



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

**DATE:** November 8, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Selection of Design for Alcoves and Benches on the Strand as Submitted by the Cultural Arts Commission.

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss the various proposed designs for the Strand Alcove/Bench project and select one or more designs.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no fiscal implications on the general fund associated with the recommended action. The program will be supported through the Public Art Trust.

The cost for the Bench/Alcove “sample bench” is \$50,000 which includes design, artist fee, travel expenses, engineering, fabrication, delivery, installation, documentation, and liability insurance. The Public Art Trust has a current balance of \$262,998.64.

### **BACKGROUND:**

As part of the City’s **2005-07 Work Plan**, Council directed the Cultural Arts Commission to establish a Donor Policy and a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the Strand Bench and Alcove improvement program. The Commission and PAAC Committee undertook this project with the intent of making these bench alcoves along the Strand an aesthetically pleasing and restful place to enjoy the beach and surrounding area.

The initial RFP was mailed to over 1400 artists with a deadline set for October 24, 2005. The October deadline generated a low return and the Commission and the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC), composed of four architects and an art professor (Dean Nota, Jill Will, Alison Wright, Don Spencer & Donna Grossman), agreed to extend the RFP deadline to February 16, 2006. A total of thirty-one (31) proposals were received for the project and a review of these materials was held on April 11, 2006. Fifteen semi-finalists were selected. On May 9th, the Commission and PAAC reconvened to select five finalists (Attachments A-E). The Commission and PAAC liked different elements of each of the five attached proposals but had questions or concerns with several of the proposals. Since only conceptual designs were submitted and the Commission and PAAC did not interview the artists, they had questions on the design

functionality, omitted alcove floor design, bench materials, long term maintenance and possible safety issues for some of the proposals. The Commission and PAAC thought that if the City Council liked any of the proposals, staff and the Commission would discuss and resolve any issues with the artists during the final design phase.

The City Council held a joint meeting on June 13th with the Cultural Arts Commission to review public art projects before the Commission. A portion of the discussion involved the Strand Alcove/Bench project and Council presented their vision of the Alcove/Bench project and the opinions expressed that evening led the Commission to revise the bench criteria to a simplified bench design. The Commission and the PAAC member's perseverance to secure additional designs for presentation to City Council was based on the desire to expand the options for the alcove/bench sample.

**DISCUSSION:**

After the June meeting with Council, staff and the Commission initiated an Artist Invitational for four artists familiar with creating artistic benches. The Commission found two of the submissions did not meet the criteria and would not be accepted by the community. However, the Commission did like the submission from Stacy Dukes. His design is a simplified sea shell shape; constructed of a recycled resin material which is an environmentally sensitive material. Color samples and a bench model will be presented to City Council. The second bench is a Swedish design by Bjorn Dahlstrom, *Nola Industrier*, Stockholm. The bench combines sand blasted cast aluminum, frame/structure in zinc plated steel with laths in oiled oak, teak or mahogany.

The CAC and PAAC recommendations to City Council include the five proposals selected from the RFP process (Vladimir Ataman, Nancy Beaver & John Tan Studio, Gale McCall, Pat Warner, and Carmel Finannaca); the Stacy Dukes' bench model and the Swedish designed bench by Bjorn Dahlstrom, *Nola Industrier*, Stockholm.

Attachment A: Vladmir Atanian – The panel considered the bench to be “playful, “whimsical and colorful.” Some panel members considered the odd shaped arms to be problematic because they might interfere with wheel chair access.

Attachment B: Nancy Beaver and John L. Tan Studio – The panel thought the bench was sculptural and fanciful. There was concern with the durability of materials in a beach environment; and possible objections from home owners on the Strand.

Attachment C: Gale McCall – The sea anemone bench cluster was thought to be interesting and suitable for the beach setting. Questions included the unfinished alcove floor; the safety issues with the use of metal rods; and if the “stools” would be comfortable. The Strand bench sites do not provide electrical access for the light features shown in this design.

Attachment D: Pat Warner – The panel considered this design “a beautiful mosaic sculptural bench complete with its alcove flooring.” There were concerns with the functionality of the bench being comfortable.

Attachment E: Carmelo Fiannaca – The panel liked the boat theme and considered it especially appealing to children. Design dimensions were not provided and issues arose as to whether the boat

could fit in the alcove and whether the interior space was hollow which then allowed for seating, or if the top was a flat surface.

Attachment F: Stacy Dukes bench renderings.

Attachment G: Nolan Swedish designed bench by Bjorn Dahlstrom

**CONCLUSION:**

The Commission and PAAC wanted to provide the City Council with a wide range of options for filling out the 42 Strand Alcove/Bench sites. If the City Council selects one or more of the proposals, staff and the Commission will work with the artists to address any questions or concerns. Additionally, if the City Council does not think that the proposal selected is worth \$50,000, staff will try to negotiate with the artist.

