



Canadian student one of five finalists in Sept. 11 memorial design for Pa.

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TORONTO (CP) - A planned September 11th memorial in Pennsylvania could end up being the work of a Canadian architecture student.

"It's just been a whirlwind," an excited Ken Lum, 29, said Thursday in a telephone interview from his home in Toronto. The University of Waterloo student is one of five finalists in the U.S. competition to design a memorial for the passengers and crew who died when Flight 93 crashed into a Pennsylvania field on Sept. 11, 2001.

Lum - who is both the only student and non-American finalist - doubted his design would be selected from the 1,011 proposals.

"I was actually blown away because there were a thousand entries. The reason I participated wasn't so much to win, but to express my grief for the tragic incident so I really wasn't expecting much from it." Entitled (F)LIGHT: The Luminous Roofscape, Lum said the inspiration for his design was based on the flight path that Flight 93 took on that tragic day.

It is fashioned in the shape of a "V," with visitors being channelled through a defined path as they head toward the scene of the crash site - the place where the victims' remains are buried.

All 33 passengers, seven crew members, and the four hijackers were killed in the crash. It's believed that the terrorists were headed toward Washington, D.C., but the passengers and crew thwarted their plans by leading an uprising against their abductors.

Officials planned to place the memorial near the original crash site.

Rick Haldenby, director of the university's School of Architecture, called Lum's feat a "truly remarkable accomplishment."

Lum will receive \$25,000 US to develop his final proposal which will be presented to the selection jury in June, with the winner scheduled to be announced this fall.

He said the \$25,000 will likely be earmarked to hire consultants, model makers and buying materials, which are all costly endeavours. However, he also plans to travel to Pennsylvania on Feb. 24 for a resource workshop to seek further supports.