

Demolition of Wexler-designed building at Palm Springs High School starts

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A building attached to the Palm Springs High School, which was designed by Donald Wexler, is being demolished on Monday, August 20, 2012. / Omar Ornelas, The Desert Sun

An administrative building attached to Palm Springs High School, which was designed by Donald Wexler, was being demolished today.

The work went on despite opposition from groups wanting to preserve what they believed was a significant architectural design.

A study that concluded the 55-year-old building by two renowned midcentury architects does not qualify as a historic resource was touted by those who wanted to demolish it for a new facility.

Riverside-based architectural historian Pamela Daly completed the historic resources assessment report on the Ramon Academy building amid tensions between local preservationists and school officials over the building on the Palm Springs High School campus. It was designed by Donald Wexler and Richard Harrison.

The district plans to construct a 9,000-square-foot Performing Arts Building that will be utilized by more than 400 students in the coming years.

Its proposed design aims to match the post-modern, Spanish-style arches of Ramon Academy seen off Ramon Road.

The project is estimated to cost \$4 million.

Check back soon for more on this developing story.