Staff recommends that City Council review the attached proposals and consider one or more of the designs for the model Strand bench. Should Council choose to consider changes or modification, Staff will contact the artists to discuss the possibility of design revisions per Council direction.

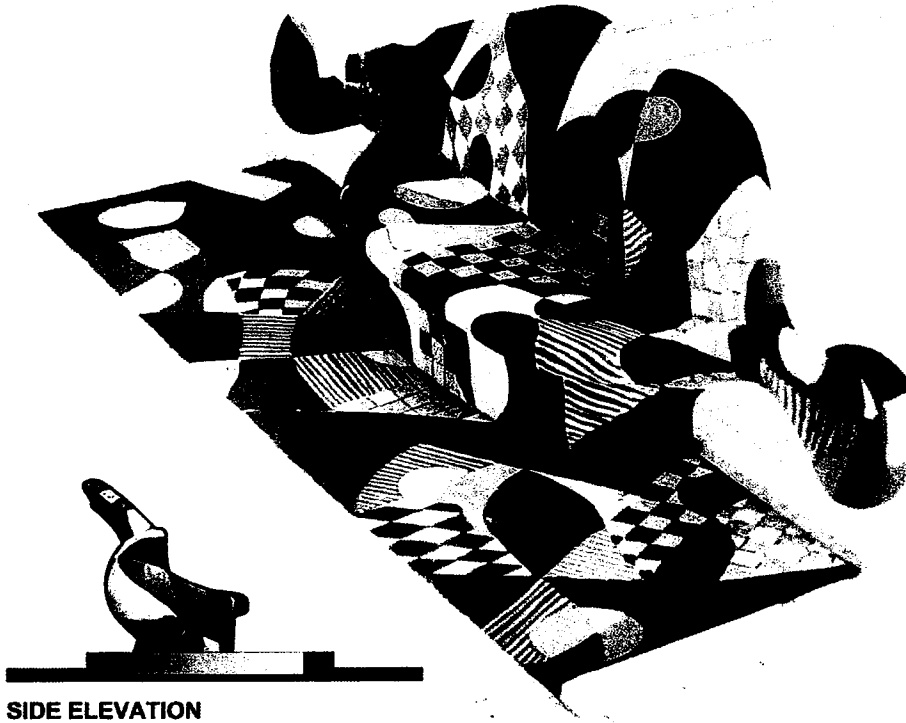
**Attachments:**

- A. Pat Warner
- B. Gale McCall
- C. Vladimir Atanian
- D. Carmelo Fiannaca
- E. Nancy Beaver/John L. Tan Studio
- F. Stacy Dukes bench
- G. Swedish Bench

# ATTACHMENT A

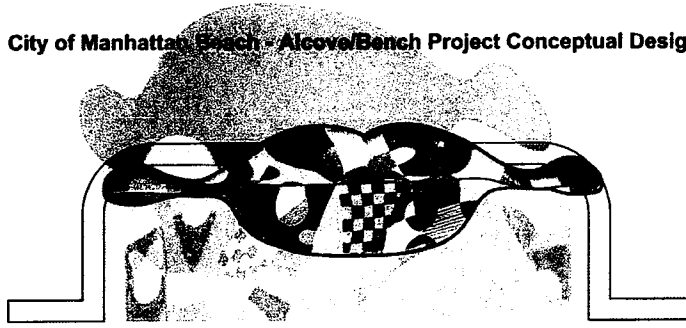
Vladimir Atanian

# Bench 22



**SIDE ELEVATION**

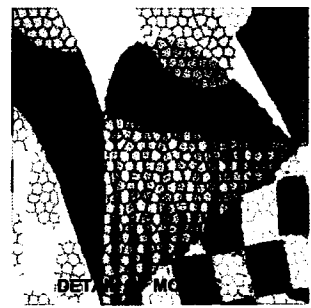
City of Manhattan Beach - Alcove/Bench Project Conceptual Design



