

Profiles published in past Maine Chapter Newsletters

PROFILES – Last name beginning with R through Z

The following are "Profiles" of Maine Chapter Members that have been published in previous issues of the Maine Chapter Newsletter. Some individual show may no longer be members of the Maine Chapter or CSI.

The indicated month and year is the issue of the Chapter Newsletter in which this appeared.

Profiles are shown alphabetically by last name.

April 2005 - John Rasmussen, CSI, CCCA

I work for the University of Southern Maine as a Building Construction Engineer. Responsibilities include project coordination on new construction, renovation and energy conservation projects. Since starting this job in 2001, I have been involved with over \$20 million in construction on the Portland and Gorham campuses. Working in the construction industry has been the main focus of a 25 year career.

My experience in the industry started when I was old enough to recognize the difference between a hammer and a screw driver, helping both my Grandfather and Father renovate the homestead in Larkspur, California. It continued with weekend and summer odd-job work for neighbors. This led to a strong interest in Architecture and a degree from California Polytechnic State University in Architectural Engineering in 1975. Short stints with a couple of design/engineering firms convinced me to return to self-employment as a contractor in residential remodeling. I had difficulty reconciling environmental concerns with the types of projects I was working on- vast subdivisions, shopping centers and Office Parks. Recycling housing seemed a more fitting endeavor.

Despite being a native of the "Golden" State, I found the cultural and economic changes taking place in the 70's to be disappointing and decided to seek fame and fortune elsewhere. In 1981, given a strong interest in Yankee history, I decided to give New England a shot. Family and friends gave me a year before I came back. It's been 23 years and I have no regrets.

When I first arrived in New England, I landed a job with a Massachusetts CAP agency running various construction programs including ModRehab, and self-help housing renovation. After a couple of years, this was followed by work with Citizens Conservation Corp in Boston managing energy efficiency upgrades for multi-family housing projects. During this time I lived in Gloucester- right downtown overlooking the Fisherman-at-the Wheel and Eastern Point Light. I thought I finally found a new home a place to put down some roots.

Tired of the Boston commute, I left CCC to start another construction business, in town, that included commercial as well as residential renovation. Business was good, hours long, but very satisfying. A notable project my company completed was the historic renovation of the GAR Hall on Washington St. The building was near collapse. It is now high-end office rental space.

I met my wife during this time and we started a family. Not surprisingly, being self-employed and trying to be an equal partner on the home front led to some conflicts. This combined with the "Dukakis Miracle" taking place in Massachusetts with California-like cultural/economic changes taking place (Deja-vu all over again), we decided to move to Maine. For my wife, it was a homecoming as she is a native of Auburn, Maine.

Itching to try something different, we moved to Cherryfield, ME to run a Bed and Breakfast called the Black Shutter Inn. For supplementary income, in true Downeast style, I took on small construction jobs and worked at Hinckley Yacht in Southwest Harbor as a line carpenter. I was in seventh heaven but my wife, stuck at home 15 hours a day with a 3 and 1 year old sons, was anxious to return to a more populated area. So, she found me a job at Central Maine Power. They hired me as an energy engineer to work with their commercial and industrial customers on energy conservation projects. I enjoyed this work and the people I was fortunate to meet very much. However, after ten years and utility re-regulation, er, I mean, de-regulation, I had a tough choice to make- selling electricity or seek different employment. Not a particularly skilled salesperson, I chose the latter. Lucky for me and my family, I was hired in my current position by the University. It has been a terrific experience. The University has generously supported my career development including my involvement with CSI and attainment of CCCA certification.

I know reside with my wife and four children in East Auburn in an old farmhouse on the edge of town. This old farmhouse represents a "strike three" for me as it is the third extensive restoration project I've put my family thru in the last 20 years. It'll be another 10 years before I'm done. I must say it does its advantages for raising kids- no heartburn over spilled milk or artwork on the walls.

June 2010 - Douglas Rice, PE, CSI

I have had the pleasure of residing in Maine since 1966 when my father was stationed at Brunswick Naval Air Station. I graduated from Brunswick High and worked in the construction industry building single family homes before continuing my education at Central Maine Vocational Technical Institute in the architectural and civil engineering technology program. After graduation in 1975 I returned to home building and provided drafting services for single family homes. In 1976 I married my wife Brenda (of 34 years) who encouraged me to obtain my associates degree in architecture and building construction from the University of Maine @ Augusta. In January of 1978 I began my career with Wright-Pierce as a drafter. I held the position of Chief Draftsman for a few years before starting a new position as a civil technician at Wright-Pierce. I worked for 6 years at Kimball Chase as a senior civil technician with responsibility for overall CADD

production. In the early 90's I returned to Wright-Pierce to work as a senior environmental technician. In 1997 I became a licensed professional engineer (civil). I am currently a project manager in the civil department responsible for site development, utility and recreational projects.

