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.”

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.

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Matthew Furmanski

“The 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.