

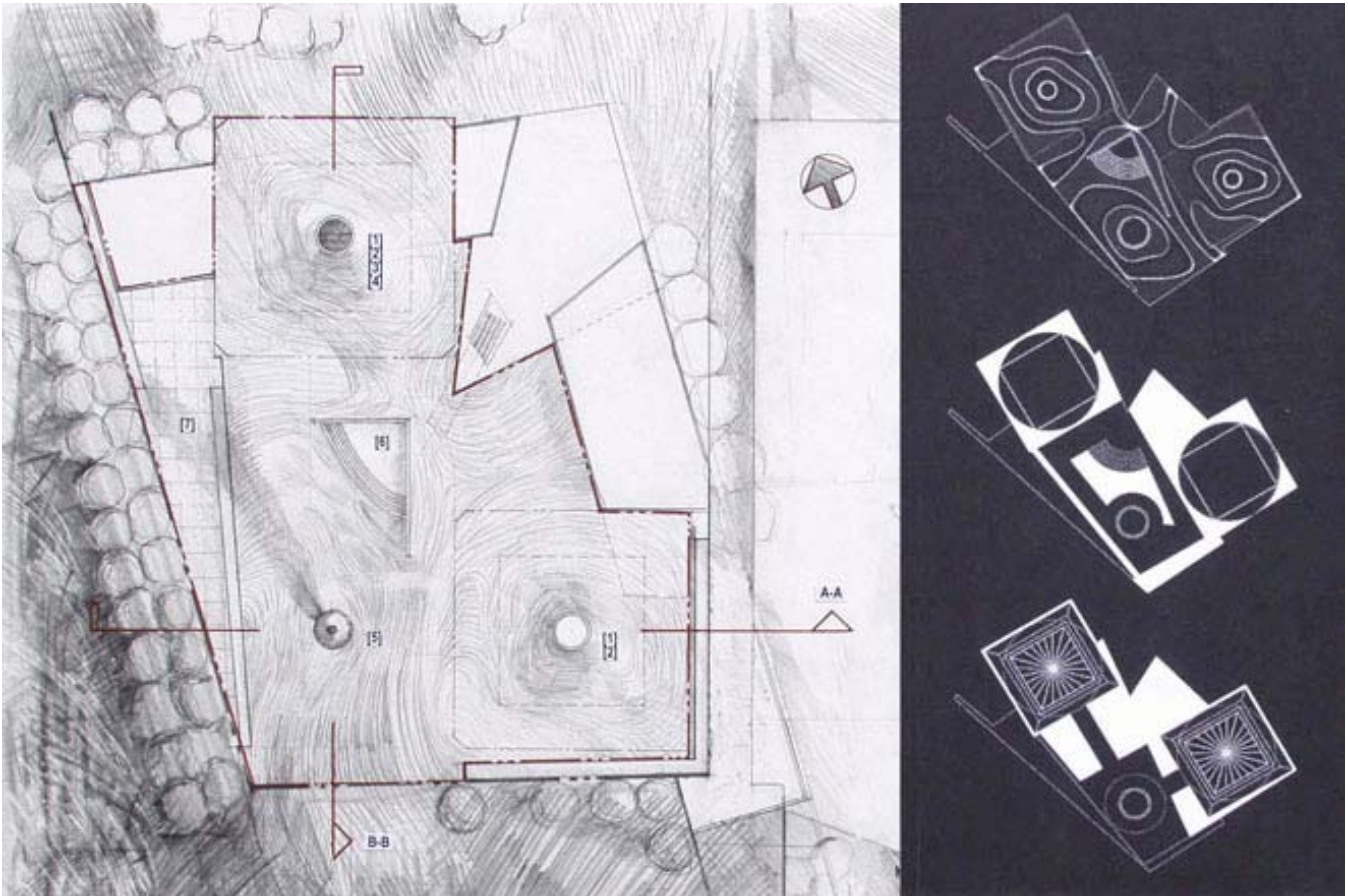
World Trade Center Competition - 2003.

Contegiacomo and Associates designed a compelling sculptural landscape to honor the victims of the terrorist attacks on February 26th, 1993 and September 11, 2001. The presentation board narrative follows below.

As visitors approach the memorial site from any pedestrian access or vehicular byway, you see the Memorial Monument [5], standing proud at the southwest corner of the site. It is one of three elements in a landscape that collectively define the memorial site. The monument is a torch-like, hollow, double-walled, mesh tower 30 feet in diameter and 300 feet tall. It is accessible through vertical transportation at the subterranean level and through a stairway that spirals upward toward the sky between the tower's double-walled exterior structure. The monument is a symbol of life and liberty: an expression of freedom, a celebration of man, a dedication to world peace and a monument to the global outpouring of support displayed in the days after the terrorist attacks. The tower is an engineering marvel and a tribute to our fire fighters, police, government, and the city of New York.

After experiencing the memorial monument at a distance, visitors stroll through the subtle, undulating grassy landscape where they find two 30-foot diameter penetrations in the earth; each one is trimmed with stone, one light and one dark. The dark one is located at the epicenter of the North Tower footprint and the light one at the epicenter of the South Tower. Visitors can peer down inside the openings to see two similar but opposing memorial chambers; they are the night and day of the landscape, the place for memory and contemplation [2]. The chambers are accessed through any one of the proposed Libeskind memorial ramps and through a cascading series of steps recessed into the central landscape [6]. All means of access converge on the space directly below and immediately surrounding the memorial monument. Here, looking up into the 300-foot open atrium space created by the monument, visitors begin a different kind of reflection, one dealing with space and time that conveys the enormity of the loss and the magnitude of the events surrounding the terrorist attacks.

From here, visitors have the option to proceed through one of two compressed circulation zones to the memorial chambers. The walls of the zones are sculpted with a select group of elements that remain from each of the terrorist attacks. The elements are pressed into concrete, placed in lit glass displays, exposed and presented in ways to educate the visitor about technical information surrounding the events. They give the visitor a real life historical reference that can be felt on many levels.



Upon approaching The North Tower Memorial Chamber a grand scale, column- free chamber inscribed in the footprint of the North Tower slowly reveals itself. In the middle of the chamber sits an equally massive polished black granite cube made of blocks inscribed with memories from each of the victims' families [1]. Inside of the cube is a vault accessible only to the victims' families that will house the unidentified remains of the victims [3], [4]. Also surrounding the chamber and defining the actual footprint of the North-tower is space with seating overlooking the main chamber area providing a space for quiet contemplation [2]. This Chamber commemorates the victims; it is a reflection of the night and the cube exists as a symbol of the collective experience and a means to inspire an end to the hatred, ignorance and intolerance that killed thousands of innocent people.

The South Tower Memorial Chamber is identical in size and shape as the North tower and also has quiet contemplation space around its perimeter. This chamber, however, serves a different purpose. It is a celebration of life; it is the light of the day, white, bright and open to the sky with a gridded white marble floor covering its center. Inscribed in each of the 3,022 white slabs of stone that define the floor plate is simply one victim's name, birth date and date deceased [1].

Upon completion, visitors exit the Chambers and are attracted to a large glassy wall, which stands to the west at an adjacent angle to Libeskind's exposed slurry wall. Visitors pass through the glass wall and exit onto Slurry Wall Plaza [7]. The Plaza is recessed into the landscape with views open to the sky and down to the bedrock. Here, visitors experience the last surviving element of the World Trade Center and, like an archeological find in the landscape, the visitor exits the memorial site feeling inspired to continue exploration, inspired to find reasons and ways of dealing with this monumentally historic event.