January 2002 – Douglas Richmond, CSI

My interest in architecture developed during four years at Cranbrook School, in Bloomfield Hill, Michigan. The school was designed by Eliel Saarinen. The beauty of the school from its plan to details overcame me. I am still enchanted by Cranbrook and the work of Eliel Saarinen. From Cranbrook I went to Dartmouth for a liberal arts degree. From Dartmouth I continued onto Yale earning a Graduate Professional Degree in Architecture in 1963. Yale exposed students to a myriad of influences from Europe, the Far East and the United States. The Architecture studios occupied the top floor of Lois Khan's Art Gallery Building. From this vantage point we were able to watch the construction of the Yale Art and Architecture Building, designed by Paul Rudolph.

While at Yale I had a great opportunity to support my education by working for George Izenour the theatre designer, engineer and professor at the Yale Drama School. His consulting practice was involved in projects with Taliesen; Caudill, Rowlett & Scott and Paul Schwieker. I detailed many of the designs that George Izenour created. This was an important part of my education. I've collaborated with George Izenour on several projects in my practice. After graduation I worked for a medium sized architectural office in New York City for a year. From New York I went to Paris, France, to work for Candillis, Josic and Woods, an international architectural firm. Shadrach Woods, who had been a visiting studio critic at Yale, hired me. This was a great experience because the firm had just won the design competition for the Free University of Berlin and it was also working on a major urban housing in Toulouse, France. I worked on a convent in Poitiers, France, a project on which the creative engineer Jean Prouve collaborated.

After 2 years in France I went to Finland to learn about Finnish architecture. Architects are highly regarded in Finland, and I was lucky to land a job. I was a token foreigner in a fifteen-person office and not given a great deal of design responsibility. In Finland I was able to see Saarinen's home and many of his works. As a result of this two-year stay I came to especially admire the work of Alvar Aalto.

I was lured back to the States by a promise of a project in Dayton, Ohio, for which I would be the architect. For many reasons the project never came to fruition.

In 1970, I decided to move to Maine, because of its similarities to the many fine qualities I admire about Finland, without the disadvantage of a language barrier. Both places have a high respect for nature and a strong sense of identity and pride. Craftsmanship and handcrafts are held in high regard. Maine has same natural beauty as that of Finland; a handsome rugged coast, four seasons, groves of birch trees and abundant

lakes and forests. During my first year in Maine I commuted weekly and worked for Stall Associates in Boston.

I hung out my shingle in Brunswick in 1972. Over the years my office has designed Institutional, Educational, Continued Care, Municipal Facilities and multi-family projects in addition to many single-family homes. Recently we joined with Amsler, Woodhouse and Maclean, Architects as associate architects for a major addition and renovation to the Brunswick Curtis Memorial Library. Our largest independent project to date is the new elementary school for 260 students in Veazie costing \$4.3 million. Currently, construction of a major addition is nearly completed at Hill House, an extended care facility in Bath. Presently we are involved with Wright-Pierce Engineers on the Downtown Revitalization Project in Gardiner. The goal of this project is to bring new life to 43 mixed-use historic buildings that are in a flood plain.

Bob Kahn has worked with me for twelve years and became my partner in 1995. Our office has remained small by choice. Bob and I enjoy designing a project from initial client contact, through all design phases and seeing the construction completed; our work is hands-on all the way.

We pride ourselves on responding to our clients and listening to their needs, taste and budget. Active listening has led us to more creative design solutions. Architecturally fulfilling projects are the results of good communication and collaboration with interested and engaged owners. By being responsive to our clients we have produced a great variety in our designs.

Our office is concerned with Maine's environment and we strive to continually educate our clients as well as ourselves about sustainable design. We consider sustainability in all projects and it becomes integrated into the project to the extent the client accepts our rational. We gain satisfaction in giving the client a value greater than they had expected when they contracted our services. We love what we do: creating firmness, beauty and enduring value.

