

# **CRESCENT OF BETRAYAL**

**DIRECTOR'S CUT** (v. 1.0)

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# **CRESCENT OF BETRAYAL**

Dishonoring the Heroes of Flight  
93

ALEC RAWLS



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## **In Memory of Jacob Zalim**

**1961-1988**

*Jacob was my college roommate. He walked, bussed and biked his way across every continent but Antarctica, barefoot when he could, a friendly 6' 2" Yeti (with his large head, unruly tangle of hair, and ever widening beard) who could drain 20-foot jump-shots all day. He looked like no one else, but wherever he traveled, the people assumed he was one of them. Mexicans thought he was Mexican. Arabs thought he was Arab. Europeans thought he was European. Jews thought he was Jewish. Africans thought he was African. Russians thought he was Russian. Everybody wanted to claim him.*

*Jake appeared to be a free spirit, but in fact was a fast and diligent scholar, always carrying a fresh collection of books as he studied the world up close. Much too early, the world lost one of its great autodidacts. How we could use you today, old friend.*



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# PREFACE

This book exposes the planned Flight 93 Memorial to be a terrorist memorial mosque, centered around a half mile wide Mecca-oriented crescent. On July 28, 2007, the Memorial Project will announce whether it will proceed to build what was originally called the Crescent of Embrace design (renamed the Bowl of Embrace after some inconsequential changes were made). This book is not slated to arrive in bookstores until the end of August 2007. Given the urgency of the public's need to know the truth about architect Paul Murdoch's crescent design before the July meeting, World Ahead Media is allowing me to make this downloadable draft version of the manuscript freely available to the public until the print edition of the book is published.

Permission is hereby granted to freely transmit, without alteration, the five downloadable PDFs that make up the draft manuscript, until September 1, 2007 (the release date for the print version of the book). After that, I and World Ahead respectfully demand that the draft version no longer be transmitted, transferred, or reproduced. Anyone who wants to obtain this draft version of the manuscript after September 1<sup>st</sup> will be able to order it on CD at *CrescentOfBetrayal.com*.

The final editing process will pare the manuscript down substantially. In body-builder lingo, the present "director's cut" draft is "buffed" but not "ripped." It is comprehensive, including many details that might fascinate the most interested readers, but are more than the general reader needs to know. Even those who want all the details need not shy off of the print version, however, because the plan from the beginning has been to complement the manuscript with extensive online material. The "director's cut" includes a bit more of this supplementary material. The print version will leave more of it online. All readers are encouraged to check out the online material.

Most importantly, if the July meeting announces that the Crescent/Bowl of Embrace design has been approved, please visit *CrescentOfBetrayal.com* to see what is being organized to fight this perversion.



# INTRODUCTION

THE RE-CONQUEST of Flight 93 was America's first post-9/11 moment. The passengers and crew of the hijacked airplane learned from phone calls to loved ones on the ground that hijacked airliners had just destroyed the World Trade Center. They immediately grasped the new reality: that the nation was at war, that their hijackers were on a suicide mission.

There was nothing to do but fight, and try to save the nation from yet another terrible blow. They had to regain control of the airplane, or die trying. "Let's roll," said Todd Beamer to his compatriots, and roll they did, smashing their murderers to nothing on an open expanse of western Pennsylvania coal country.

It's a beautiful spot. Strip mining is often condemned for despoiling the land, but the string of quarries on the way down to the crash site now form a string of ponds, making an almost natural adornment. Below the quarries, a windswept ridge-line overlooks a gently sloping field. "A common field one day," wrote Los Angeles Fire Department Capt. Stephen J. Ruda: "A field of honor forever." The Flight 93 Memorial Project—commissioned by Congress to conduct a design competition—chose Ruda's dedication as its mission statement.

Money was raised to secure a large tract of land around the crash-site. Over a thousand design entries were submitted, and in September 2005, a winning memorial design was announced: the Crescent of Embrace, by Los Angeles architect Paul Murdoch and his associates.

