



Pentagon Memorial

Pentagon Memorial Design Competition Stage Two Submission, Entry #1717

Prepared for:

Department of Defense
Washington Headquarters Services
The Pentagon

Prepared by:

KBAS[®]

KASEMAN BECKMAN
AMSTERDAM STUDIO



SEA appendix C

Statement by Kaseman Beckman Amsterdam Studio (KBAS), New York, NY

One hundred eighty-four lives were lost in a single moment at the Pentagon - one hundred eighty-four individuals forever tied together through the horrific event that unfolded on September 11, 2001.

Thousands of others lost their lives and suffered injury that day while millions wept.

That day was simply incomprehensible. It jolted us into a different world, a tragic reality that just didn't seem real.

This proposal envisions a memorial that simultaneously affords intimate and collective contemplation through silence within a tactile field of sensuous experience. It sets out to permanently record and express the sheer magnitude of loss through an architectural experience of a place radically different than what we encounter in our daily lives. In this light, the space itself serves as the memorial at all scales of experience and engagement - from within, driving by, and from above.

A MEMORIAL PARK is inscribed with one hundred eighty-four MEMORIAL UNITS. Each unit is dedicated to an individual victim - its placement and place within the collective field a unique instance. The field is organized as a timeline of the victims' ages, spanning from Dana Falkenberg, 3 years old, to John D. Yamnicky, 71. While each memorial unit locates itself on its respective age-line, the units are then organized by birth-date along the age-line. This highly specific and qualitatively objective organizational strategy yields seemingly random results. Inherent tendencies - the clustering of certain age groups, the gap between the children and adults - are clearly evident and meaningful, though infinitely interpretive.

Personal interpretation is further sparked by embedding layers of specificity into the orientation of each memorial unit within the expansive site. Fifty-nine memorial units face one way, one hundred twenty five face the other - thus distinguishing victims on board American Airlines Flight 77 from those who were inside the Pentagon. When visiting a memorial dedicated to a victim who was in the Pentagon, the visitor will see their engraved name and the Pentagon in the same view. Conversely, one would see the engraved name of a victim on flight 77 with the sky. Though highly specific, this distinction is quite subtle when deployed consistently throughout the site. It adds a level of difference to the visual and spatial field, thus provoking visitors' curiosity, while simultaneously telling the story of those involved in the events that took place here that day.

Elegant in its self-supporting form, the memorial unit is at once a glowing light pool, a cantilevered bench and a place for the permanent inscription of each victim's name. Using Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) technology common to the aerospace industry, the cast, clear-anodized aluminum memorial unit is easily mass-produced and incredibly articulate. The cast aluminum prototype/detail model was fabricated in this manner. Its structural cross-section not only reflects radiant light from the glowing pool of water onto the surrounding gravel field, but also allows that field to be continuous. A polyester composite matrix-gravel mix is poured into the memorial unit, thus acting as a glue to support and float the gravel above the light pool. This surface is polished to attain a "terrazzo" finish at the horizontal bench portion of the memorial unit. As the memorial unit grows out of the ground, the stabilized gravel field is interrupted only by moments of glowing light and water, and the engraved names float above these moments.

Though loose enough to hear and feel footsteps upon it, stabilized gravel is a hard, ADA-compliant surface. Disbursed throughout the entire site, the porous stabilized gravel field

is contained within two perimeter benches that serve as planters for ornamental grasses. These grasses act as a soft screen demarcating the boundary of the memorial park. Further, the combined length of the perimeter benches plus the bench portion of each memorial unit provides more than 2,100 linear feet of polished "terrazzo" seating surface. Birth years, used to locate the age lines, are inlaid aluminum numbers set flush with the "terrazzo" finish of the perimeter benches. The birth years are flanked by the aluminum age lines that permeate the whole site.