November 2000 - Beth Schidzeg, CSI, CCS

Hello everyone, my name is Elizabeth Schidzig and I have been a specification writer and CSI member since 1986. I have been primarily involved with CSI as the Certification Chairman for the Maine Chapter. In past years, I organized study groups to help individuals learn how to read, interpret and write specifications and contracts in accordance with CSI standards. Through the years it was my favorite part of CSI because each individual trades person added their own perspective of the construction process and how to improve communications. After working with other states to develop study group materials, I became the Northeast Region Certification Coordinator. It was rewarding for me to go to Alexandria, VA and meet with individuals from around the country to discuss and problem solve issues within the different committees. There was a true commitment among the groups to promote the "Advancement of Construction

Technology." As much as I enjoy spec writing, it was not my childhood dream for a career! I think I have wanted to be an architect/ interior designer all my life.

I grew up on Sebago Lake in Raymond, Maine. I spent many weekends and most vacations with family in both Houlton, Maine and Spring Lake, New Jersey. The inspirations for my career path came early in my life. My great aunt, a fashion designer in Boston and New York, taught me to mix and use watercolors to create the color wheel before I could read. I frequently visited and admired the work that my great grandfather did in New Jersey, building civic buildings, and seaside pavilions on the boardwalk and Japanese gardens on college campuses. My father is a Merchant Mariner and always brought us back postcards of the architecture from all over the world. I also worked in my family's construction company, where I learned the "other side" of the bid process. Finally, my fifth grade Social Studies teacher, Mr. Pearl, heard that I wanted to become an architect. He brought in his drafting board and tools, taught me how to use them and had me design a large school over the course of a semester. He even had me build a scale model of the library. That was definitely the true meaning of being a mentor!

I received an Associates Degree in Interior Design from Chamberlayne Jr. College, in Boston, MA (now Chamberlayne School of Design at Mt. Ida). Determined to learn construction, I earned an Associates Degree in Building Construction from Central Maine Technical College, in Auburn, Maine. In 1985 I worked at Diverse Drafting and Design, in Windham, and then worked at Harriman Associates in Auburn from 1986 to 1997. During this time I began attending the Boston Architectural Center two nights a week. Over the past few years I have worked at SMRT, Gawron Architects and Semple and Drane Architects.

My favorite projects were the interior's for Maine Medical Center's Ambulatory Health Care Center (especially Maine Children's Cancer Program), with Denis Lemieux at Harriman Associates and Great Salt Bay School with Ellen Belknap at SMRT. I appreciate the experience that they gave me. I graduated from the Boston Architectural Center with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree and am now studying for the Architectural Registration Exam. I am currently working as an architectural/ interior designer in the "Maine Design Studio" in Windham. I created the studio last spring as a resource to promote design collaboration and learning. I am working on projects with other Architects, Engineers and private owners from Maine and New Hampshire. The projects so far have ranged from hospital interiors to hair salon additions. It has been very exciting.

I have lived in Windham with my husband, Brian Schidzig for the past 12 years. We love to travel to other countries, renovate old buildings, ski, canoe, and backpack. We own a small store "Too Cool, Inc." in Kennebunkport. I also enjoy being a Special Olympics volunteer for the downhill slalom course.

May - 2009 - Mark Stillman, CSI, CDT

I was born and raised in Newburgh, Maine just outside of Bangor. In 1993-94 I attended Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston where I studied Architecture. I soon realized I would have to fund my college tuition another way and the only way I could think of at the time was the United State Army. I joined in October 1995 as a Personnel Management Specialist. In March of 1996, soon after basic and specialized training at Fort Jackson South Carolina, I married my wife Cheryl. My first duty station was Fort Clayton, Panama, the commercials weren't kidding when they said, "you can travel the world". We spent 2 years and 8 months in Panama where we had our first child Victoria.

My next duty assignment took us to the Pentagon in Northern Virginia. While serving full time as a soldier I attended the University of the District of Columbia and received a Bachelors degree in Architecture. I was on terminal leave with the Army and was currently working for the Army National Guard as a civilian just down the road of the Pentagon when the hijackers of 9/11 flew the plane into the outer ring of the Pentagon. Needless to say it was a terrifying day. As a civilian I worked for the Army Intelligence Agency on Fort Belvoir and the Army Space and Missile Defense Command in Crystal City, Virginia.

While in Virginia we also managed to have three more children Alexander, Zachary and Isabella. After graduating in 2004 my wife and I decided to move back to Maine for a less stressful life. We took a step of faith and I gave my notice at work, bought a house on the Internet and I moved my family to Windsor, Maine. We moved to Bangor a year after I started working at WBRC in May of 2004 and am still currently working there as an Intern. I will begin taking my ARE exams later this year. I joined CSI a year or so prior to sitting on the Board of Directors in 2008.

Oh, and we have managed to have two more children since being back in Maine, Anna and Olivia. So if you go back through and count them up that makes six kids. So much for a less stressful life!