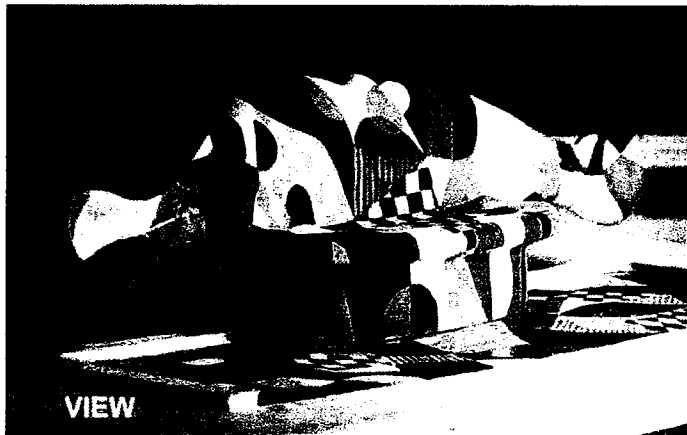
**PLAN**



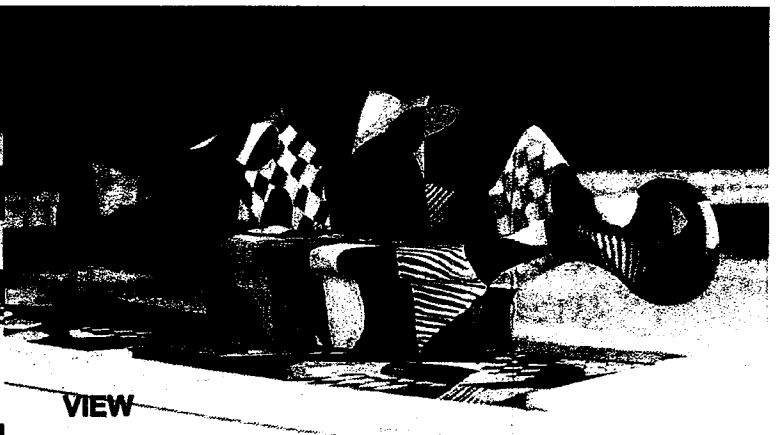
**FRONT ELEVATION**



**DETAIL**



**VIEW**



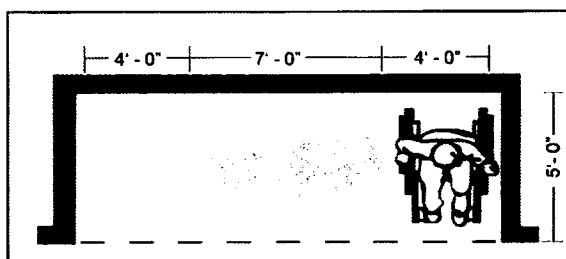
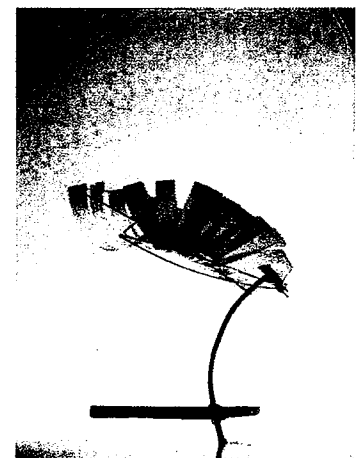
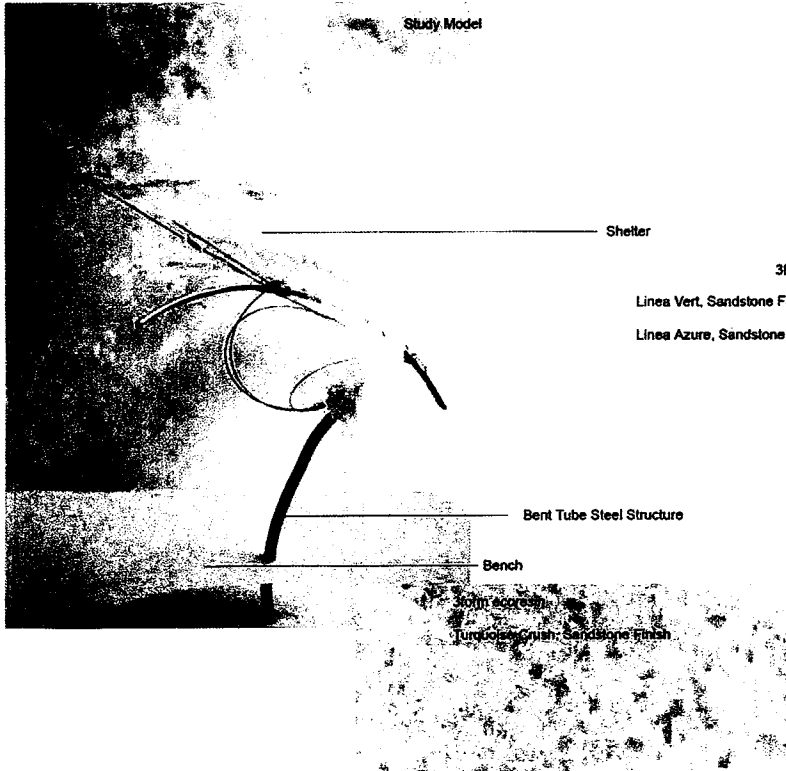
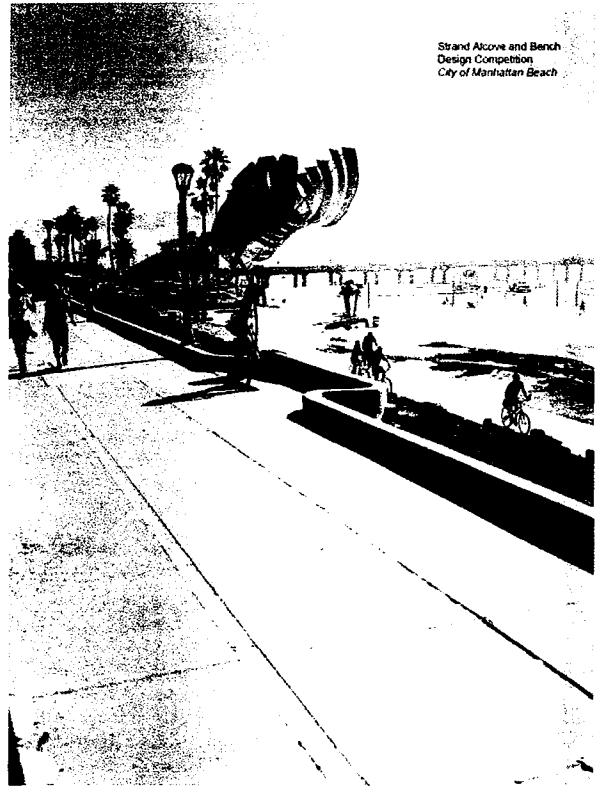
**VIEW**