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When the publicity photo of Paul Murdoch's creation landed on door-steps and computer screens across the nation, many could hardly believe their eyes. The winning design appeared to be, not just a gigantic Islamic crescent, but a full naked Islamic crescent-and-star flag:



**Figure 1.** Left hand image is cropped from a Crescent of Embrace publicity flyer, distributed by Paul Murdoch Architects. To the right is an array of Islamic crescent and star flags put together by Tom Bevan at the *Real Clear Politics* website for comparison with the Crescent design.<sup>1</sup>

Paul Murdoch's explanation for the crescent shape is that the crashing airliner, which came down from the upper left in the publicity photo, had "broken the circle."<sup>2</sup> Flight 93's point of impact is just below the copse of trees that sits between the crescent arms (roughly in the position of the star on an Islamic flag). Inside the copse of trees, the focus of the memorial is a two-piece Memorial Wall. The yellow field below the copse of trees is the Sacred Ground area, containing the pulverized remains of airplane, passengers, crew and terrorists.

Explanations aside, there was no avoiding the likeness to an Islamic flag. How could this happen? Who could want to plant the flag that the terrorists claimed as their own on the graves of our murdered heroes? And how could the several Flight 93 family members who participated in the Memorial Project have favored such a design? Many front-line conservative bloggers were conspicuous by their silence. Nobody liked casting aspersions on the families. But a couple of high profile linkers were enough. Charles Johnson, author of the indispensable *Little Green Footballs* blog (short for web-log), just shook his head, "Flight 93 Outrage," providing a forum for his legions of commentators to circulate information.<sup>3</sup> Over the following several days, bloggers would exchange a series of ever more disturbing revelations about Murdoch's design.

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### **The Public Controversy only Scratched the Surface**

The discussion in the newspapers and on television never got past the “Crescent of Embrace” name and the crescent shape. The terms of debate were set when Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CO) noted that “the crescent’s prominent use as a symbol in Islam—and the fact that the hijackers were radical Islamists,” raised the possibility that “the design, if constructed, will in fact make the memorial a tribute to the hijackers.”<sup>4</sup> Tancredo’s criticisms were linked by Matt Drudge, the highest traffic link-editor on the web, generating a flood of online feedback for the Memorial Project.<sup>5</sup>

Project participants were taken aback by the growing storm of criticism. If only the critics could come to the site and see the design as they saw it. Looking down on the crash site from the surrounding ridgeline, how could the natural amphitheater shape of the crash site *not* be incorporated? “I think the topography of the land would really dictate there would be some kind of arc,” said Gordon Felt, whose brother Edward was one of the passengers on Flight 93.<sup>6</sup>

But the weight of Rep. Tancredo’s objection could not be resisted and the Memorial Project had no choice but to retreat. Just one week after the Crescent design had been unveiled, Paul Murdoch was asked to make changes as necessary to accommodate the concerns that had been raised and the story went into remission.

It should not have.

Several days earlier, those who were exchanging information on the Crescent design were rocked by the discovery that a person facing directly into Murdoch’s giant crescent would be facing almost exactly at Mecca, the direction that Muslims face for prayer. Six bloggers, myself included, quickly verified this orientation, posting our methods and calculations online for anyone to replicate.<sup>7</sup>

Hundreds of people tried to warn the Memorial Project, but they shut down their comment lines the moment the Crescent controversy erupted. Neither were they returning phone calls, and they were not the only ones who didn’t want to hear it. I would later learn that reporters at *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* knew about the online demonstrations of Mecca orientation at the time. They had an editorial meeting and the paper decided that the evidence of Mecca-orientation should not be published. (Chapter Seven.)

Thus a story that should have been front-page news across the country disappeared from the news entirely, and the architect of a hi-

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jack attempt, having been stopped by gate security (the American people), was told by the Memorial Project to go back outside and try again. Those charged with memorializing “the flight that fought back” refused to even hear the warnings. They simply refused to consider reason and evidence that contradicted their presumptions, no matter how deep it piled.

### Forty-four Blocks

After verifying the Mecca orientation of the giant crescent, I decided to see what else was contained in the substantial set of Crescent plans available on the Memorial Project website.<sup>8</sup> What I discovered is a long sequence of Islamic and terrorist-memorializing features neatly embedded in the Crescent design, each one pointing to the next.

The main terrorist memorializing feature is a sequence of forty-four dedicatory glass blocks emplaced along the flight path that Flight 93 followed to ground. (Chapter Three.) Forty are inscribed with the names of the murdered passengers and crew. The other four—equaling the number of Flight 93’s terrorist hijackers—are strategically positioned to coincide with the Islamic geometry of the design.

Three are located on the separate upper section of Memorial Wall that is centered on the bisector of the giant crescent, placing it in exactly the position of the star on an Islamic crescent and star flag. These are inscribed with the date: September 11, 2001. Thus the date goes to the star on the Islamic flag. The date goes to the terrorists.

