

Committing it to memory

■ Five finalists compete to create a monument to the victims of the 1989 quake and the city's loss.

BY PAUL ROGERS
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Nearly five years after the Loma Prieta earthquake wrecked downtown Santa Cruz, the city is searching for an appropriate memorial that sums up its collective sense of loss, reflections and gritty determination to rebuild.

But remembering the people killed along Pacific Avenue on Oct. 17, 1989 — and the destruction of beloved historic buildings — is a difficult task, the city is finding.

"The earthquake means a lot of dif-

ferent things to a lot of people in Santa Cruz," said Susan Wandruff, a city parks employee coordinating the memorial effort. "It's hard to come up with one image."

Santa Cruz has \$10,000 set aside for a monument. That money was part of the \$650,000 donated by private citizens from around the world in the weeks after the quake. Civic leaders have delayed the memorial until now, they say, because they wanted to focus on rebuilding the city first.

The city arts commission Monday selected five finalists from a list of 15 proposals by area artists. They include an abstract work, a seismic measuring station and a time capsule housed in bricks saved from the Cooper House, a 19th-century landmark on Pacific Avenue that was demolished after the

quake.

The arts commission will hold a public hearing Sept. 26 to decide which of the five finalists to recommend to the Santa Cruz City Council. The council will have final authority on design and location.

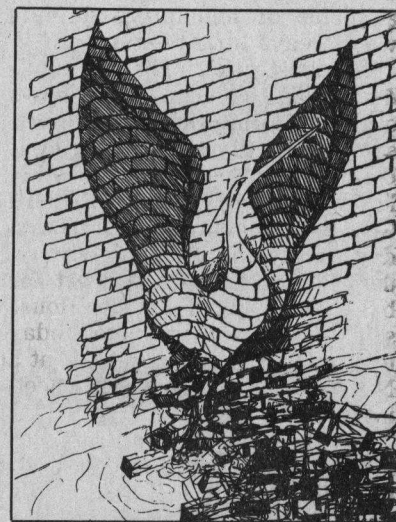
All five probably will be placed in the McPherson Center for Art & History so the public can vote for their favorite.

For now, the ideas exist only in sketches. At the Sept. 26 meeting, backers will present cost estimates and models.

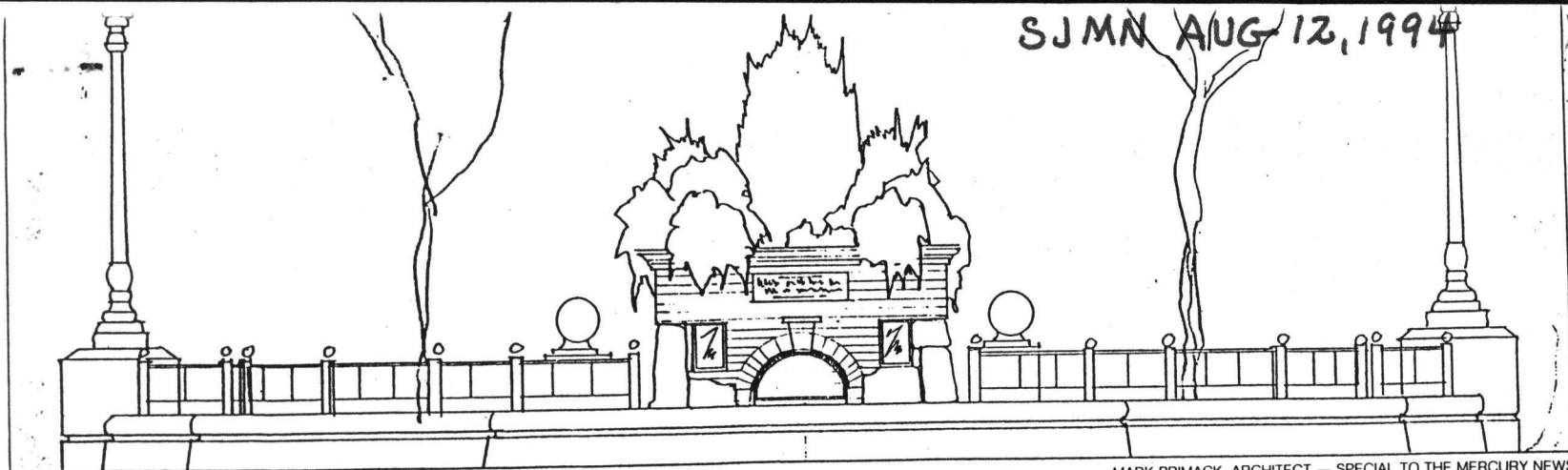
Downtown Santa Cruz sustained more widespread damage than any other city during the Loma Prieta earthquake.

The quake caused destruction estimated at \$115 million along the Pacific

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A team of 2 Santa Cruzans proposed a bird rising from rubble.



MARK PRIMACK, ARCHITECT — SPECIAL TO THE MERCURY NEWS

Architect Mark Primack proposed placing a time capsule inside an arch built of old bricks from the Cooper House and covered with flowers.

Five proposals for remembering the quake

■ MEMORIAL

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Garden Mall, destroying 30 commercial buildings, many of them on the National Register of Historic Places.

Of 600 businesses downtown before the quake, 206 were destroyed or forced to move.

Three people died. Catherine Treiman, 75, was killed when portions of Ford's department store collapsed. Robin Ortiz, 22, and Sean McCormick, 21, died when a brick wall from Bookshop Santa Cruz fell into the Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Co.

Since then, about 20 of the demolished buildings have been replaced, and all sidewalks, trees, streets and benches have been replaced in the central downtown

business district.

"The earthquake is an event that defines what Santa Cruz is as a community," said Councilman Neal Coonerty, whose Bookshop Santa Cruz was destroyed.

"A memorial gives you a sense of closure to the event. Not every building is replaced and not every emotion has been healed, but it gives the community a chance to come together and say it's time move on to other things."

The five finalists are:

■ A time capsule. Architect Mark Primack of Santa Cruz proposed building a masonry arch, 4 feet high, and encasing a time capsule that contains news clippings, city records and audio taped messages from people who endured the earthquake. Built of old bricks Primack saved from

the rubble of the Cooper House, the arch also would be covered with earth and planted with flowers found on the Pacific Garden Mall before the 1989 quake. The memorial would be placed inside one of the large public planter boxes on Pacific Avenue.

■ A seismograph. Artist Leslie Murray has suggested installing a working seismograph under a shelter. Along with a plaque or other tribute to the 1989 quake, the instrument would remind people that earthquakes are a naturally occurring part of the California landscape.

■ Abstract geology. Artist Jessica Hargrave envisions a large bronze sculpture shaped like a rock, split with fissures.

■ Memorial pillars. Ross Gib-

son, a Santa Cruz historian, proposed building pillars in front of lots where historic buildings fell. Each pillar would feature a stained-glass medallion depicting the destroyed building and would light up at night.

■ Phoenix. A 10-foot brick sculpture and fountain showing a bird rising from rubble was suggested by Santa Cruzans W.C. Clark and E.A. Eckerman. The work would include a recirculating fountain, with water pouring from broken water pipes onto scattered bricks.