## **ATTACHMENT B**

**Nancy Beaver/John L. Tan Studio**

# Bench 16

Strand Alcove and Bench  
Design Competition  
City of Manhattan Beach

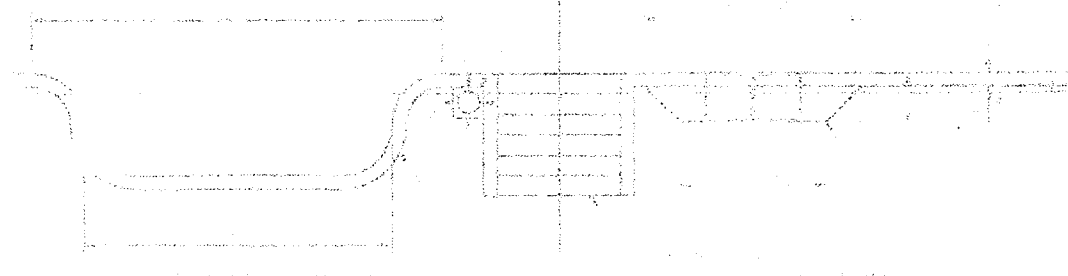
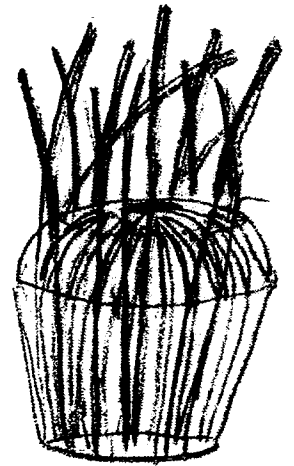
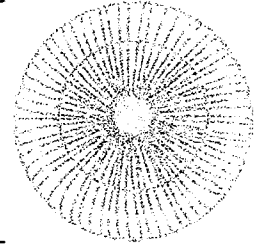
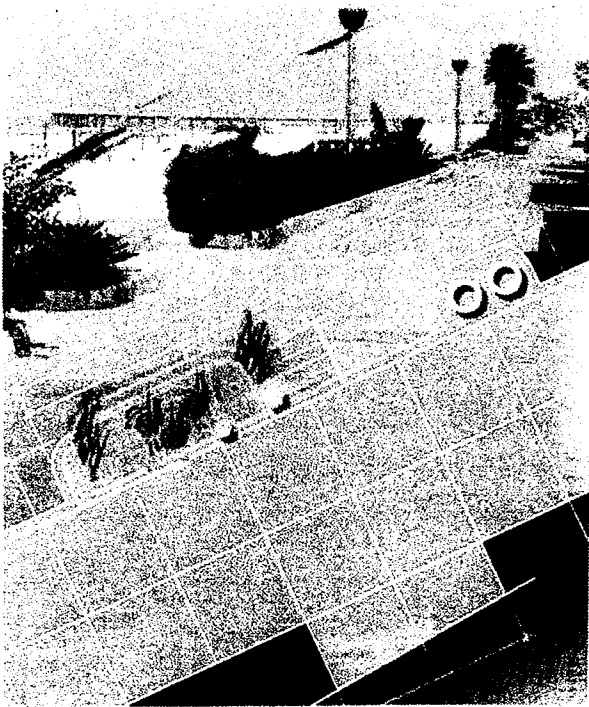
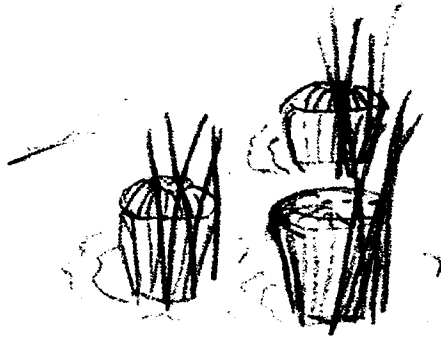