The forty-fourth glass block sits at the upper crescent tip, where the flight path “breaks the circle.” It defines an exact Mecca-orientation of the half-mile wide central crescent, joining the terrorist memorializing block count and the exact Mecca-orientation together in a perfect Crescent of bin Ladenist Embrace.

When I posted my initial analyses online, *Little Green Footballs* provided a high-traffic link, which yielded a crucial further piece of information. A commentator at my *Error Theory* blog clued me in to the significance of a Mecca-oriented crescent. It turns out that a crescent that Muslims face into to face Mecca is called a *mihrab*, and is the central feature around which every mosque is built.

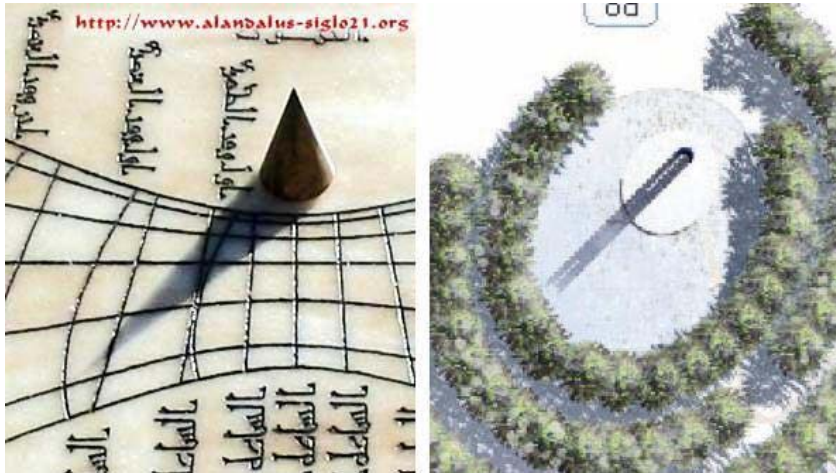
Some research on mosque design revealed that a full-featured “Friday services mosque” contains about a dozen typical mosque elements, every one of which is realized in the Crescent of Embrace, all on the same epic scale as the gigantic half-mile-wide *mihrab*. To take one example, the Crescent design includes a 93 foot tall Tower of

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Voices that readily evokes an Islamic minaret. It is formed in the shape of an extruded crescent and is surrounded by a vast array of crescents of trees. But the Tower of Voices is not just any minaret.

### The Tower Sundial

In Islamic practice, a minaret is a literal tower-of-voices from which times for prayer are called. It turns out that the Tower of Voices also “calls out” Islamic prayer times, not by voice, but by shadow position. Below left is a recreation of an Islamic sundial from Moorish Spain. The shadow of the gnomon is just reaching the outer curved vertical, indicating time for Islamic afternoon prayers. At right is a detail view of Paul Murdoch’s Tower of Voices, oriented with south at the top (to match the Moorish sundial). The similarity is overt.



**Figure 2.** Paul Murdoch’s Tower of Voices (right) turns out to be a year-round-accurate Islamic prayer-time sundial. (Shadow calculations in Chapter Five. Sundial recreation at left by Al-Ándalus Siglo XXI. Photo © Germán Moreno, 2006.)

Shadow calculations confirm that the Tower of Voices is a year-round accurate Islamic sundial (Chapter Five). Paul Murdoch’s realizations of the other ten typical mosque features are equally gigantic. These mosque features actually exhaust the design. There is *nothing* in the entire Crescent of Embrace design that is not readily interpretable as a typical mosque feature, realized on an epic scale. (Chapter Six.)

Add the terrorist memorializing features (all grand mosques are memorial mosques) and the implication is unavoidable: *the Crescent of Embrace is a terrorist-memorial mosque.*

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Should we really be surprised? We hosted an *open competition* in time of war. Of course we should expect that our enemies would enter this, and try to win a memorial to their heroes instead of ours, and of course we have to be ready to stop them. We haven't been.

In November 2005, a slight redesign was announced. The Crescent of Embrace was renamed The Bowl of Embrace, and a few irrelevant trees were added to the design. Every terrorist-memorializing feature and every mosque feature remains completely unchanged, and as of this writing, are still on track to be built.

