

FREDDY RODRIGUEZ

My Purpose

Inspire reverence and respect for those lost by creating a beautiful memorial
Help families and friends reminisce
Memorialize and pay tribute to victims' lives and their legacy to our city

Memorial

Single embracing concave granite structure (building) 6' to 11' high, 72' long, and 2' thick, on 3' elevated platform permits unobstructed view of ocean. One building for all of those lost evokes NYC, the "here"—we are all in this together.

Structure dotted with openings (windows) and a gateway oriented toward DR.

Gateway and windows allow visual access to ocean and beyond—the "there."

Families can place objects (flowers, letters, mementos) in windows.

265 names engraved in random order, located between 2'— 6' on building, with possibility of grouping by family. All names are within reach and can be touched and kissed.

At lower end of structure, engraved date, flight information, and Pedro Mir quote:

"Despues no quiero mas que paz/Afterwards I want only peace."

Paving, Landscaping, and Lighting

2' X 2' granite pavers face DR with shadow design of obelisk ("obelisco"). Obelisk evokes "el malecon," a happy gathering place for family and friends. Five-step stairway and accessible ramp lead to memorial.

Pear trees link to site of crash and cherry grove creates buffer and allows reflection.

Yucca plants protect perimeter. Planters for annual flowers every spring and summer provide color and life.

6 seating blocks measuring 20" x 18" x 18" provide resting space

Strategically placed thin steel railing 34" high protects the site

In ground lights in front and back of structure, trees, and retaining wall

My Vision

My design grew out of the concept of the "here and there," the "back and forth," and the universal longing to return home.

The travelers on the plane, the neighbors on the ground, and the crew members working on the flight were all on life's journey.

The beach site, "here," is home to the Rockaway community, but also evokes the malecon and memories of the "there."

Longing for freedom and a better life led people to leave home. Legacy of those lost is the willingness of every immigrant to leave home and bring life to NYC.

Building is a wall which metaphorically separates the "here" and "there." Gateway allows passage on physical and spiritual levels to place of peace.