# ATTACHMENT C

Gale McCall

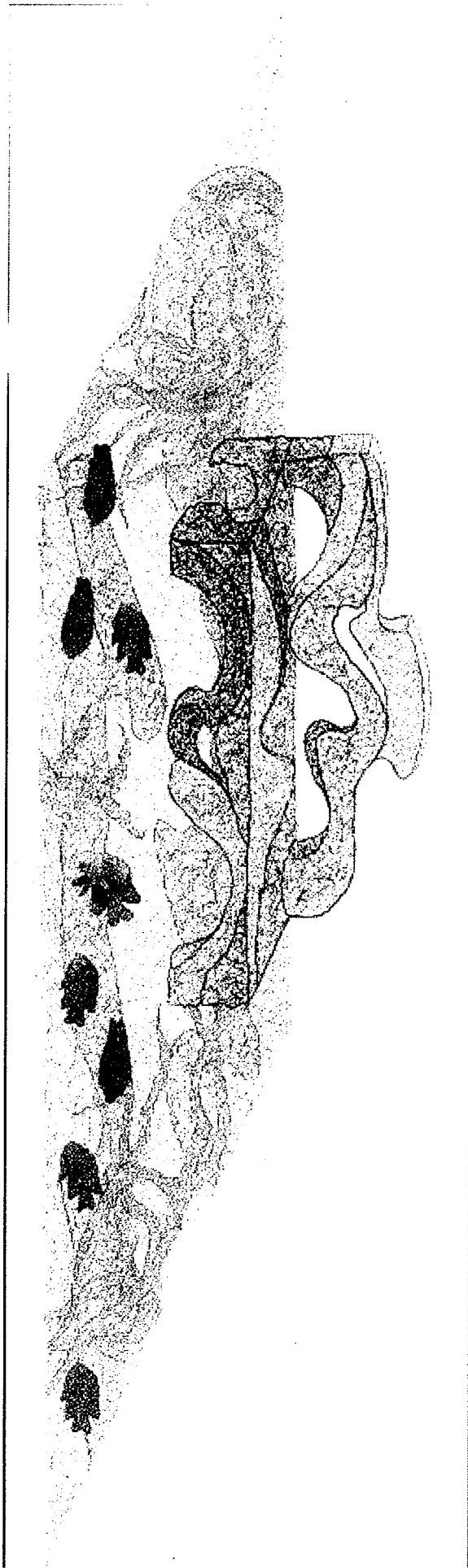


# Bench 6



# ATTACHMENT D

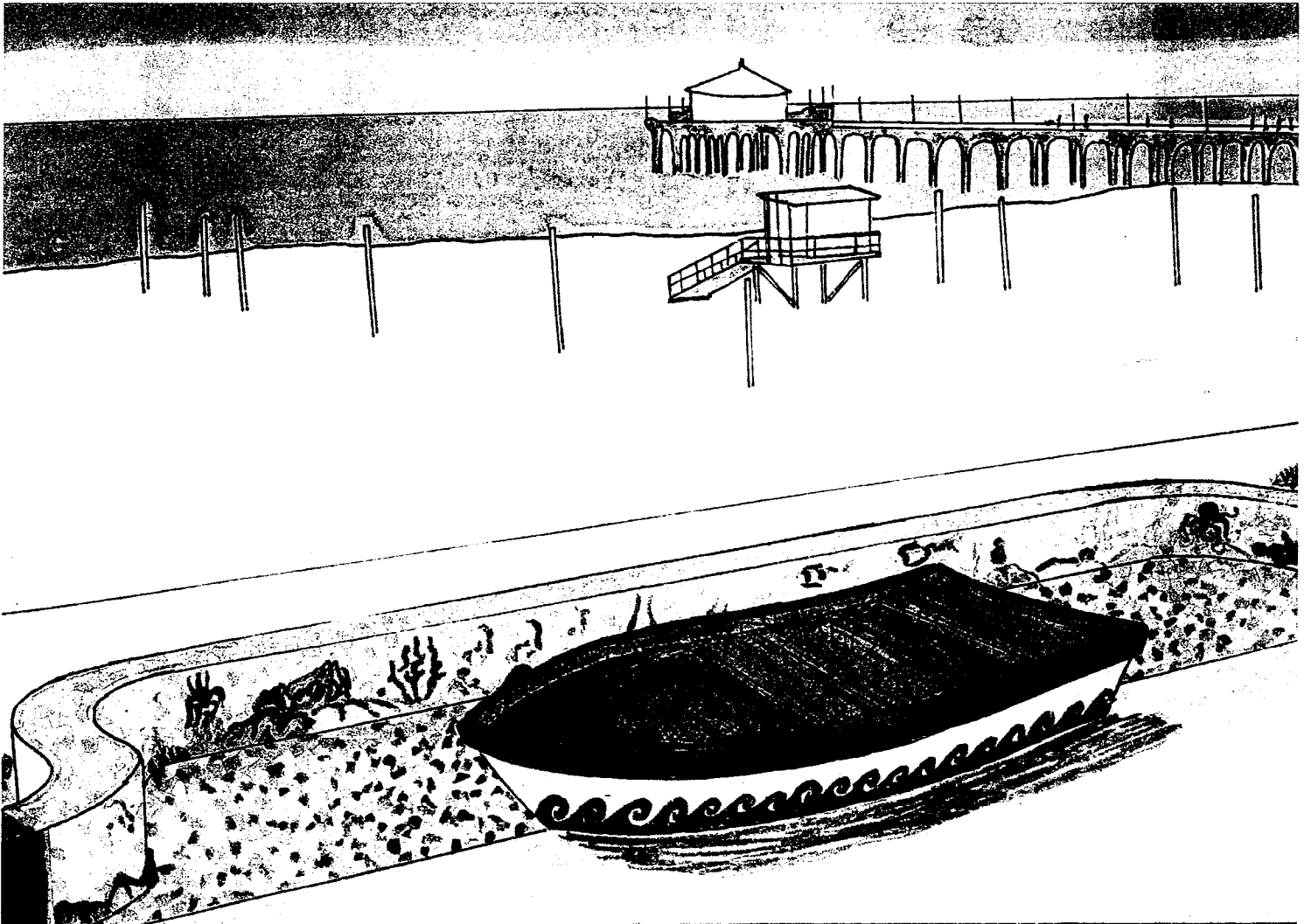
Pat Warner



