



Richard Horowitz, AIA, RRC

RCI Comes of Age

A Report on the Southeastern Building Envelope Conference

Held October 27 and 28, 1994, in Atlanta, Georgia

Richard Horowitz received a B.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both in the field of architecture. Soon afterward, he became a Registered Architect and, in 1961, established his own firm, now called Horowitz & Edwards, AIA. He has been active in various AIA committees and was president of the Central Chapter, New Jersey Society of Architects. Richard served as RCI president during 1992-93 and was awarded the title Fellow of the Institute in 1990. In addition to chairing the early products performance (then called Roofing Industry Anomaly

Research) and credentials committees, he co-authored RCI's first certification exam and promptly became known as RCI's "Man you love to hate". Richard is a long-standing member of the Interface peer review group and has recently agreed to chair the Educational Services Committee.

It's been some time now that I've heard RCI described as "a bunch of ex-shingle salesmen"; my thought now, as it was then, is that it might be surprising for some people to learn what a bunch of ex-shingle salesmen knows.

Along with 46 other people who had signed up, I recently journeyed to Atlanta to attend RCI's Southeastern Building Envelope Conference held on October 27 and 28; I was hoping for a fairly good discussion of some subjects about which most RCI members (me included) might learn more. If this was my expectation, it was not to be realized. The discussion was not fairly good at all; it was superb.

What was presented over those two days was probably the best single seminar (on any subject) which I have ever attended in my professional life. From Joe Hale's



(To the left) Bob Swisher joined RCI members to make the Southeastern Building Envelope Conference "the best single seminar ever attended". (To the right) Speakers captured the attention of their audience.

introductory discussion of "Building Envelope Inspections", including a fine detailed exposition on sources for project research data, delivered in Joe's dry, folksy manner (don't be fooled; never play poker with this guy), through Dick Canon's hi-tech computer-driven slide show (on hail damage), I was enthralled.

The first day's presentations included Warren French's beautifully detailed discussion of "EIFS" (Exterior Insulating Finishing Systems, to you ex-shingle salesmen), Lyle Hogan's urbane talk on "Air Invasion", Patrick Downey's comprehensive exposition on "Energy Analysis", and concluded with Bob Swisher's "Building Sealants". Bob (of Dow Corning) was the sole non-RCI member presenter, but you couldn't tell it by

the quality of his material.

The next morning's program commenced with Nelson Hall speaking logically and concisely on "Copper Roofing"; continued with Sam Huff's crisp, definitive presentation of "Tile Roofing" problems as seen from the point of view of someone who has experienced them (repeatedly) close-up; and Bill Marcum's uniquely personal view of "Slate Roofing", filled with such flamboyant touches as "won't work for doo-diddle", "a lot of dipsey-doodle (is involved with the surface of poured concrete substrates)", and "as serviceable as screen doors in submarines". The day ended with Dick Canon's presentation "Hail Damage".

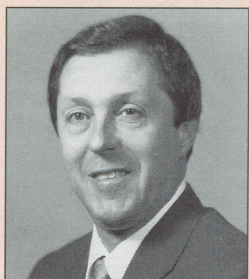
The conference wasn't a com-

plete success, though: the damned thing wasn't taped — an oversight which will be corrected at future seminars. I am assured by the new Chairman of the Educational Services Committee* that many of these non-roofing subjects will be studied for inclusion in future RCI educational programs.

Those of you who, for whatever reason, considered attending but did not — you missed a good one. It will be a measure of RCI's maturity to match the quality of this seminar in future presentations.

** (Editor's Note. Richard Horowitz is the new Chairman of the Educational Services Committee, replacing Dave Siple, RRC. Refer to "A Tribute to Dave Siple," in the September 1994 issue of Interface.)*

Walter J. Rossiter Jr. Receives ASTM's Award of Merit



Walter J. Rossiter Jr., a research chemist in the Building Materials Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), has been named a 1994 recipient of ASTM's Award of Merit. The award was presented at ASTM's June ceremonies last year in Montreal. ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) is a management system for the development of voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, systems and services, and the promotion of related knowledge.

Walt Rossiter was nominated for the honor by ASTM's Committee D-08 on Roofing, Waterproofing and Bituminous Materials. He was cited for his outstanding leadership in the U.S. voluntary standards system and for innovation and personal commitment to improving ASTM standards for roofing materials and systems.

Walt holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a B.S. degree from Boston College, both in the field of chemistry. His entire career has been spent with NIST, where he researches building materials and systems, specializing in roofing and insulation.

A 19-year member of ASTM, Walt has held numerous leadership positions within Committee D-08 and currently serves as its chairman. He is also a member of ASTM Committee C-16 on Thermal Insulation. In addition to his ASTM activities, he is a member of the American Chemical Society and the International Union of Testing and Research Laboratories for Materials and Structures (RILEM).

RCI joins ASTM in honoring Walt, who is a long-time supporter of the Institute and has advanced its goals and programs. Walt has contributed immensely to the enrichment of RCI members by sharing his time, experience, and his wealth of knowledge.