### Crescent of Betrayal

The crescent design is only the tip of the crescent of betrayal. I spent much of 2006 trying to force the Memorial Project to come to grips with the many Islamic and jihadist features in their chosen design. Instead, Project leaders went to great lengths to avoid, dismiss, and ultimately cover up those features.

"It has to be exact," Project Superintendent Joanne Hanley told me in April 2006, explaining why she was not concerned about the almost exact Mecca orientation of the giant crescent (still present in the redesign). "That's one we talked about. It has to be exact." (Chapter Nine.) And those forty-four memorial glass blocks emplaced along the flight path? "If we worry about the number of glass blocks then we have to count the windows in the Visitor Center too," said Project Manager Jeff Reinbold.

In fact, no one at the Memorial Project has ever even *contested* any of my information. They simply refuse to be worried about the factual presence of Mecca oriented crescents and terrorist numbering block counts. Don't blame the Flight 93 family members, who were told that my information had been debunked, at the same time as Project leaders were privately admitting the not-quite-exact Mecca orientation of the crescent.

Those responsible for investigating my information have no such excuse. At every critical juncture, another person would step up to run interference for Murdoch: a journalist here, an academic there, higher authorities in the the Department of the Interior, a top law enforcement officer, all proceeding on their presumptions about which side they should be on instead of looking at the facts, all of which are trivially easy to verify.

Where Flight 93 is the symbol of our woken vigilance in the war that radical Islam launched against us on 9/11, those entrusted with



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the memorialization of Flight 93 have engaged in the most extraordinary willful blindness. If this anti-spirit of Flight 93 gets its way, Paul Murdoch's anti-memorial will be built, and the loss will not be merely symbolic. The heroes of Flight 93 saved the White House from destruction. The Memorial Project would build the world's largest mosque. These are real battles won and lost.

### Part of a Larger Phenomenon

Important as it is to stop the hijacking of the Flight 93 Memorial, the significance of the memorial debacle goes far beyond this one battle. It reveals in detail the irrationality of thinking that there can ever be advantage in avoiding the truth. Truth avoidance creates divorce from reality, so that a person's presumptions about what is right or in his interest will inevitably be wrong. The truth avoider never sees himself as acting for anything but right, even as he twists all the way around to directly abetting our terror war enemies.

The same thing is happening on terror war issues generally. Chapters Eleven through Thirteen document four years of dishonest attacks on the legitimacy and progress of our terror war efforts. There is a whole war on dot-connecting going on in this country, starting with simple political correctness—not wanting to offend Muslims by noting that our “terrorist” enemies get their ideology of violent conquest from traditional Islam—and extending all the way to repeated exposure of America's most secret counter-terrorism programs by *The New York Times*.

On the other side of the terror war, our *jihadist* enemies are the most ruthless truth suppressors of all, using traditional Islamic blasphemy laws to threaten every internal and external critic with death (chapters 14-16). But truth suppressors are always vulnerable to the truths they are suppressing. Can the followers of a religion that insists over and over again that those who forget the law of Moses will burn in Hell forever really just go around killing off all their critics?

Exposure will stop Murdoch's mosque, and it can stop the anti-war movement from achieving American defeat in Iraq, and it may even purge the Islamic world of its most murderous elements.

The only example we need is the heroic spirit of Flight 93. By facing the harshest truths, the passengers and crew of Flight 93 were able take their tragically reduced opportunities and still spend their lives as dearly as any of us could hope. The real monument to Flight 93 is our

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undamaged capitol and our still living national leadership. That is how important the truth is.

The memorial debacle exposes that lesson from the other side. When truths are not faced, there is no limit to the harm we can do, because we are not accounting it.

Job one is to stop Paul Murdoch's terrorist memorial mosque, but the larger tribute to Flight 93 will be if we can learn from this example to trust in truth, and to carry the truth-confronting spirit of Flight 93 outwards, to our truth-challenged domestic culture and to our truth-challenged world.

### Together in their Name

As this book goes to press, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne has yet to announce whether he will approve the crescent design, but approval seems likely. The last word I received from the Memorial Project's overseers at Interior was a letter dismissing all of the information I sent them.<sup>9</sup> (Visit the [CrescentOfBetrayal.com](http://CrescentOfBetrayal.com) website for updates on Kempthorne's decision and other Flight 93 Memorial news.)