# ATTACHMENT E

Carmelo Fiannaca

# Bench 24



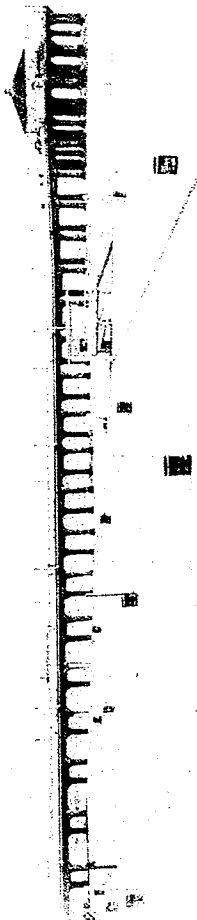
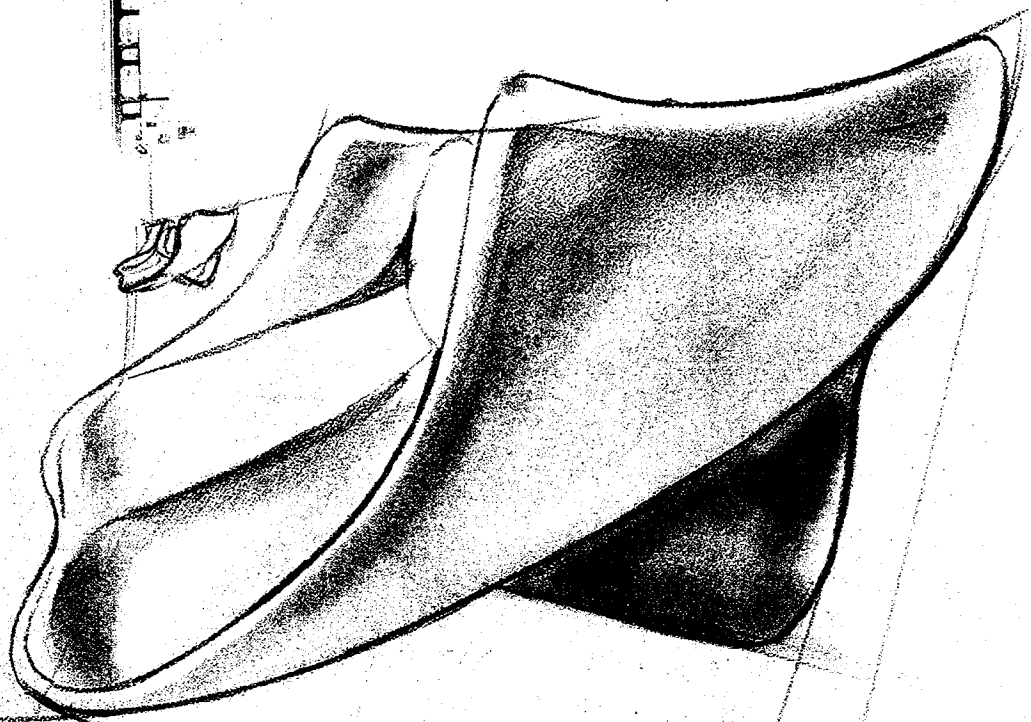
Example of previous work