The western edge of the site is defined with the AGE WALL - a wall that "grows" in height one inch per year relative to the age lines that organize the site at large. As one moves deeper into the site the wall gets higher - it grows from 3 inches above the perimeter bench (at Dana's memorial age-line) to 71 inches above the bench (at John's). Strategically, this wall grows, as a barrier is needed between the memorial park and the delivery lane that encroaches the site at its northwestern edge. Experientially, this wall communicates the organizational strategy to the drivers passing by on the freeway, while still allowing them to peer into the site from afar. From within the site it provides a shadowy backdrop for the lacy ornamental grasses that are planted along its base.

A vivid canopy of color and light provides shade throughout the site, as trees are clustered in conjunction with the disbursement of memorial units. Three varieties of maple trees could serve this scheme well - the Trident Maple, Field Maple (in renderings) and the Paper Bark Maple. All three exquisite trees are late falling, retaining their beautiful fall foliage well into the winter months - this suspension of time will contribute to the sublime beauty of this place. On an intimate level, the interplay between leaves, light, bark, gravel, grasses, water, and the senses will be greatly enhanced with any of these elegant trees.

DESIGN TEAM

Kaseman Beckman Amsterdam Studio (KBAS), New York, NY:

Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman, design principals

Consulting Engineers:

James Rowe - Structural, New York

Dr. Gerald Palevsky - Environmental, New York

Prototype Fabrication:

Techno-Craft, Bloomfield, NJ

Renderings:

KD Lab, New York

Laser Cutting Services:

SANY (Studio Associates of New York)

Printing Services:

Merrimac Productions, New York

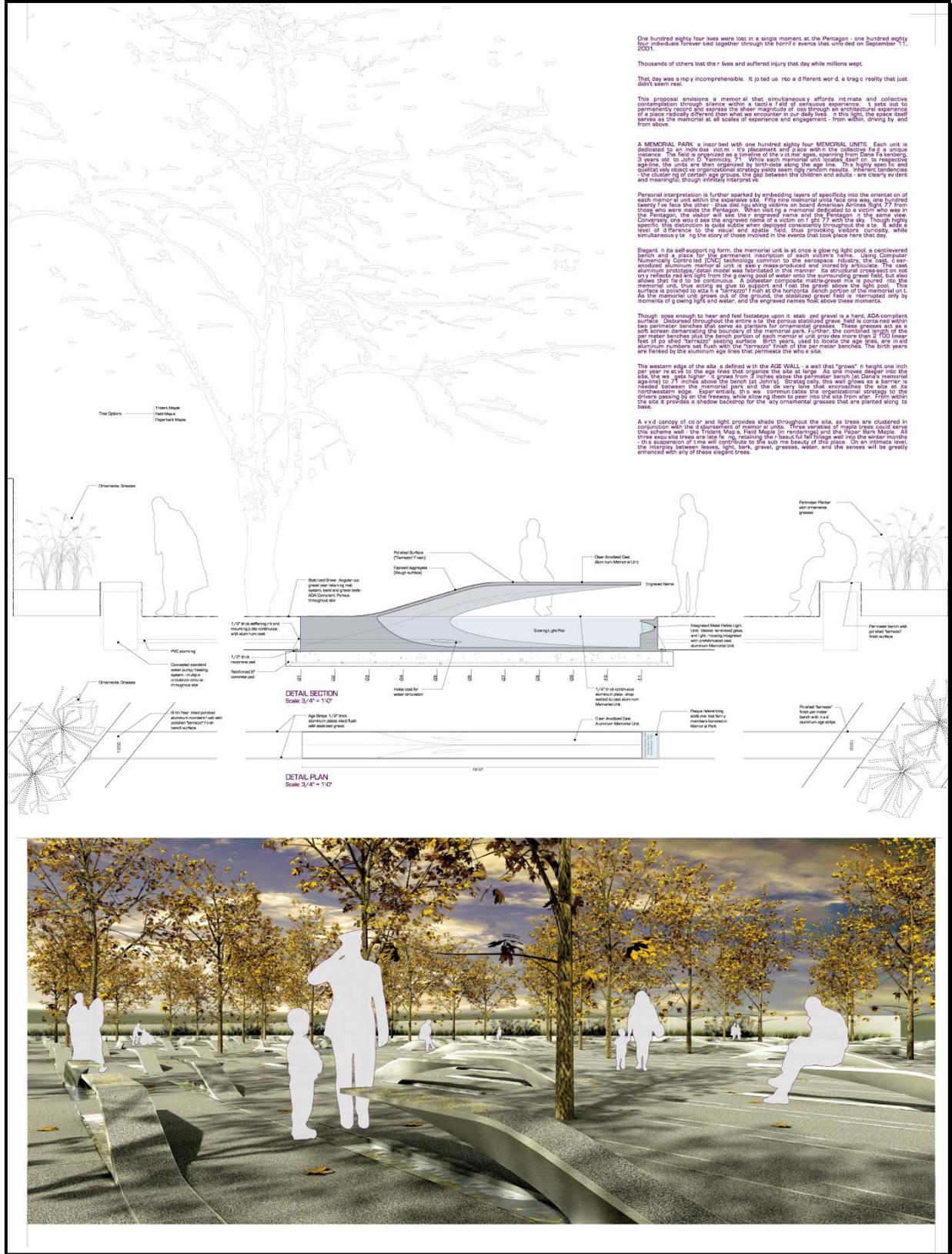
Production Support:

