

Rebuilding of the former World Trade Center Area

Project and Text by Gaetano Pesce, Architect, New York

The main idea of the project concerns the memorial, which I don't plan to locate on the ground, but at the height at which the attack occurred. Its shape reminds us of a "heart" and aims to express a positive outlook, popular culture and to connect with one of New York's symbols designed by Milton Glaser. In this way, the memorial will be visible from different parts of the city (illuminated from the inside at night) and it will act as a connective structure for the two towers that will be noticeably structurally reinforced by it. The surface of its eight floors (1 that are quadruple-height, 2 that are triple-height, 3 that are double-height and 6 that are ordinary height) covers roughly 300,000 sq. ft. and its outer skin should be made of glass and reinforced, red, translucent resin plates with a steel skeleton. The floors are made up of a metallic structure. Inside there could be exhibition areas, auditoriums, spaces for ceremonies and every other function for the visiting public, including offices for the staff that works at the memorial. From the inside, it will be possible to

enjoy a splendid view of the city and the surrounding land, which has now become a landmark.

The towers that host the memorial are reminders of the former two towers of the World Trade Center in the sense that they will embrace the same space and have the same shape on the ground; they have the same number of floors, plus one; but, as they rise, they rotate and shrink so that two rhombi at their vertex. So, there will be less surface exposed to the wind, and their truncated-pyramid form makes them stronger from a static point of view. They contain office spaces in total 7 million sq.ft. There could be bus and subway stations in its basement, as well as parking and technical equipment. These are located on the North side of the site and develop along Vesey Street. I share the opinion of those who are asking for respect of the footprints of the two old towers by suggesting an idea to cover them with water. This surface will be in a very light movement provoked by underwater, vertical tubes that carry soft streams of water close to the



We thought the memorial must be visible. The shape itself has to be a positive symbol which is also a symbol of New York City.

Beside that, the structure of the memorial is a structural connection of the two towers.

The height of the new towers are the same number of floors as the previous towers plus one, for a total 111 floors. They contain office space and service loading area.

surface. The number of tubes would equal the number of the terrorist attack's victims.

On the Southeast side and along Church Street, I thought of placing a building that holds "The Institute for the Dissemination and Defense of Tolerance in the World." This Institute is composed of different, "not homogeneous" buildings, each of which recalls one of the letters that make up the word "tolerance". (This is an idea that I had while thinking about a sketch by Oldenburg.) It has approximately 10 floors and a surface area of roughly 180,000 sq. ft. It is adjacent to a "central square" that can be used for ceremonies and outdoor exhibitions, etc. The rest is green (trees and lawns). Franklin Street crosses this square.

On the South side of the land, I would suggest elevating Liberty Street, which connects with West Street and continues elevated towards the Hudson River connecting, in this way, two large land reclamations that can host the buildings of a large institution such as the United Nations. I have heard that it will have to move, in the future, to a new location, or this could be used to house offices, apartment towers and shops. The shape of these reclamations represents the shadow of the original towers at 8:45 am on September 11th of last year. Their surface will be around 600,000 sq. ft. and their platform can host different floors that can be used as parking garages, technical equipment

housing, bus station, cinemas, museum of architecture and design (this could be funded by New York City's construction companies, considering that they have done very little for architecture in this city), shopping center, a research center on the diversity of the world's cultures. I agree that West Street should be covered and there should be, on its current level, a Grand Boulevard with frontage roads that would serve local traffic, but also for parades that often are hard on Manhattan traffic when they are held on Fifth Avenue. Hosting them on this new Boulevard would make it possible to proceed along the World Trade Center land, which, at this point, has become a relic of U.S. history.

I would conclude with a concept that I have expressed to the organizers of the competition. We all know about the mosaic of populations and minorities that live in New York. Moreover, we know that its cultural reality is not monolithic and homogeneous. So, and for this reason, only one competition with only one supposed winning project would not represent the reality of our city. Instead, the organization of several competitions, at least equal in number to the number of buildings foreseen by the plan would give rise to various architectural languages that are more in tone, because of their choral nature, with New York and its fragmented identity.

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memorial in the shape of a heart between two towers at high level, visible throughout Manhattan. The memorial shape remind one of the symbol of New York City

underground space for parking and transportation hub (bus station, subway station service loading area)