# ATTACHMENT F

Stacy Dukes

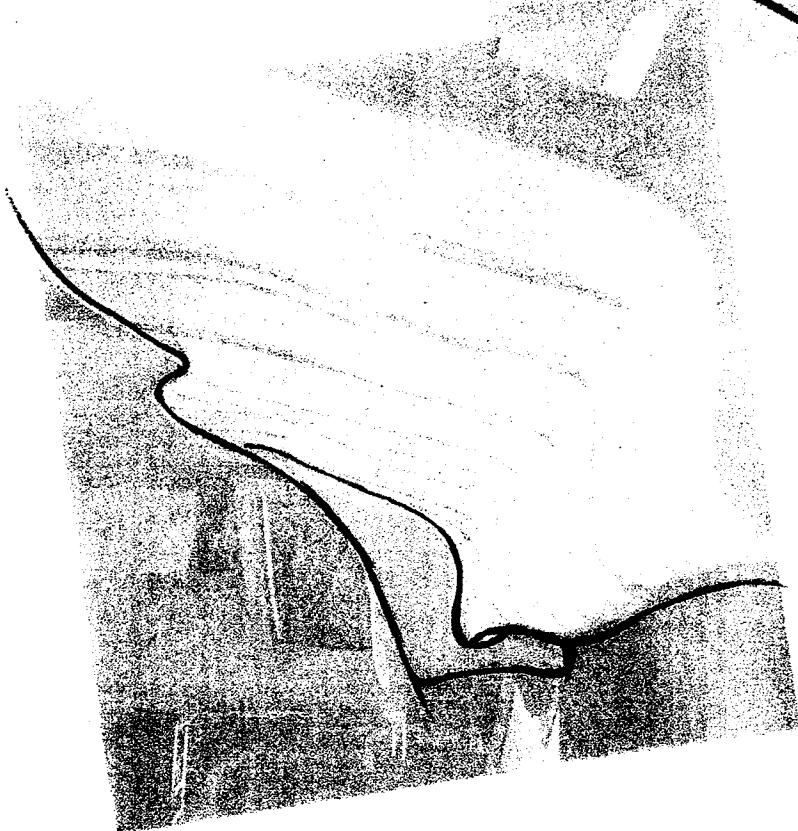
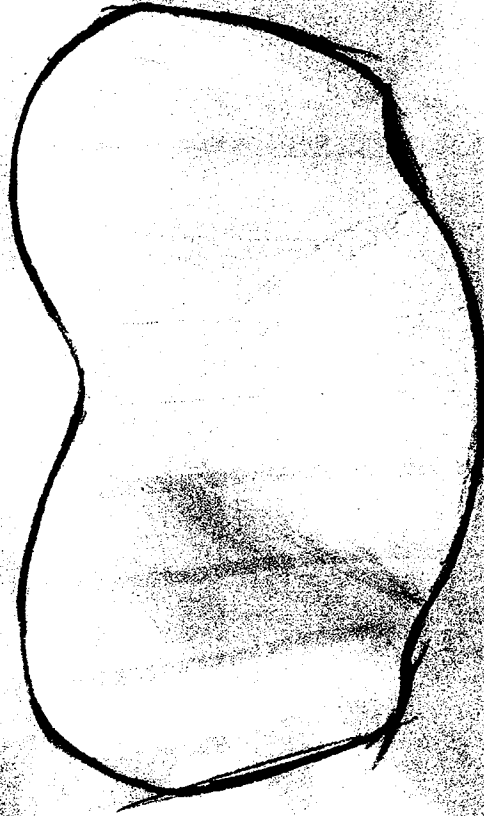
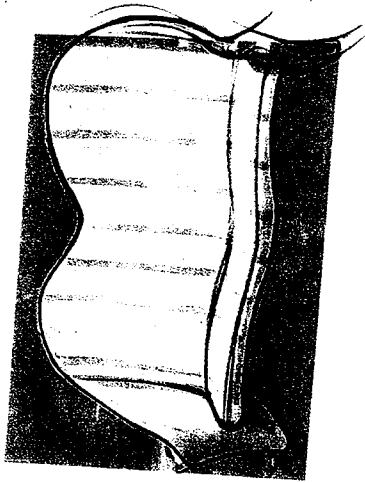


