



A building attached to the Palm Springs High School, which was designed by Donald Wexler and Richard Harrison, is demolished Monday. The work went on despite opposition from groups wanting to preserve what they believed was a significant architectural design. OMAR ORNELAS/THE DESERT SUN

DEMOLITION DAY

District tears down building designed by famed architects

By Xochitl Peña
The Desert Sun

PALM SPRINGS — Demolition on a controversial 55-year-old Palm Springs Unified School District building started Monday and is expected to be mostly completed this week.

The building at 2248 Ramon Road served as the administration building for Ramon Academy, an alternative school on the Palm Springs High School campus.

The building was designed by

renowned architects Donald Wexler and Richard Harrison.

The district plans to build a new, 9,000-square-foot Performing Arts Building in its place.

When members of the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation heard of the demolition plans, they tried to rally and convince the district to save it.

"A lot of preservationists spent a lot of hours either writing letters or making public comment (at school board meetings)," said Ron Marshall, pres-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Read more about the controversy surrounding the Wexler-designed building at Palm Springs High School, and submit your comments at mydesert.com.

ident of the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation.

He was disappointed when he drove by Monday and saw the demolition.

A study that the district conducted, however, found that the building did not qualify as a his-

toric resource.

Construction on the new building should begin soon and could be complete by Sept. 2013, in time for a new school year, said Julie Arthur, executive director of facility planning and development with the school district.

She warned that there will be limited parking during construction and that people should use Baristo Road.

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