

**Pentagon Memorial Competition
Stage One Board Text**

Entry # 4163

**The Pentagon Memorial Proposal 09.11.02
A democratic monument, a pedestal.**

The problem with proposing a traditional memorial is that it's presented as a singular object fixed in time, creating a greater division between the viewer and the event. It produces a static image meant to be looked at from a distance.

The proposed pentagon memorial leaves the memorial unfinished, only to be completed by those who visit and stand upon it. It is a marble pedestal inscribed with the names of the victims, surrounded by cherry trees, a ring of benches, gravel and grass. The top of the pedestal is polished to reflect the sky and leveled to contrast the bottom of the memorial, which follows the geometry of the ground. The pedestal provides a platform for individuals to stand, raised upward from the surroundings, exalted for a moment. It's a space for individuals to speak into, to embody and a place for each of us to remember the victims, a reminder that our individual freedom is our greatest monument.