

# Pentagon Memorial News



*This rendering from the Beckman and Kaseman winning proposal for the Pentagon Memorial offers a nighttime view.*

## Memorial design chosen: light benches

*by Mary Beth Thompson  
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The announcement of the Pentagon Memorial Competition winner March 3 was the satisfying conclusion to a tale well told for members of the Corps' Pentagon Memorial project team.

"The successful completion of the Corps' part of the project brings enormous respect for all the energy, heart and work by the team, designers, jury, families and loved ones," said Carol Anderson-Austra, the Corps' project manager.

The winners, New York architects Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman, were introduced by Terry Riley, Pentagon Memorial jury chair, at the March 3 news conference in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room. Riley is the chief curator of design and architecture at the

Museum of Modern Art in New York.

### **The winning concept**

Beckman, 30, and Kaseman, 31, stood behind their model as they gave details about their concept, a park-like field of 184 cantilevered benches set amid trees and walkways.

"The site is organized based on a timeline of the victims' ages, starting with the youngest victim, Dana Falkenburg, who was 3 years old, and ending at the eldest victim, (John D.) Yamnicky, who was 71," Beckman said.

Each bench will appear to float above a lighted pool of water and display the name of a person who was killed. The benches will be aligned parallel to the flight path of the jet that struck the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001, and will face toward or away from the Pentagon

to indicate whether the person was on the plane or in the building.

The two architects explained their goals.

"First, this place had to be like no other place," Beckman said. "And that is simply because Sept. 11 was like no other day."

They accomplished their second aim, to note the sheer magnitude of the event, by providing a solemn record of the lives lost.

"We wanted to provide 184 special, unique places, each dedicated to an individual who had lost his or her life," she said.

The materials they chose accomplished their last goal—to emphasize life. The stabilized gravel underfoot will be soft yet crunchy. The elements of water and light will reflect off the benches' aluminum surfaces. The benches

*Memorial design continued on page 4*



# Stage Two family exhibit draws comments for jury

by Mary Beth Thompson

Family members of those slain at the Pentagon on 9/11 arrived in a steady stream at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., Feb. 8 to see the Pentagon Memorial Competition Stage Two submissions. Nearly 100 family members and loved ones attended the private event.

On display in the museum's auditorium were two models and three boards from each of the six competition finalists. The Corps had invited family members and loved ones to view the submissions and offer comments that would be given to the jury when they met to choose a winning concept.

The exhibit visitors examined the models and boards closely, absorbing the placement on the site, how its elements would fit together, how it would be approached and how it would be viewed.

"I went around once; now I'm going back to look at them again," one visitor said.

An experienced member of the project team stood near each submission. Family members asked questions and listened carefully to the explanations, shed a few tears and carried on animated discussions.

"We like them all," another family member said. "Any would be great. We just don't want (our loved ones) forgotten."

Several visitors peered at the models looking for the names of their lost loved ones.

"The names are important," a family member said.

They sat at the small, round tables provided inside and outside the auditorium. Some spent time thinking before committing their feelings to the comment books made available for that purpose.

Many wrote about the pros and cons of each memorial concept. Others provided general advice to the jury.

"Please just keep in mind that we want it to be



*A visitor puts her thoughts about the six finalists' submissions on paper during the family exhibit at the National Building Museum Feb. 8.*

*USACE photo by F.T. Eyre*



*Pentagon Memorial project manager Carol Anderson-Austra, left, reviews one of the Stage Two proposals with an exhibit visitor.*

*USACE photo by F.T. Eyre*



respectful, memorable and appropriate,” one person wrote.

“Like the Vietnam Memorial, the memorial for 9/11 should be a place to remember what happened,” another wrote. “Our mother would want our nation to not forget.”

Several comments reflected the quality of all the memorial concepts.

“I must congratulate the six finalists for a job well done,” a visitor wrote. “Their dedication is outstanding.”

“Each has something unique and appealing,” another noted.

For some, seeing the proposed memorials was hard.

“This was a very difficult exhibit to review. There was a sad feeling in the room which was echoed by the displays,” wrote one family member.

Others found it rewarding.

“I cannot express how grateful I am for these won-

derful and thoughtful memorials,” an exhibit visitor wrote.

“In all cases, the personal remembrances and honor given every victim is truly appreciated,” another noted. “Thank you for the opportunity to understand and reflect.”

The jury reviewed all of the comments and referred to them during their discussions Feb. 21 when they chose the winning concept.



