

# SpecLink's Up-To-Date Reference Standards Helps Waterleaf Architecture Stay Ahead

*"I can turn on just the sections I want instead of having to delete things I don't want."*

**Jon Styner**  
Partner  
Waterleaf Architecture

**Waterleaf Architecture has been active in the Northwest since 1952. Their main focus is in four areas: commercial, transportation/ industrial, medical/dental and community.**



Over this period the firm has earned respect from clients ranging from public officials to commercial developers for responsive client service, cost-effective performance, creativity and environmental awareness on both new construction and renovation projects. At least one of their four partners personally oversees every project.

Waterleaf brings their clients talented, hands-on architects and designers dedicated to creating smart, sustainable buildings and interiors that reflect the communities where they are located. Whether the work is an office building, transportation facility, neighborhood center, medical lab or country club, the staff at Waterleaf pays close attention

to the people and the specifics of each situation. Clients can count on them to address authentic conditions and real attitudes that exist and to use them as guides for designing structures clients can be proud of.

Waterleaf Architecture is committed to the implementation, increased understanding and advocacy of high quality design and building practices. They approach all projects with a fundamental sensitivity to the environmental impacts of their work, both locally and beyond. They have incorporated the LEED™ Green Building Rating System checklist into their design projects. Their employees regularly attend educational seminars, workshops and training, allowing for a diverse wealth of information sharing.



Building Systems Design, Inc.

3520 Piedmont Road, Suite 415  
Atlanta, GA 30305

888-BSD-SOFT  
(273-7638)  
Fax: 404-365-8912

[www.bsdssoftlink.com](http://www.bsdssoftlink.com)

# BSD CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

## WATERLEAF ARCHITECTURE

**The Need:** Information today flows at a faster rate than ever before. Enhancements to technology seem to occur overnight. Every company knows that to just keep up, what they really need to do is stay ahead. And architectural firms know that having yesterday's reference standards adds time and creates frustration when putting together specifications.

In March 2003, this was where the staff at Waterleaf Architecture found themselves. They were allocating time and resources to keep their employees up-to-date with the latest information. But their in-house specification writing process was languishing – so much so that they were outsourcing it. They wanted to raise this aspect of their service to the same level they experienced in the rest of their business. They knew SpecLink could help them meet this goal.

**The Solution:** "We selected SpecLink because we needed a user-friendly software program that would provide us with automatic updates for reference standards," says Jon Styner, partner with Waterleaf Architecture. "Because of the way SpecLink's database system works, we now have a very easy to use specification software system that allows us to prepare concise specifications with up-to-date reference standards."

Due to the product's relational database structure and BSD's continuing comprehensive review of standards issued by 185 different organizations, BSD SpecLink is by far the most up-to-date specification system available. Standards are updated quarterly in all sections affected by the changes, and the CSI/DBIA/BSD Technical Review Committee provides continuing oversight.

In addition to knowing they have the latest reference standards, Styner also says that SpecLink has saved them time and money. "The ability to copy sections from one project into a new project has provided a great productivity advantage," Styner states. "And if we need to send the information out in a different form, we can quickly convert to a word-processing file for large sub-consultant projects."

**The Outcome:** Waterleaf has been using SpecLink on a network since March 2003. When asked what he liked best about SpecLink, Styner responded, "I can turn on just the sections I want instead of having to delete things I don't want." He also likes the time it saves his firm. He adds, "We are experiencing time savings of around 50% on most projects. We recently completed a commercial project for the Local 49. I was able to produce the specification much faster than by using our old word-processing based program."



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Images courtesy of Waterleaf Architecture.



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