**Figure 3.** Excavating the Flight 93 crash site. (PA Dept. of Env. Prot. 2001)

If Murdoch's mosque *is* approved, then it will take a new act of Congress to stop this desecration. A full half of the country will have to join in seeking justice for our murdered countrymen, and maybe this is the peaceful civil war that we need: a straight-up contest between those who put their faith in honest reason and those who suppress information that does not advance their presumptions, with the winner to be decided by a clear truth, available for all to see. Thank you, Flight 93, for this final gift: a light to expose us all.

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If at the last moment, the crescent design is rejected, new legislation will still be required. The original enabling legislation will have run its course and a new Memorial Project will be needed. Let it be vigilant this time, and produce a tribute to loving vigilance. But whichever decision Kempthorne makes, the lessons to be learned are the same.

No one on Flight 93 had any partisan reservations. They all fought for all of us, and our society needs to do the same. In that spirit, a field of honor in western Pennsylvania awaits. Most of all, a fitting memorial must be true. It cannot have the lying heart of the Crescent design. Only truth can soar.

### Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments must begin with the bloggers and blog readers and blog commentators who jumped on the Crescent of Embrace scandal from the outset, who uncovered key facts, and who have always been there when a push was needed to grab some official by the lapels and shake.

I try to give the blogosphere credit where credit is due throughout, but the paths of information are often too obscure to track down. Who was the *LittleGreenFootballs* commentator who prompted “Etaoin Shrdlu” to investigate the Mecca orientation of the Crescent of Embrace? I haven’t been able to discover. Who is Etaoin Shrdlu? No idea. Anonymous thank-yous will have to suffice.

Thank-yous are also due to those stalwarts in western Pennsylvania who took my online *exposés* and translated them into action on the ground. Bill Steiner and his Western Pennsylvania Compatriots added a crucial element to the alarm, gaining news coverage and helping to pry open access to the dysfunctional Memorial Project.

Thanks, finally, to all of my friends at World Ahead Publishing; to Ami Naramor who helped me to weed the acres of details; and especially to World Ahead founder and president Eric Jackson, who, despite a busy publication schedule, took it upon himself to serve as the primary editor of my manuscript. How profoundly refreshing, after so many attempts to work past the information barriers set up by the Memorial Project, to finally hear those precious words: “Let’s roll.”

### Why Me?

How is it that I have gotten involved in this effort to expose Paul Murdoch’s re-hijacking of Flight 93? Purely by happenstance. Thanks to a little curiosity on my part, I just happened to be the one who dis-

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covered in detail what Murdoch is up to. I can no more ignore that discovery than the passengers and crew of Flight 93 could help rushing the cockpit. There is a hijacker who needs to be tackled. The only choice is to tackle him.

The difference is, I don't have to be a hero (thank God). Not only is this a fun book to write, it is also up my alley. When I discovered the contents of Murdoch's mosque, I was already writing an anti-terrorism book: *How to Crush Terrorism and Create a Modern Republic*. (Look for it in about a year.) That is a fun book too, and is even relevant here.

There must to be a better way to protect liberty than by tying the hands of the police, and there is: just protect liberty directly, by articulating the full ideal of liberty and placing it in the Constitution, so that nothing that shouldn't be criminalized can be criminalized. With all illiberal laws kept off the books, we could untie the hands of law enforcement completely without running any risk of anyone ever being prosecuted for anything that no one should be prosecuted for. Both crime-control and the protection of individual liberty would be vastly enhanced.

In the meantime, we are vulnerable. This is a dangerous time to let ourselves be blinded by the purveyors of partisan dishonesty, which perhaps makes this the right time to take a close look at what a whole host of information gate-keepers don't want you to know.

### **Extra Background (*Director's Cut* bloat)**

The print manuscript for *Crescent of Betrayal* is undergoing final editing as I write, but I have a rough idea of what will be pared down, and in this full version of the manuscript am marking some sections as "*Director's Cut* bloat." To help readers decide whether they want to bother with my *Director's Cut* bloat, a little extra background (i.e. bloat about bloat).

My interrupted book, *How to Crush Terrorism and Create a Modern Republic*, was originally planned to be the first volume of a four volume series on what I call "moral science." By combining the economic theory of means with the theory of ends from moral philosophy, it is possible to construct a complete analysis of value, from ends to means. This moral science is able to completely resolve a host of fundamental conflicts that lie at the heart of republican government (the system of liberty under law).