*About 100 family members and loved ones of those who were lost attended the Pentagon Memorial Competition Stage Two family exhibit.*

*USACE photo by FT. Eyre*

## Pentagon employees see display, offer their input

by Mary Beth Thompson

Hundreds of Defense Department employees viewed the Pentagon Memorial Competition finalists' models and boards exhibit in the Pentagon Feb. 12-19. The exhibit was organized at the request of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld to provide an opportunity for people who had experienced the attack and had lost colleagues and friends to review the six concept designs and to offer their thoughts and ideas.

“Many visitors came to the display two or more times,” said Carol Anderson-Austra, the Corps of Engineers' project manager. “Often they brought new groups of colleagues with them each time to look at and discuss the concept designs.”

The presence of a uniformed honor guard lent an atmosphere of strength and respect to the exhibit. The museum-quality models and illustrative boards gave the impression of a fine art gallery.

Pentagon employees visited the exhibition at a fairly steady pace throughout the four-day show, according to Corps employees who staffed the exhibit. The largest waves of visitors occurred at mid-day, but visitors came even after the scheduled hours were over. Corps team members stayed and provided information to the late arrivals as long for as the visitors were there.

“Many of the Pentagon staff had experienced the attack and had lost colleagues, so their response was understandably emotional,” Anderson-Austra said.

“There were many tears and quiet conversations among

*Pentagon employees continued on page 6*



## Memorial design chosen *continued from page one*

will form a ripple effect across the grounds, and a canopy of trees will provide light, shade and shadow.

“We wanted to fill this space with evidence of life, so we focused on a tactile, sensuous environment,” Beckman said.

### The jury

The Pentagon Memorial jury chose the Beckman-Kaseman concept Feb. 21 from among the submissions of the six finalists who competed in Stage Two of the competition.

In addition to Riley, jury members were: former Secretaries of Defense Dr. Harold Brown and Melvin Laird; family members Wendy Chamberlain and Jim Laychak; artists Sheila Levrant de Bretteville and Mary Miss; landscape architects Walter Hood and Roger Martin; architect Karen Van Lengen; and Carolyn Shelton, wife of former Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. H. Hugh Shelton.

When the jury first met last September for the Stage One judging, Anderson-Austra gave short and direct advice to the jury.

“You have two goals,” she said, “to satisfy the families and to select a great design.”

All six finalists that moved to Stage Two submitted impressive models and boards, making the jury’s decision a difficult one, according to Riley.

“Our deliberations were long and thoughtful and quite spirited,” Riley said. “But by the end of the day, it was a unanimous vote.” Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld approved the design shortly after the jury had made its choice.



*Keith Kaseman and Julie Beckman describe their winning memorial concept before the national media at the Pentagon March 3.*

*DoD photo by Helene C. Stikkel*

Family members who were at the press briefing endorsed the selection.

“It really satisfies the needs of the families for a place of comfort and beauty, yet it also satisfies the needs of those around the world and our nation by explaining what occurred here,” Chamberlain said. Fellow juror and family member Laychak told reporters it would be an individual and a collective memorial, telling the story of what happened that day.

“When we’re long gone and we can’t describe who our loved ones were, we want people to be able to go to the place and feel their presence and feel what we lost that day,” family member Stephanie Dunn said.

### The team

For the Corps’ project team members, the announcement of the winner was a proud moment that capped 17 months of intense and caring labor on a challenging and important project.

“This is the fastest any project of this type has been done,” Anderson-Austra said. “But anyone could do it fast. The fact that we did it well, not missing any important step in a process that required a great deal of sensitivity and a comprehensive approach, is the reason we are proud of what we accomplished.”

The Oklahoma City Memorial was completed in six years, which is widely considered to be a short time frame in which to build a





*Another rendering from the Pentagon Memorial Competition winning entry shows a long view of the memorial and the Pentagon.*

memorial of national importance. The Corps turned the Pentagon Memorial project over to Washington Headquarters Services on a track to be completed well ahead of the Oklahoma City timetable.

Anderson-Austra modeled the Corps' process loosely on that of the Oklahoma City Memorial, which was noted for its compassionate, inclusive and democratic approach. The two memorials are similar in that they are both located where the tragedy occurred and the victims' families have been fully involved.

"When the project was first handed to me a few weeks after 9/11, I knew that in order to succeed, we must have a small, tight, committed team and extensive family involvement," Anderson-Austra said.

She began with a Focus Group of stakeholders that included regulatory agencies and Pentagon officials and a Family Steering Committee of about a dozen family members who wanted to be involved in planning a memorial. And Anderson-Austra built the Corps project team, calling on Counsel,

Planning, Public Affairs, Programs and Project Management, Contracting, Engineering and others as needed.