  
STACY DUKES  
*Design*

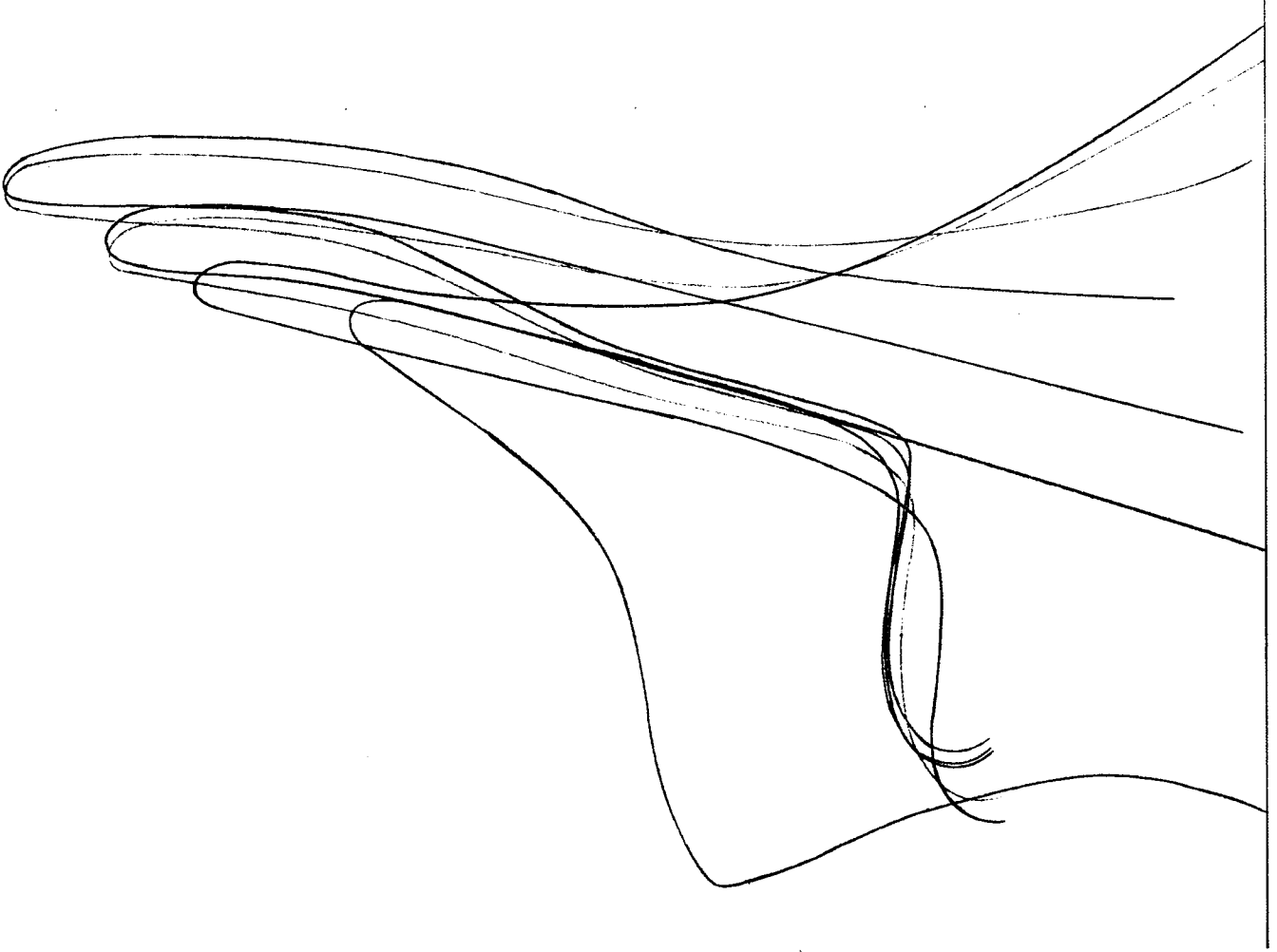


STACY DUKES  
*Design*





STACY JULKES  
*Design*



# ATTACHMENT G

Nola Swedish Bench

<< [Back](#) | [Next](#) >> | [Index](#)

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**PARK LANE**

