

## BSD SpecLink A Great Move for Arris Architects

*"We are now able to devote more time to the actual process of writing project-specific specifications."*

**Thomas Flynn**  
**Project Architect**  
**Arris Architects + Planners**



*The Arris project is a "Shared Facility for Plainfield Township and the Forest Preserve District of Will County." The entire site is planned for a total of three buildings, bike trail, and public garden plots. Building 1 is a 17,000 SF shared Administration and Maintenance Building. The second building (shown on back) is a 3,600 SF Salt Shed constructed of cast-in-place concrete foundation, wood trusses with metal roof and wall panels. A third building (maintenance sub-station) is not yet under construction. The project is scheduled to be completed in June 2005.*

### **Arris Architects + Planners, P.C. of Plainfield, Illinois, is a full-service, computer-based, architectural firm.**

Since it was founded in 1991, Arris has developed a reputation for clear, concise and accurate construction documents. Attention to detail has become their trademark. Building on a tradition of innovative and affordable design, they are respected for their commercial, residential, religious, and historic preservation work.

The Arris staff believes that successful projects result when good clients, good contractors, and good architects form strong relationships with each other—relationships founded

on a mutual understanding of expectations and clear communication in the creation of a project.

Arris has continually upgraded and expanded its services and client base due to a commitment to personal service and quality work. Maintaining a small professional staff assures that they deliver personal attention to each client in order to provide accessibility, continuity, quality control and responsiveness throughout the duration of each project.



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# BSD CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

## ARRIS ARCHITECTS + PLANNERS, P.C.

**The need:** When Thomas Flynn, Project Architect, used to write specs, he would have to practically start from scratch. If he had a project that was similar to the one he was working on, he could reference it and then begin the arduous task of checking current needs against the previous ones, and modifying the specification. Once this part of the project was done, he would then be concerned that the information he was referencing contained the most up-to-date standards.

Once he had the information he needed and was satisfied that it was current, additional time was spent formatting the document. If changes were made, the "word processing"-like features of his old spec writing program could cause difficulty with headers, footers and section breaks. He was spending way too much time researching, reviewing and reformatting specifications. He wanted to find a better way. In 2003, Flynn took a look at SpecLink.

**The solution:** Arris Architects takes pride in the individual attention they are able to give clients. Since they are a small firm, every minute counts. Once Flynn realized the timesavings Arris Architects could achieve with SpecLink, he knew it was essential that they make the move.

Flynn estimates that they have reduced their total specification writing time by approximately 30%. "We now spend less time formatting, researching references and updating standards," notes Flynn. "This means we are now able to devote more time to the actual process of writing project-specific specifications." This also correlates into more time to spend with their clients, not only in this initial phase of specification writing, but also throughout each phase of the project.

**The outcome:** In reflecting on how SpecLink has improved their specification writing process, Flynn stated, "The instant formatting – the way it is done automatically – has really saved us time! And using SpecLink's pre-written specifications as a starting guide has been great. SpecLink makes it easy to add or delete as needed for a specific project. The starting specifications make it easy to review and modify specs."

Flynn and the staff at Arris taught themselves how to use SpecLink in less than a week. They use the network version at their office. When asked what he liked best about SpecLink, his resounding answer was "Its reliability." Time savings, ease of formatting and reliability. SpecLink turned out to be a great move for Arris Architects.



*Arris Architects office in Plainfield, Illinois.*



Images courtesy of Arris Architects.

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**Thomas Flynn**  
**Project Architect**  
**Arris Architects + Planners**



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For more information on BSD SpecLink, contact Bryant Hendricks: [bhendricks@bsdsoftlink.com](mailto:bhendricks@bsdsoftlink.com)

BSD SpecLink is a powerful specification writing, management and production system with built-in intelligence designed to dramatically speed up editing tasks and reduce specification production time while minimizing errors and omissions. Users' project files are each maintained in a single database, rather than in multiple word processing files. Several model projects are included that allow the user to start with a pre-edited set of complete specifications. Because the master data is always visible and never deleted, it is easy to review project choices or select alternatives. Users can also import their own custom sections and/or create model projects specific to company or project-related requirements.