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Design finalists visit crash site



(Staff photo by Vicki Rock)

Dennis Fanti, left, Ken Lum and Yvonne Lum, Toronto, Canada with the design

"(F)Light," one of the five finalists in the Flight 93 National Memorial competition.

By VICKI ROCK
Daily American Staff Writer

It is a humbling experience to be a finalist in the Flight 93 National Memorial competition, Kèn Lum said.

Lum, a graduate student in architecture, Toronto, Canada, is the designer of "(F)Light."

Representatives of all five design team finalists were in Somerset Thursday for the start of a two-day briefing and stage II master plan workshop at the Somerset Historical Center.

Several family members spoke to the finalists. Coroner Wallace Miller talked about the crash and about the site's weather and horizontal winds.

Each received a \$25,000 grant to refine their designs and make three-dimensional models which will be on display this summer. Another jury will pick the winner.

"To be honest, initially, I was shocked (when chosen)," Lum said. "It's an emotional ride, even more so today, hearing from the coroner and some family

members this morning and going to the crash site this afternoon. The emotional commitment is overwhelming."

Yvonne Lum and Dennis Fanti are his associates for the next stage of the project. They may reorient the design to the site and change materials, as the stage one jury recommended.

Paul and Milena Murdoch from Paul Murdoch Architects, Los Angeles, designed "The Crescent of Embrace."

"This is very emotional for us," Milena Murdoch said. "We are very honored and very excited."

It is difficult designing a memorial when you haven't seen the site, Paul Murdoch said.

"One thing I want to see is the power of the place in and of itself," he said.

"The memorial is an expression of the designer, versus allowing people who visit their experiences. The design should not impose a memorial on them, it should allow them to support the experience on their own terms."

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