



State of New Jersey

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“Empty Sky” – 9/11 Memorial Collects Honors

“Empty Sky,” New Jersey’s 9/11 memorial in Jersey City that opened to the public a year ago, has been recognized for excellence in design by two professional groups.

The Society of Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD) and *Faith & Form* magazine and the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture, a knowledge community of the American Institute of Architects, have honored “Empty Sky” in their 2012 design award competitions.

SEGD’s Global Design Awards included the memorial as one of six projects around the world that displayed excellence in environmental graphic design. *Faith & Form* and the Interfaith Forum cited “Empty Sky” in the category of “Sacred Landscape” in their Annual Religious Art and Architecture Design Awards program. The memorial will be featured along with other award winners in *Faith & Form’s* winter 2012 issue.

The memorial, which is located on the Hudson River in Liberty State Park, honors the 749 people with ties to New Jersey who lost their lives in the terror attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

It invites visitors to literally and metaphorically look toward the empty sky in memory of their loved ones and to look forward as a community. Its central feature is an open corridor with twin 210-foot long walls clad in brushed stainless steel that frame a view across the river to where the trade center's twin towers once stood.

The walls rise to a height of 30 feet and their interiors have been engraved at eye level with the names of all the New Jersey victims of the attack.

The engravings feature large lettering and a distinctive typeface that increases the contrast and readability of the names and makes it easier to do charcoal rubbings.

In its award citation, SEGD included comments from the jurors who decided on its 2012 awards. About "Empty Sky," they said: "In a world of dysfunction, distraction, and distance the dilemma of how to remember and experience is near to impossible. And to cut through religion, race, age, and agenda makes it nearly futile. Yet this courageous monument solves all this with ease and leaves us touched, curious, and hopeful.

The empty spaces in this design are punctuated by elegant structures that help define the human loss of a community. The result is a moving tribute to those lives that were lost, and to those who remember them."

The \$12 million memorial was designed by Frederic Schwartz Architects of New York City and built by Hall Construction of Howell. The project was overseen by Treasury's Division of Property Management and Construction. It was funded by the State of New Jersey and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.