

Attachment 2: Chart of Facts About the Memorial Design

Questions	Facts
Is the memorial in the shape of a crescent?	The main memorial feature is a circular walkway lined with trees that outline a pre-existing landform. The circle is broken at two places---where the plane's flight path entered the circle from above, and where it left the circle as it crashed into the ground.
Is the memorial sited so that it faces Mecca?	The memorial focuses on and is oriented toward the Sacred Ground, the final resting place of the 40 heroes of Flight 93. The choice of the general location for the main memorial feature was based on two factors: blending with the natural contours of the land, and incorporating the flight path of the plane using coordinates supplied by the National Transportation Safety Board from the Flight Data Recorder. At this stage in the design process, it is not possible to pinpoint precisely where the memorial walkway will be constructed and where visitors will be standing when they walk along it. The drawings available at this time are <i>concept</i> drawings, showing only an approximate location on the landscape. These concept drawings are continually being refined as more site analysis is done and construction details are finalized. Design changes have already occurred which will significantly alter the location of features shown in these concept drawings.
Are the trees on the memorial walkway red maples, and will the memorial will be a red crescent?	The trees chosen for planting in the 40 memorial groves along the circular walkway are red maples and sugar maples, both species native and common to Somerset County and chosen for their beauty and symbolism to the community. The trees will be bare or green for 11 months out of the year and will turn shades of red, orange, and yellow in mid-September for several weeks.
Are there 44 dedicated translucent glass blocks along the flight path, honoring all 44 people killed at the site? Are three of the blocks at the place where there would be a star in an Islamic flag? Is the 44 th block the focal point of the memorial, showing honor to the hijackers?	<p>Actually, the memorial design never called for use of <i>any</i> glass blocks. The plan (shown as a concept drawing at this time) calls for the names of the 40 passengers and crew members to be engraved on a band with 40 facets of polished, white marble band set into concrete walls that form a gateway into the crash site. Each name is on its own face of this folded band. The band continues on the other side of a break in this wall. On this smaller section of the band to the right of the break is engraved on 3 more facets the date of the attack, September 11, 2001.</p> <p>The only interpretive glass element in the design is a sloped glass panel set into the end of the flight path walkway at the top of the hill, which will be engraved with these words from the mission statement, "A common field one day. A field of honor forever. May all who visit this place remember the collective acts of courage and sacrifice of the passengers and crew, revere this hallowed ground as the final resting place of those heroes, and reflect on the power of individuals who choose to make a difference."</p>
Is the Tower of Voices actually a sundial, marking the time for prayers?	The precise siting of this tower and the location of the plantings around it are not known at this time. The drawings of the Tower of Voices show only a concept of a 93' high tower with radiating plantings of evergreens and flowering shrubs around it. The actual location where this feature is built may vary by hundreds of yards, based on site analysis, road placement, and design parameters. The Tower of Voices is a wind chime, evoking the last sounds that the passengers and crew heard that day – the wind and their own voices.
Are the ponds on the site meant for ceremonial cleansing for those visiting this giant mosque?	The ponds on the site were created to collect run-off and/or treat sub-surface water from this re-claimed mine site. The ponds which will remain on the site are part of the state-approved mine reclamation plan for the site. They are necessary and their location pre-dates September 11, 2001.

<p>Have the families of the passengers and crew been misled about the design? Are they misled about its Islamic symbolism.</p>	<p>This design was chosen from among 1,060 anonymous entries in an international competition which was two years in the planning. At every step of the way, public meetings were held and comments were solicited from the families via the project website, regular newsletters, face-to-face meetings and mailings. The design was chosen by two separate juries which included family members. Both the process and the design concept itself have been repeatedly confirmed by the Advisory Commission (which includes 5 family members) and the Flight 93 Task Force, which includes numerous family members. Family members have repeatedly rejected Rawls' claims and asked him to stop impeding the project. One family member now speaking against the design was on the Stage 2 jury and his wife serves on the Families of Flight 93 Board. The Board has unanimously voted to support the design. The claims of Islamic symbolism have been shared with them and they have had ample opportunity over the last two years to speak about their concerns.</p>
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