"The site and design selection phase of the Pentagon Memorial project offered a rare challenge for an extraordinary team," Anderson-Austra said.

The process moved from site evaluation, to educating the Family Steering Committee about memorialization, to planning the competition and disseminating information about it worldwide. The team responded to thousands of competition queries, registered over 2,500 potential competitors, held a media open house and organized receipt of about 1,200 entries. It set up the exhibits and jurying for Stages One and Two, the Stage One press conference and the finalists' information day.

### **The families**

Throughout the process, the Family Steering Committee members provided the guiding force. They served as liaisons with other family members, helped with site evaluation, selected the logo for the competition and wrote the

family statement, which many competitors said inspired their ideas for the memorial. Kaseman said that he and Beckman relied heavily on the family statement.

"They really outlined the idea that this place should be a place that allows for interpretation," Kaseman said. "It asks you to think but doesn't tell you what to think."

The committee members also met with the finalists during an information session and gave them the family perspective. The finalists used that input in developing and preparing their concepts for their Stage Two submissions.

"They first agreed to participate in the midst of their acute mourning and loss," Anderson-Austra said of the committee members. "They've been a valiant group, always looking at the big picture and the long term historical value. I think it's fair to say that the project team feels we've learned personal lessons from them."

### **The process**

The memorial planning process that the Corps spearheaded

*Memorial design continued on page 8*



# Jury meets again, makes tough choice

by Mary Beth Thompson

The Pentagon Memorial Competition jury met Feb. 21 at the National Building Museum to choose a winning concept from among the six finalists' submissions.

The six male and five female jurors had arrived from California, Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Among them were two architects, two artists, two landscape architects, two former secretaries of defense, two family members and the wife of the Pentagon's joint chiefs' chairman at the time of the attack.

"This was a diverse and well-balanced jury of very capable and talented people," said Carol Anderson-Austra, the Corps' project manager. "We worked hard to assemble a fine jury and consider ourselves fortunate to have gathered this esteemed group."



*Juror and family member Jim Laychak makes a point during Stage Two discussions.*

USACE photo by F.T. Eyre

The jury had met Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2002, for the competition's Stage One judging. At that meeting, they reviewed 1,126 entries and selected six to be further developed in Stage Two. They met for the second time Feb. 21 to choose the

winner of the competition, the design concept that would be used for the memorial.

Jurors raised several factors and elements to consider during their discussions:

- balancing emphasis on the individual and the country;
- engineering and technical aspects;
- cost and maintenance factors;
- marking this site as a sacred site—a place where the victims' deaths occurred; and
- offering varying levels of involvement.

The jury also asked itself certain questions:

- How well is the idea executed?
- Does the scale mark the importance of the memorial?
- Will it remain appropriate in the future?
- Does it convey peacefulness, beauty, meaning, inspiration?
- Is it monumental?

The jurors thoroughly dis-

## Pentagon employees see finalists' models, boards *continued from page 3*

small groups who were looking for the names of the friends they had lost.

"Many people expressed their gratitude for the project, the display and for the high quality and sensitivity of all the design concepts. One person commented that the display was six times more than he had expected," she said.

Rumsfeld and his wife visited the display Feb. 19. They read the text on the illustrative boards and listened to Anderson-Austra's short verbal description of each design.

"Earlier in the project, Secretary Rumsfeld had been briefed by Terry Riley on the finalists' Stage One submissions," Anderson-Austra said. Riley, chief curator of design and architecture at New York's Museum of Modern Art, was the jury chair. "The Rumsfelds seemed comfortable with and interested in all of the concepts. Their response to the display and to each of the concepts seemed very positive."

Pentagon display visitors could offer their comments in three ways: handwritten or electronically

at the exhibit, or by email from their desks. About 300 comments were collected and given to the jury, which reviewed them along with the family comments.

"The Corps team had worked closely with Pentagon staff, agency representatives and members of the families and loved ones of those lost since early in the project," Anderson-Austra said. "The Pentagon display made it possible for a broader group of Pentagon personnel to view the concepts and add their comments to the process."



cussed each individual submission. They often referred to the comments from family members and Pentagon employees, and they used their own individual expertise to evaluate the proposals.

By early afternoon, they had narrowed the field to four, and by mid-afternoon to two. It wasn't long before Entry 1717, from Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman, emerged as the unanimous choice.

