

# Capitola just loves Leask's design

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Capitola Planning Commissioners gave local store owner Sam Leask a pat on the back last night for the "wonderful" design of the store he's planning at the Capitola Mall.

"Fantastic," "a class act" and "superlative" were among adjectives used by commissioners to describe the building's design.

Architect Dan Bertuluce, of the New York-based firm of Hambrecht Terrell International, described his design as "contemporary and appealing" with traditional elements of a Romanesque style.

After researching the archi-

ture of existing buildings in both Santa Cruz and Capitola, Bertuluce said, members of the firm "felt there was a lot of tradition in the style of Romanesque architecture that we felt was inherent to the area."

The 54,000-square-foot Leask's department store is planned for behind the mall, a little closer to Capitola Road than the existing Sears store.

The Leask's store is one of two anchor stores — the other is a J.C. Penney's — planned as part of a proposed \$35 million mall expansion.

The two-story structure would be 40 feet high, except for two "rusticated stone archways" serving as entrances on the south and west side, and a

skylight on the roof.

Commissioners granted a six-foot height variance for the archways and skylight, along with unanimous approval of the project's final design.

The only question raised by an audience member last night concerned the building's height. A Sommerfeld Avenue resident wondered if customers looking out of second-story windows would be able to see into his back yard.

"You could see," Bertuluce said, "but whether or not you could focus on anything, I really doubt it."

Not only would the building be 100 feet from residences, he said, it would be shielded by a colonnade of trees.

The majority of the store's facade would be of rose-colored stucco, Bertuluce said, "animated" by redwood-colored gridwork, black trim at the entrances and a green logo.

Commissioners congratulated Bertuluce on the building's design, and Leask for hiring the firm.

Said Commissioner Norma Kriege, "I'm very proud that someone wants to build a building like that in Capitola."

Asked later how much he expects the project to cost, Leask responded, "a lot."

He must still return to the planning commission with a sign design. Final approval of the project rests with the city council.