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Out with the old, in with the new



Shauna Norfleet/Orange Coast Daily Pilot
A surfer walks beneath the Huntington Beach Pier where old pilings to be taken down stand near new ones which will support the new pier.

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Pier plaza plans picked by council

Adams chosen as architect

By Robert Barker

Staff writer *H.B. DuPont*
HUNTINGTON BEACH — The idea of a classical design for the proposed plaza at the top of the pier has apparently won the day over a "1930s-WPA style of architecture" in the hearts and minds of City Council members.

And, without further ado and before only a handful of residents, officials selected James Adams to do the plaza design over Ron Yeo, in a battle of Newport Beach architects.

Adams, who designed the new plaza now under construction at the Newport Beach pier, said Tuesday "the main thing" in his endeavors will be to have the Pacific Ocean and Main Street connect to the pier.

Adams on Monday told Council officials he'll strive to create "a classical timeless design that will be basically a park at the end of the pier."

"I thought it had a lot of class," Councilman Earle Robitaille said Tuesday. "There was no comparison

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From A1

(with Yeo's design concept.)

"The classical Mediterranean style looks inviting to people," Robitaille said. "The other looks cold, like modern art.

"If I had to sit down and design it, it would be pretty close to (Adams' version)."

Officials weren't scheduled to hire a design architect until May 6, after they had a chance to do more study.

They acted Monday even though Mayor Peter Green told colleagues they needed to see "more than a few rough sketches." He also felt that the public should have a stronger voice in the decision, he said.

Green, Grace Winchell and Jim Silva voted to defer. They were outvoted by Robitaille, Don MacAllister, Jack Kelly and Linda Moulton Patterson.

Adams displayed sketches showing massive walkways, promenades, decks and towers.

None of the components are anywhere close to being set in concrete, he said. They were offered "to capture the imagination of the council and the public" to work out a design philosophy and theme, he said.

Officials said they hope they can hold down pier plaza costs to \$1 million or \$2 million.

Officials say construction of the new \$11.7 million pier is going full speed ahead and that completion is expected in the summer of 1992.