"The jury was most convinced by the solemnity of the design, which, like Arlington National

Cemetery across the highway, comprises a field of markers that represent each of the 184 lives lost," said Terry Riley, the jury chair, about the Beckman-Kaseman concept.

"The jury was also impressed with the way the memorial not only stands as a

place of common memory but also makes an effort to note the individual circumstances of the victims' lives, whether they were uniformed or civilian personnel at the Pentagon or passengers on American Flight 77," he continued.

"Finally," Riley said, "we were very impressed with the way in which the field of markers will have a presence from the Pentagon itself, from the highway and from the air, in daylight and at night, in addition to being a beautiful and solemn place for the visitor."



*Juror Melvin Laird, right, asks a question while Carolyn Shelton looks on.*

*USACE photo by F.T. Eyre*



*Jurors and team members applaud after the Pentagon Memorial Competition winner is decided.*

*USACE photo by F.T. Eyre*

## What are the finalists doing now?

by Mary Beth Thompson

As might be expected of this talented group of architects and designers, the Pentagon Memorial Competition finalists are busy with new projects and ventures.

**Shane Williamson** (Entry 1276, the blocks) reported that his next venture is marriage May 24 to his co-

design principal, **Betsy Walker**.

**Mason Wickham** and **Edwin J. Zawadzki** (Entry #2857, the table) are finishing a house in Miami and working on an entry for the "Designing The High Line" competition to renovate the elevated rail structure along downtown Manhattan's west side into a

public promenade. They will head to France this summer to begin a house in Burgundy.

**Jacky Bowring** and **Richard J. Weller**, (Entry #4099, the lightboxes), led a team from New Zealand and Australia. Bowring teaches at Lincoln University, Canterbury, and is now working on the design for New Zealand's Tomb

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## Memorial design chosen

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has been praised in the media, from *the New York Post* to the *Japan Times*.

“From the start, the process was designed to encourage as many voices as possible: Entries were blind-judged, meaning that the jury did not know whose concept they were evaluating,” the *Post*’s Eric Fettmann wrote.

Beckman said the competition offered a forum that invited participation from everyone, not only the big name firms. Their company, Kaseman Beckman Amsterdam Studios, is small and relatively new.

“It was completely anonymous,” she said. “It was open to everybody and anybody in the world. It was very comfortable for us to feel that we could contribute.”

Fettman concluded his commentary by noting that it is often said that government simply cannot accomplish as swiftly, efficiently and economically what the private sector can.

“In this case, however, government has proved that it doesn’t always deserve such a bumbling reputation,” he wrote.

The Pentagon Memorial project is now under the management of Washington Headquarters Services, the agency that runs the Pentagon. The Pentagon Renovation Program is the construction agent.

“We will watch the project’s fruition with great interest as the selected design is implemented,” Anderson-Austra said. “The success of our portion of the project leaves us feeling grateful for the opportunity to have participated in this important effort.”

*Dear Family and Friends of the Pentagon Memorial,*

To use President John F. Kennedy’s words, the torch has passed. Or is it more appropriate in this case to say the light benches have passed?

Any way you phrase it, the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pentagon Memorial project team is now complete. The site was approved and the design concept has been selected. Family members and other stakeholders are firmly and fully involved in the memorial process.

The Washington Headquarters Services and the Pentagon Renovation Program team are forging ahead with the challenge of the contracting and construction phases of the project. Family members are staying involved. (Ed. note: Check out the Pentagon’s web site, <http://memorial.pentagon.mil>.)

The project had become near and dear to us. The personal attachments many of us developed make this transition a difficult one. But we have the satisfaction of knowing that, with the help of committed family members and other stakeholders, we accomplished remarkable things in a shorter period of time than any project of its kind has achieved. We are enormously honored to have been called on and very proud of the results.

We wish all of you well as you continue to heal from your devastating personal losses and as you move on with the important and challenging work of the Pentagon Memorial.

*The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Pentagon Memorial Project Team*

## Finalists busy with new ventures

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of the Unknown Warrior, which will contain a soldier’s remains repatriated from the World War I battlefields of Europe. Weller teaches at the University of Western Australia. With another team member, **Vladimir Sitta**, he is working on projects in Switzerland and Sydney and on a book of their design work, which will include the Pentagon Memorial. It will be published next year.

Team member **Peter England** is in Washington, D.C., designing sets for the Shakespeare Theater’s production of *Richard III*.

**Michael Meredith** (Entry #4163, the pedestal), teaches at the University of Toronto. He is also working to start an architecture office. A house he designed is now under construction in upstate New York.

### PENTAGON MEMORIAL NEWS

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