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One of these conflicts is the above mentioned conflict between liberty and crime control. If we can just articulate the full ideal of protected liberty (the moral philosophy half of the equation) then the economics half of the problem is easy. Just protect liberty directly by placing this full ideal of liberty in the Constitution, then we don't have to protect it indirectly by tying the hands of the police. The conflict between liberty and crime control *is eliminated*. 100% gone.<sup>10</sup> (The conflict between *privacy* and crime control is not 100% gone, but that can be pretty much eliminated too.)

We think of the conflict between liberty and crime control as fundamental, but it is not. It is purely an artifact of our inefficient institutions. The same turns out to be true for the other great republican conflicts. The conflict between liberty and equality? *Eliminated*, once we sort out how to properly account distributional concerns.

There is no significant conflict between liberty and claims of desert, which means we only have to resolve the conflict between liberty and claims of need.<sup>11</sup> Liberty directly creates property, so the question is how to answer claims of need without transferring ownership. Get this far and the answer is obvious. Don't give aid away. Loan it. Bill all public assistance to the account of the recipient. Does it really make sense to have people on welfare thinking that the rest of society owes them instead of that they owe the rest of society?

### **Ideal Theory vs. Error Theory (continued bloat)**

These conflict resolutions come from thinking straight about fact and value, what might be called "ideal theory." Ideal theory is the natural first volume for a series on moral science because this is where the logic is, the structure, the solutions. Get the structure in place, and the sub-parts can then be addressed coherently. But there is a whole second half of moral science that, in terms of natural history, really comes before ideal theory. Before people can think *straight* about fact and value, they have to get past the typical ways that people *fail* to think straight about fact and value.

Error theory looks at the typical ways that people fail to think straight morally, and at the havoc these failures produce. It *was* going to be volume three of my four volume *Moral Science* series. Now, thanks to the memorial debacle, it is *Volume One*.

I have been writing about error theory for a long time. My blog is titled *Error Theory*. When I found this chance to write a book about a most astounding example of archetypically irrational cognition, with

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numerous people managing to convince themselves that it is in their interest to evade immediately threatening truths, of course I had to tie it to the larger phenomenon of partisan dishonesty that now imagines advantage in American defeat. Error theory is the story of our age.

My editors at World Ahead Media will not be paring down this scope of the book. The title *Crescent of Betrayal* refers, not just to the crescent mosque, but to the whole arc of truth suppression, from the dishonest attacks on every part of our war on terror, to the truth suppressing nature of our *jihadi* enemies.

Half of my “*Director’s Cut* bloot” comes from my more in-depth looks at the mindset of partisan dishonesty: where it comes from, the details of its operation, its various manifestations. I treat this as a topic in itself, but if the book is to keep up its story-telling momentum, digressions on the mindset of partisan dishonesty need to be minimized. In the print edition, the cognitive dysfunction at work in the memorial debacle will be articulated just enough to tie it together with the larger crescent of betrayal.

More generally, the full manuscript goes off on the occasional relevant but not critical aside. So take your pick. Read my “*Director’s Cut* bloot,” or pass it by. It’s all interesting stuff. If you want even more, you can find another hundred plus pages at *CrescentOfBetrayal.com*. Or if instead of reading my theoretical discursions, you’d rather jump right up and help stop a hijacking, check the *Crescent Of Betrayal* website for news about Murdoch’s mosque and what is being done to stop it.

All this for free (until the print edition comes out). Why? Because freedom *isn’t* free. According to my favorite movie, it costs a buck-o-five, and this is mine. If you happen to have a buck or two of your own rattling around, the website lists a couple of immediate needs.

PART ONE

MURDERER'S  
MOSQUE





## CHAPTER ONE

---

# A CRESCENT POINTING AT MECCA

WHEN public controversy first erupted over the seeming Islamic symbolism of the Crescent of Embrace design, defenders of the Crescent memorial took the plausible enough position that a crescent is a basic architectural shape. Surely we aren't such a nation of bigots that we would reject the use of a generic crescent shape for the Flight 93 memorial just because there happens to be such a thing as an Islamic crescent.

"If I look up in the sky and see the crescent moon, I see the beauty of the moon," said Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl: "Islam does not own the crescent moon."<sup>1</sup> Others were more prosaic: "Sometimes a grove of maples," wrote blogger Sissy Willis, "is just a grove of maples."<sup>2</sup>

Of course it would be nonsensical to oppose the use of crescent shapes in general simply because Muslims invoke the crescent as a symbol. But a crescent on the crash site? It would also be nonsensical to generally oppose the use of cross shapes just because Christians embrace the cross as a symbol, but no one would suggest placing a giant cross on the crash site.