Mark Taylor, New York

Mark Ours, New York



Board 1
Provided by KBAS



One hundred eighty four lives were lost in a single moment at the Pentagon - one hundred eighty four individuals forever tied together through the horrific events that unfolded on September 11, 2001.

Thousands of others lost their lives and suffered injury that day while millions wept.

That day was a tragedy incomprehensible. It jaded us into a different world, a tragic reality that just didn't seem real.

This proposal envisions a memorial that simultaneously affords intimate and collective contemplation through silence within a field of sensory experiences. The site is set out to permanently record and express the sheer magnitude of loss through an architectural experience that allows the individual to share the experience on his or her own level. In this way, the space used for the memorial is at all scales of experience and engagement - from within, driving by and from above.

A MEMORIAL PARK is inscribed with one hundred eighty four MEMORIAL UNITS. Each unit is dedicated to an individual victim - its placement and pace with the collective field is a unique gesture. The field is organized as a timeline of the victim's life, spanning from Dana Fuchsberg, 3 years old to John D. Yaminsky, 71. While each memorial unit looks east on its respective date, the units are also organized into date along the age line. This is done to avoid a cluttering of certain age groups, the gap between the children and adults are clearly evident and meaningful, though not strictly sequential.

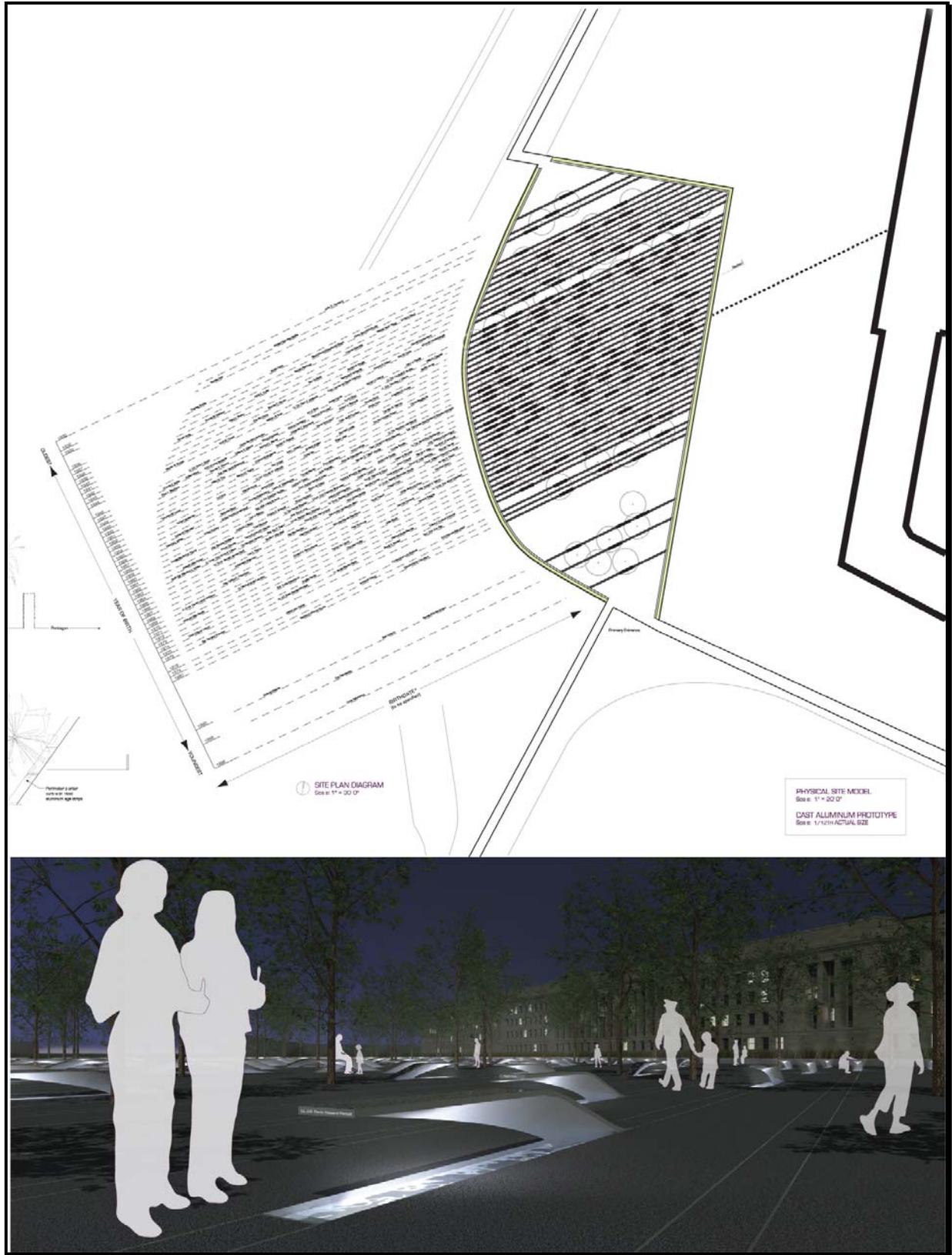
Memorial design continues to further extend by embedding layers of specificity into the creation of each memorial unit within the collective field. Fifty nine memorial units face one way, one hundred thirty three face the other. Fifty nine memorial units face one way, one hundred thirty three face the other. When visiting a memorial dedicated to a victim who was in the Pentagon, the visitor will see their engraved name and the Pentagon in the same view. Conversely, one would see the engraved name of a victim on a unit that faces away from the Pentagon. This distinction is made subtle when designed contemplation throughout the site. As a result, the visitor can simultaneously see the story of those involved in the events that took place here that day.

Elegant in its self-supporting form, the memorial unit is at once a glowing light pole, a cantilevered bench and a shade for the permanent inscription of each victim's name. Using Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) technology common to the aerospace industry, the cast, clear-anodized aluminum memorial unit is fully mass-produced and created by machine. The cast aluminum prototype/cast model was fabricated in this manner. Its structural cross-section not only reflects the light from the canopy pool of water, but also provides a structural support for the memorial unit. A stainless composite, metal-gravel mix is poured into the memorial unit, which enters at the top of the unit and flows down through the unit. As the memorial unit grows out of the ground, the stabilized gravel field is illuminated only by moments of glowing light and water, and the engraved names look above the memorial.

