person that I called a friend and a client. Way back in the 80's I did some consulting for John and others in the firm that he was part of, so I did become fairly well acquainted. He was always friendly, had a smile and a word of encouragement at all times. Always the perfect gentlemen. I enjoyed visiting with him, always learned something from him every time I could visit a few minutes. He was one reason that I left AIA and joined CSI. He was a good salesman for CSI all of the time.

- Duane Grace, Building Official and Plan Reviewer, Alamo, Texas



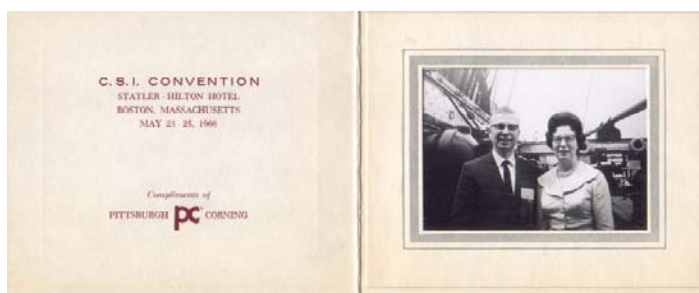
In his early professional years, as a matter of necessity, John was an all-encompassing architect, involved in procuring commissions, design, working drawings, specifications, and field observation.

Early in the 1950s, John became aware of a new fledgling organization in the Washington, DC, area called "CSI". Visionary John could see the industry and local need of ideas, organization, and standardization methods CSI was promoting for the industry. John assumed the lead and forged organizing of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter of CSI.

John was proud to be the first of what has now become a long list of chapter presidents, as well as one of the first Institute presidents.

John will be remembered for his loyalty and devotion to family, religion, profession, friends, and CSI.

- Rodney L. Erickson, CSI, CCS



I remember John as probably HGA's best dressed professional. I remember going on noon walks around Prospect Park with him. He had lots of great advice on vacationing and raising a family.

- Jim Husnik PE, Associate Vice President, Senior Civil Engineer, HGA

John was always such a quiet, behind the scenes guy. He was always positively supporting a member's efforts and encouraging him or her to do even better. Early on in my CSI career, I recall John would get me in the corner and talk about what I wanted to accomplish *when* – not *if* – I moved up in the association. He always assumed everyone wanted to be active and contribute to CSI in some way. Somehow, there was no way anyone wanted to let him down.

That "guy from Minneapolis" always seemed to be calling, asking how things were going but not really having an office at the time...that "retired" guy that always seemed to have the time to help out if he sensed you weren't getting things done. I am still amazed at how he did that for so long, especially when one realizes he was CSI President in 1967!

When I was in Indianapolis a couple of weeks ago, I chatted with John Fleck (1972 President); he, too, mentioned John Anderson and how much Fleck had learned from him when he was coming up the ranks.

Fleck said John Anderson was Mr. NCR, which coincides with the era that our region was, and is now, held as one of the best. John's legacy is just that...the leaders he encouraged to "carry on", which is what we shall do!

- Edd Soenke, President, CSI

I remember my first Chapter Technical Committee meeting, and John telling of days gone by when our chapter championed many of the formats and processes that make up CSI today. I'll never forget what John said to me when I suggested that maybe we, the MSP chapter, needed to say something about our concerns. John looked me straight in the eye, and said, "Maybe you should!" I took that as a challenge to get more involved in CSI, and even I, a relative nobody in CSI could in fact make change happen.

- Jerry Putnam, RSP Architects

I was in school with John, a gang of about eight. John was a chow hound, but always managed to stay trim. One night – one of those long nights in architecture school – the gang of eight went to White Castle to get something to eat. After sitting down at the counter, the waitress happened to start at John's end of the group. "What will you have?" she asked. "Eight hamburgers," he replied. Chuck, who was next in line, said "Make that nine; I'd like two." Which broke up the rest of the group, as they knew John was ordering for himself.

