

## 2019 - Student Category

### The Gulf States Region CSI Specifications Competition Student Category

Have you noticed there are numerous competitions to award design professionals for outstanding architectural designs? But when it comes to recognizing excellence in construction specifications, you'll find only one such competition - the prestigious Gulf States Region (GSR) CSI Specifications Competition.

CSI recognizes the quality and professionalism construction documents contribute to the success of the project. The effort, experience, and depth of knowledge required to prepare the project manual, and to coordinate the technical, administrative, and procedural requirements that comprise the project manual are skills to be acknowledged - and rewarded.

Improve communications and demonstrate the level of excellence possible in professional practice for writing construction documents. Take advantage of this opportunity to show your Instructors, future employers and clients what exceptional specification sections look like.

The benefits of entering are numerous - and if you win there's even more!

- Learn ways to improve your technical writing skills - every entry receives a thorough written evaluation.
- Prove your technical expertise.
- Be honored by your peers at an Awards Ceremony during GSR CSI's Annual Conference.
- See your winning entry on display in the GSR CSI Showcase at GSR CSI's Annual Conference.
- Add a meaningful accomplishment to your resume.
- Receive an Honorable Mention or Merit award certificate.
- Receive an Honor Award - there is only one awarded!

#### Evaluation Procedure and Criteria

Members of the Specifications Competition Committee - judge all entries. The committee determines awards based on point scores assigned to entries by evaluation teams under the judges' direct supervision. Each entrant is provided with a general evaluation upon completion of judging. Individual entry scores are not disclosed and judges' decisions are final.

#### Evaluation

- Failure to adhere to CSI's format documents
- Illegal use of copyrighted documents
- Inconsistent page and section formats
- Misuse of the three-part section format
- Referencing section or division numbers in document titles
- Incorrectly identifying document with section title
- Misuse of specification language rules
- General appearance and consistency of format
- Typographical errors
- MasterFormat Numbers and Titles
- Specification language, grammar, vocabulary, punctuation, capitalization, preferred sentence construction and style, abbreviations, symbols and numbers

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- Technical Proficiency
- Specifying technical content and degrees of detail
- Text
  - Method of preparation and adequacy of writing or editing
  - Proper editing
  - Word processing/computer applications

### Rules of Entry

1. Entries in Category E consist of a complete specification section of written construction documents for a construction project. Specification Sections may be written for, but not limited to the following: Unit Masonry, Metal Fabrications, Architectural Woodwork, Thermal Protection, Roofing and Siding Panels, Doors and Frames, Windows, Plaster and Gypsum Board, Painting and Coating, Interior Specialties, etc.
2. Entries shall be in the English language.
3. Submit two complete sets of specification section.
4. Entries shall be substantially bound.
5. Entries shall not contain unauthorized reproduced copies of copyrighted documents.
6. CSI membership is not required.
7. Entries will not be returned.
8. Entries shall be prepared by a student enrolled in a construction/architectural/engineering university or college.
9. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed, signed copy of the official entry application, an entry description, and an entry fee for each entry. \$10 for CSI Student members or \$20 non-members.
10. Deadlines for entries - The first Friday in April 2019. Entries must be postmarked by this date.
11. A late entry, unsigned entry applications, no entry fee, or copyright violations are grounds for automatic disqualification.

### Tips for Preparing a Winning Specification Section

1. Entries are judged according to their adherence to CSI's current Practice Guides, MasterFormat (2004 or later), SectionFormat™, and PageFormat™.
2. Repeated references to the General Conditions, Supplementary Conditions, and Division 01 General Requirements at the beginning of the specification section, or general and vague references to individual Division 01 sections at the beginning of section articles is unnecessary.
3. The end of each section should be noted with the words END OF SECTION in uppercase letters, centered two lines below the last line of the section text, without parentheses or other adornment.
4. MasterFormat 2004 or later provides six and 8 digit numbers. Unused numbers are available to permit assignment of numbers to selected level 4.

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Awards (Tip: To limit the deficiencies in your entry, read the “Tips for Preparing a Winning Entry”.)

Honor Award (Grade of 95 percent minimum)

CSI's highest award recognizes outstanding achievement in the preparation of the specification section.

Honorable Mention (Grade of 85 percent minimum)

Exceptional entry with limited deficiencies will earn this highly respected award.

Merit Award (Grade of 75 percent minimum)

Entries that use new or unusual approaches or handle specific conditions in a particularly effective manner are eligible for this honor. There is no limit to the number of Merit Awards.