Though seen enough to hear and feel fastenings upon its slab and gravel is a hard, ADA-compliant surface. Discussed throughout the entire site, the porous stabilized gravel field is contained within long, generous benches that serve as platforms for ornamental grasses. These grasses act as a soft screen demarcating the boundary of the memorial park. Further, the combined length of the per meter benches plus the bench portion of each memorial unit provides more than 1,100 linear feet of ADA-compliant seating surface. Each bench is cast in place, with a cast aluminum number cast flush with the "toprazzo" finish of the cast aluminum. The bench and are finished by the aluminum age line that permeates the site.

The western edge of the site is defined by the SIDE WALL, a wall that "frames" a height one inch per foot scale to the age line that organizes the site at large. As the wall grows deeper into the site, the scale of the wall grows smaller and smaller. The wall grows as a barrier is needed between the memorial park and the driveway that encroaches the site on its northwestern edge. Expressly, it is a common theme the organizational strategy to the design process is to be heavy, stable, allowing them to enter into the site from the side as the site provides a shadow backdrop for the sky ornamental grasses that are planted along its base.

A vivid canopy of color and light provides shade throughout the site, as trees are clustered in combination with the landscape of memorial units. Three varieties of Maple trees comprise this scheme well - the Trident Maple, Field Maple (in landscaping) and the Paper Bark Maple. All three species trees are tall, reaching the base of the Side Wall with only the western member. In a suspension of time will contribute to the site's beauty of this place. On an intimate level, the marriage between leaves, light, bark, grass, gravel, water, and the senses will be greatly enhanced with any of these elegant trees.