- Chuck Wahlberg, BWBR Architects



1987 President's Plaque

My contact with John was through my involvement with the SpecText review committee. I always found him to be a true gentleman – really a gentle man. John was always anxious to resolve those differences and did not bear any personal animosity toward us. He will definitely be missed.

- Robert Paul Dean, CSI, CCS, AIA, President and COO, Building Systems Design, Inc.

My favorite thing about John was that he never passed by the Sherwin Williams ice cream tables at CSI conventions, especially chocolate.

- *Bob McManus*

I remember John being hired by HGA to help put together and do the construction administration for HGA's first hospital project, the St. Joe's Hospital addition and remodeling in St. Paul. He was instrumental in making that project a success. John had lot of experience and knowledge of mechanical and electrical system requirements for various types of buildings. I, being a mechanical person, found it very enjoyable to work with John because of his various expertise.

- *Glenn Hawkinson, HGA Architects*

I was first aware of John C. Anderson during a social time preceding a CSI chapter meeting at the Manor Restaurant in St. Paul; the year: 1960, I believe. John was relating his recent departure from a middle management position in a Minneapolis architectural firm. It seems he had gone to the boss complaining about the firm's closing a branch office somewhere out on the prairie, leaving some of his contemporaries out there without the previous support from home. What impressed me was that here was a man who cared for his colleagues and was quick to condemn injustice. Ethics with a heart! An example to be followed by this young architect.

In ensuing years I saw John rise to the heights of the profession, Fellow and Honorary Member of CSI, Institute President, founder of the Construction Sciences Research Foundation, international renown in construction communications and leadership in architectural education, all the time a productive member of numerous design teams. He was indeed a national treasure. Locally, John was a mentor to all who worked with him, an example of loyalty to firm and to co-workers.

And now he is gone, no more chance to call him up and ask, "John, what do you think of....?", no more wise and helpful counsel. John's funeral was a real celebration of his life. The pastor titled his eulogy "The Master Architect", a fitting tribute to a true master architect.

- *Jim Kellett*

I first met John Anderson in 1992 when I was appointed to the CSI Specifications Subcommittee, responsible for review of SpecText. John was the liaison to the Subcommittee from the Construction Science Research Foundation (CSRF), the owner of SpecText, and thus our "client" in the review process. John was a quiet man who had a very "grandfatherly" way that could make you feel both comfortable and respectful at the same time.

One of the great things about John was that even if he had occasion to admonish you, he would also be the first to come to your defense, when he felt your position was right or deserved further consideration. He was a man of honor

with the highest integrity for whom doing the right thing for the right reason was the only thing that was important.

The list of John's credits and credentials would take up pages, but all that really doesn't matter. To me, John was just a great guy who I had the pleasure to know. We can all learn a lot from how he conducted himself, and I only hope that when I leave this earth, I will be loved and respected by others the way so many of us loved and respected him.

- *Dennis Hall, Hall Architects*

All of us who have been Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter members for a long time knew John Anderson. He was one of the stalwarts, one of the folks you could count on to give time, attention, and opinion to you when you asked for it. As to the opinion side of things, he sometimes gave that when you didn't ask for it as well as when you did. With his background and experience in the industry and within CSI, his opinions were worth listening to, whether solicited or not. He was a great resource and a great repository of institutional memory for the Chapter, Region, and Institute. He was a wonderful guy and an enormous asset to the industry. He will be missed.

The trait that I will remember best about him was his devotion to his wife, Madelyne. Perhaps my most enduring memory of John is seeing him walking down the aisle with Madelyne at the show. They were often holding hands and when they saw me they would both burst into smiles as if I were a long-lost, wealthy relative. I was neither. They were just delighted to see a friendly, Twin Cities acquaintance. After visiting for a few minutes, they would meander off in search of another old friend to greet. They had lots of them, so they moved slowly down the aisles.

John was a true professional in every way. He was a gentleman, and a gentle man. If we were all a little more like him, the world would be a better place.

- *Robert Saumur, FCSI, CCPR*



**1988 Honorary Member**