

## **RICS Americas Leads a Behind the Scenes Tour of the National September 11 Memorial**

On Monday, September 19, 2011, the RICS Tri-State Chapter, that includes New York, New Jersey and Connecticut hosted a tour of the National September 11 Memorial – a sustainable and green site built in commemoration of the men, women and children who died in the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. The event for Members, colleagues, and friends was in honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attacks and also in support of World Green Building Week.

The tour was led by Colin Parkes MRICS, Chief Estimator and Jim Stawniczy AIA LEED AP, who both worked on the environmental aspects of the Memorial. They narrated the story behind the architecture and highlighted that its one of the most sustainable plazas ever built, with irrigation systems in place to support approximately 400 Oak trees that surround the two, one-acre pools – with vast waterfalls cascading down its sides – positioned within the footprints of the Twin Towers. All the buildings on the site, including the Memorial are expected to attain LEED Silver certification.

The National September 11 Memorial and Museum is 80% complete. The edges of the Memorial are not finished because of the need to provide access roads for different buildings to be completed first.

One of the RICS members in attendance, Guy Benn MRICS commented, “A talk provided by members of the project team highlighted the level of detail and depth of thought that has been put into the Memorial. The RICS members who were present agree that the Memorial is an impressive, fitting and powerful reminder of the events leading up to, during and after September 11, 2001 and they are grateful to the project team for educating them on the behind the scenes detail. The Memorial truly is a benchmark project, not just in its purpose but also in its design, construction and execution, and I am sure that all attendees would like to join me in congratulating and thanking the team for a job very well done.”

Although the National September 11 Museum is only 35% complete, it is on schedule for completion in 2012. A member of the project team told guests once visitors are allowed into the museum next year, they will be able to see the original footprints of the World Trade Center that have been preserved below the memorial. “When you’re in the museum, you can actually see that the underside of the fountains is worked into the design and layout of the program on the ground floor of the museum. Each of the low points under the fountain are the family rooms where you will see the original slabs of the building that are preserved,” he noted.

### **Some interesting facts about the construction elements used for the project:**

- Volume of concrete in superstructure: 50,000 cubic yards
- Hours required to cut each bronze panel: 5
- Seconds (average) to water-jet cut each letter on the memorial panels: 45
- Total length in feet of the five rows of names: 1,500+
- Names on the memorial: 2,982
- Acres of land: 8
- Pumps for the memorial waterfalls: 16
- Height in feet of waterfalls: 30
- Weight in pounds of each 2.5' x 5' granite panel lining the interior of the two memorial pools: 420
- Granite panels lining the pools: 3,968

- Gallons of water each memorial pool holds: 485,919
- 400 Oak trees grown in a New Jersey nursery for two years: \$8000,000



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