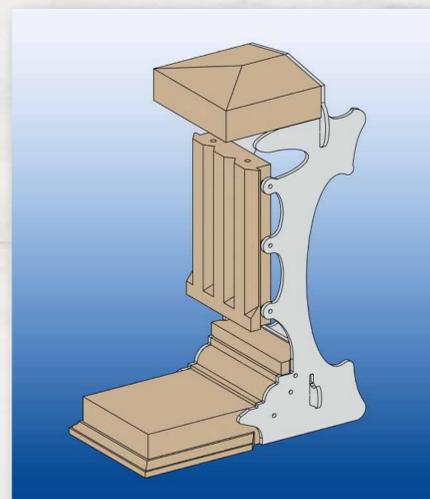


City Hall Centenary Sculpture

In 2013 the City of Ventura Public Art Commission looked to commemorate the centenary of the landmark building that is now San Buenaventura City Hall by commissioning a new public sculpture as a permanent work in the Municipal Art Collection displayed at City Hall.



Terra cotta from the 1974 renovation of Ventura City Hall



"Think of my pillar/column as an exploded drawing (DaVinci-esque), with each of the important elements of the column – capital, finial, main post, trunk and base – standing as a metaphor."

majestic building rich in detail and materials both inside and out.

The commissioners requested the new artwork have an historic twist and use original marble slab or white glazed terra cotta – salvaged during the building's 1974 restoration and conversion from courthouse to city hall – to celebrate a

Spolia

For his winning concept called **Spolia** the artist proposed a five-foot assembled sculpture – "a contemporary representation of a pillar, or a column, made partially from (3) recycled terracotta tiles" and "a sculptural framework, like a setting for a gemstone, and the terracotta being like the gems set in it." The ¾ inch stainless steel plate framework displays Roman numerals, one side reading MCMXIII



(1913) and the other MMXIII (2013).

Spolia is a modern art historical term. **Spolia** (Latin, "spoils") is the re-use of earlier building material or decorative sculpture on new monuments.

"I find the metaphor of a pillar or column invigorating for what institutions represent in our society. Pillars and columns have long been a symbol of strength and longevity."

— Matthew Furmanski

Matthew Furmanski

The Commission selected from several proposals one by Matthew Furmanski, a professor of art and sculpture at California State University at Channel Islands (CSUCI). The artist with a Masters of Fine Art, Sculpture from Claremont Graduate University (CA) is internationally known for his conceptual sculpture. His works combine "physicality" with "the intensity of an idea to create a catalyst" for "imaginative leaps in the minds of those who encounter them."

"This is, after all, a work of art meant to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the building, and institution. I would like **Spolia** to function as both a work of art and a commemorative object."

— Matthew Furmanski

Dedication

The unveiling of the sculpture – set outdoors on the front patio of the City Hall Atrium – at a formal dedication ceremony on July 25, 2013 marks the one hundred year anniversary of the official opening of the former courthouse.

