

# WODICZKO + BONDER

The form of the memorial symbolizes ascent.

The central part of the Memorial is a commemorative platform directed at the angle toward the south and the sky, which as a path, weaves commemoration, contemplation, awareness, and silence. The position and angle of the platform refers to the direction of the flight's interrupted journey. It also suggests and points to the other destination, a place beyond all places, a place of this Flight's final destination—the place where sky meets heaven.

The names of those who lost their lives in this journey are inscribed on a raised reflective surface placed centrally along the axis of the commemorative platform. As this surface will reflect the sky, its changing light, color, and cloud configuration, the names of the victims will be seen as if they were permanently inscribed in the sky.

The orientation of the letter in the names will be positioned to be read while ascending. In this way, the upward direction of the commemorative platform will be visually confirmed and the spiritual focus of the memorial will be further enforced.

The position, the height, and size of the reflective surface will allow the names to be both seen and touched, and flowers and candles placed next to them. The respectful distance between the inscribed names invokes their singularity.

The area below and next to the entrance to commemorative platform will be designed to accommodate the gatherings of the families and friends of those who lost their lives. It will also provide a necessary sitting option to some of those who gather.

The gathering area and the entrance to the Commemorative Platform will be immersed in a specially planted grove of trees. This grove of trees will reinforce and protect the special character of the memorial situated in a busy recreational and commercial area. They will also symbolically reinforce the sense of perseverance, the continuity of life, and the hope for its regeneration. The memorial will provide a small green zone that will be needed for the adjacent newly constructed residential buildings. The grove of trees will serve as a horizontal reference in the upward and downward movement of the visitor. At night, the trees will be illuminated from the ground up.

The most elevated section of the commemorative platform will be crossing over the boardwalk and will be well visible above pedestrian traffic. This will assure public visibility of the memorial as an important commemorative landmark without disrupting the recreational function of the city boardwalk.

The sense of the Memorial site—being lifted from the ground and interrupting a horizon—will be enhanced when seen from the boardwalk, from the city, and as experienced by the visitors.

The entrance and exit will happen through an opening, a narrow ramp, which as a cut will allow for passage from under the shadow of the platform towards the light above. A narrow cut will allow for light passing through the surface. The names of these who lost their life will be illuminated and will illuminate the site as a line of light to be seen from the ground (day and night) when standing below the commemorative platform.

This memorial project should be understood as a Site of Memory and not as an Object of Memory, which by proposing a multiplicity of experiences will transform and enhance the experience of this very difficult and complex site. All the spaces and commemorative elements—the lifted Commemorative Platform, the Grounds, the Names, the Grove of Trees—woven into the Memorial Site, combine to form one single memorial, which simultaneously concentrates and mourns the tragic events of the past.

Respectfully inscribed within the daily life of the city, our memorial proposes a path out of the trauma of the Flight 587, through the potential for the transformative and healing work of contemplation, awareness, and engagement.