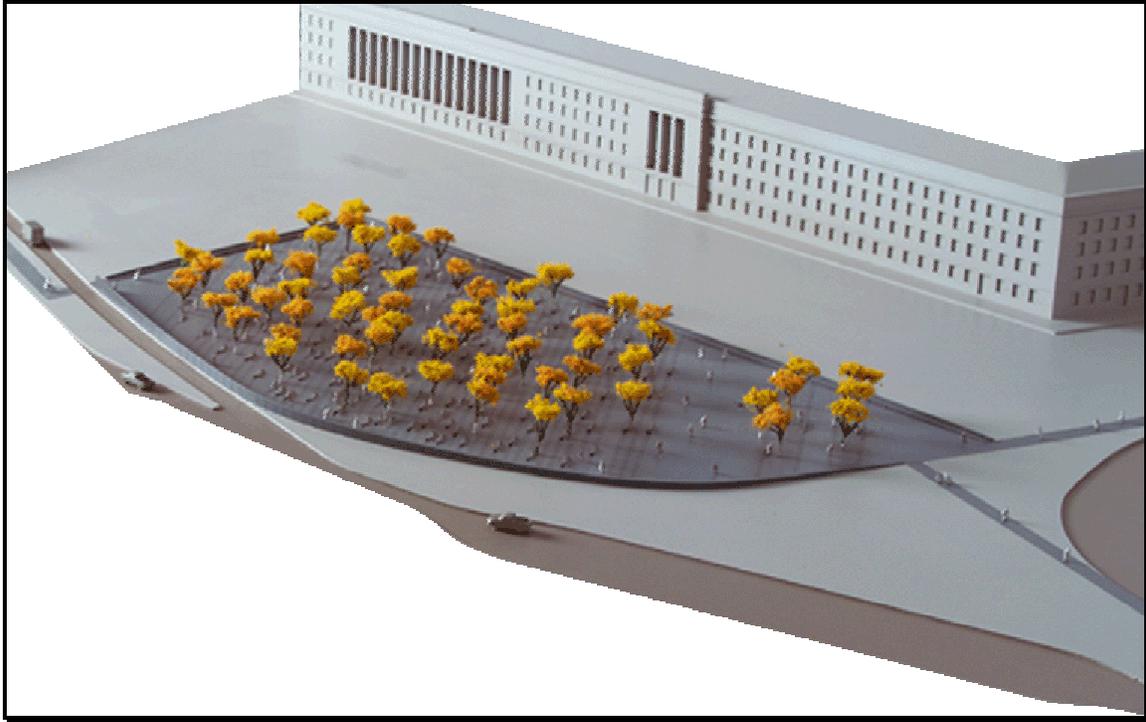


Board 3

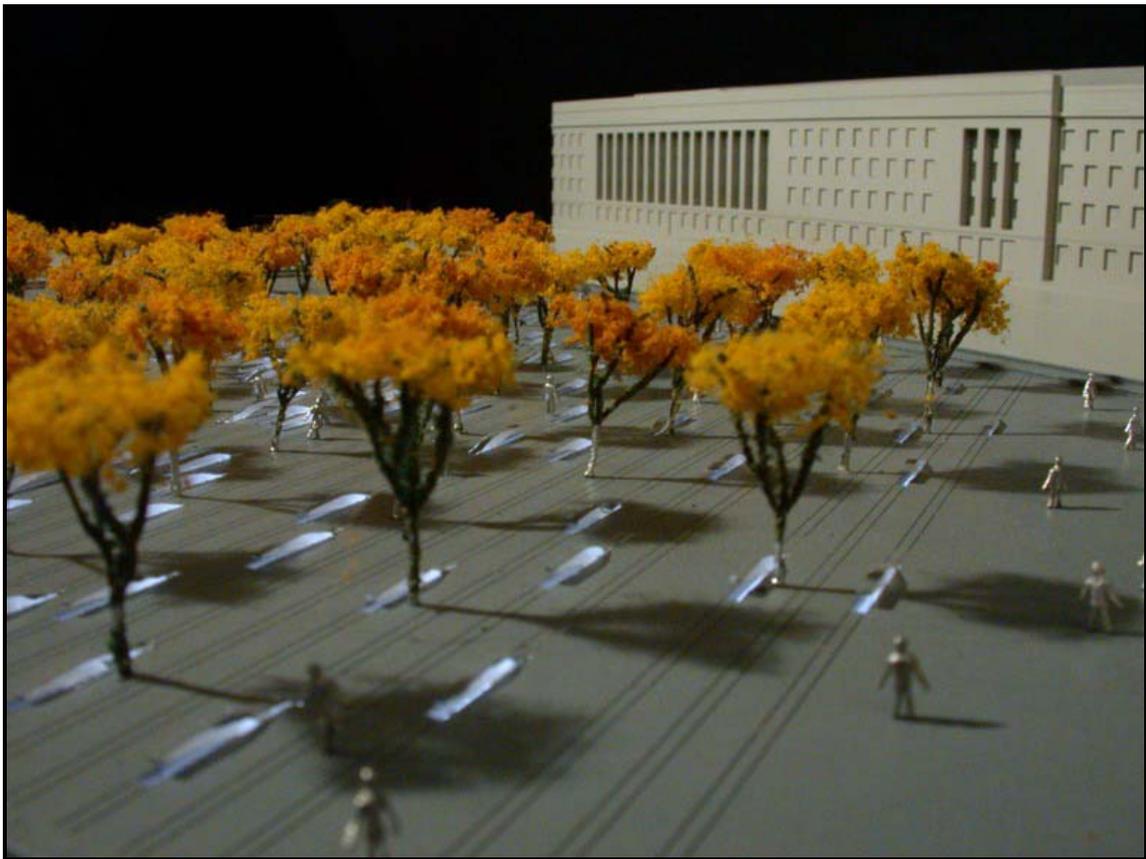
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Pentagon Reservation

Supplemental Environmental Assessment – Pentagon Memorial



Model of the Memorial Park



Model Close-up of Age Lines and Memorial Units

Pentagon Reservation

Supplemental Environmental Assessment – Pentagon Memorial



Model of the Memorial Park



Detail Model of a Memorial Unit