

UW student wins spot in 9/11 design competition

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RECORD STAFF

WATERLOO REGION

A University of Waterloo student is a finalist in an international competition to design the Flight 93 memorial in Shanksville, Pa.

"To be a finalist is shocking," said Ken Lum, a 28-year-old graduate student in the school of architecture in Cambridge. "It's such a big competition."

The national memorial will honour the 40 passengers and crew who died Sept. 11, 2001, when a hijacked United Airlines

jet crashed into a field near Shanksville. The passengers were hailed as heroes for trying to seize the plane after it was commandeered by four terrorists.

Lum is one of five finalists in the design competition, which drew 1,011 entries from architec-

ture firms and amateurs. He was the only Canadian chosen.

Lum, who lives in Toronto, immigrated to Canada from Malaysia eight years ago and earned his undergraduate degree in architecture from UW.

His design for the memorial, called "(F)light," includes a lu-

minous roofscape mirroring the path of Flight 93.

The path is 360 metres long and leads to a courtyard lined with 40 empty tables, etched with the names of the victims. The white tables will likely be made of marble.

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"The tables recollect the absence of the individual," he said.

Family members "sit at the dinner table and remember the loss."

He said the "humble" design allows visitors to walk along a processional path to the crash site, considered sacred ground.

The competition didn't want a monument on the actual crash site.

Lum said he wanted to recreate the flight path and remind visitors of the courage of crew members and passengers that morning.

The light on the roof is an expression of inspiration and sacrifice, he said.

"It's a symbolic gesture," he said. "These individuals were going about their lives and they worked in unison to rebel against the hijackers."

Flight 93 was hijacked en route to San Francisco from Newark, N.J., and crashed in Somerset County, killing all 33 passengers and seven crew.

The hijackers also died.

According to the commission that investigated the Sept. 11 terrorists acts, the hijackers crashed the plane when passengers tried to break into the cockpit.

The hijackers' original target was Washington, where one of three other



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Two flight attendants comfort each other as they look at the crash site near Shanksville, Pa., before the start of a Flight 93 memorial service in 2002.

hijacked planes was crashed into the Pentagon.

The actions of the crew and passengers on that day saved countless lives, said Lum.

Finalists will receive a \$25,000 honorarium to develop a second draft of their designs, due by June.

A second jury will announce the final design by Sept. 11.

The jurors, who included victims' relatives and design professionals, reviewed the entries in January.

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• With files from Associated Press



Ken Lum, a UW architecture student, is a finalist in the contest to design a memorial to the 9/11 crash in Pennsylvania.

ON THE NET

• View memorial designs, including Ken Lum's, at www.flight93memorialproject.org