More importantly, the Crescent of Embrace isn't just any crescent, but it appears to have the peculiar geometry of an *Islamic* crescent. Confronted with this question, architect Paul Murdoch claimed that he had not used an Islamic-type crescent. "Sure, there is an Islamic crescent," he said, "but it has a very different form. Theirs is a lunar crescent. Ours isn't based on that."<sup>3</sup>

In fact, Murdoch crescent has the same distinct geometry as an Islamic crescent, which is quite different from a lunar crescent. The in-

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ner arc of an Islamic crescent is a perfect circle, while the inner arc of a lunar crescent is an ellipse (the result of viewing the circle that divides the lit and dark halves of the moon from an oblique angle).<sup>4</sup> Here is a comparison:



**Figure 4.** As seen from earth, the crescent moon, left, has an elliptical inner arc (Ilmari Karonen 2006, *ShareAlike 2.5*).<sup>5</sup> A typical Islamic crescent, right (from the Tunisian flag), has a circular inner arc.

The Islamic crescent also differs from a lunar crescent in that it typically covers about two-thirds of a circle of arc, while the crescent moon always covers half a circle of arc. Thus Sandy Dahl is right to not see an Islamic crescent when she looks at the crescent moon. The Crescent of Embrace, however, is a different matter.

Those who were following the story in the blogs knew that Murdoch's crescent was a geometric match to an Islamic crescent thanks to rapid dissemination of Zombie's "throbbing crescent" animation. Here is a paper recreation, gradually superimposing the Tunisian crescent on the Crescent of Embrace site-plan:



**Figure 5.** Graphic takes Zombie's crop of the crescent from a Tunisian flag (bright red) and rotates it to match the orientation of the Crescent of Embrace site-plan.<sup>6</sup>

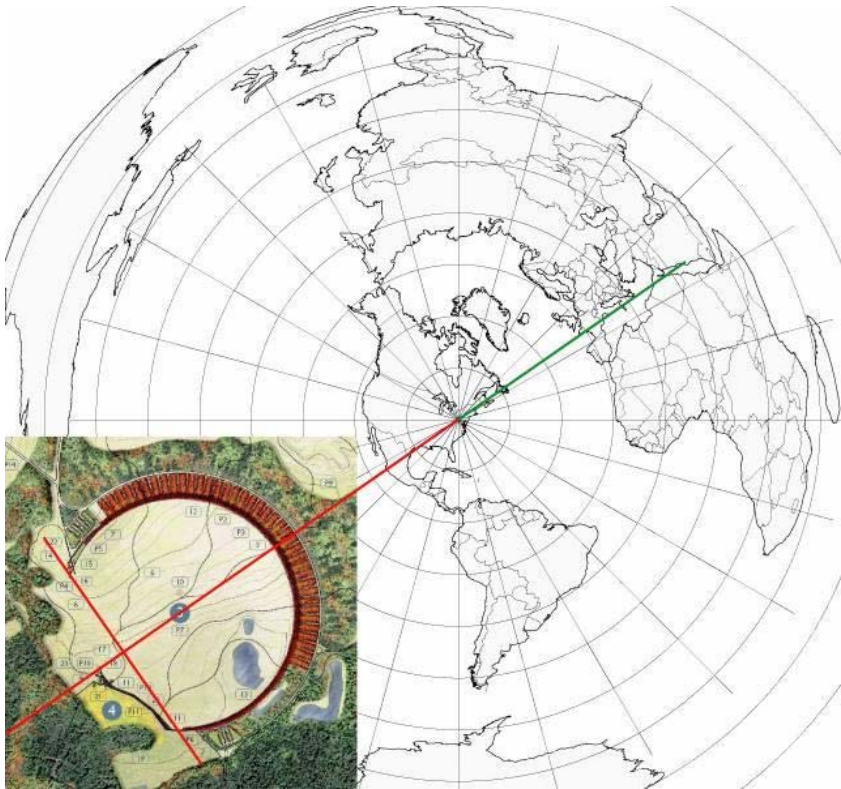
Not only does Paul Murdoch's Crescent of Embrace have the same circular inner curve as an Islamic crescent, but it covers almost exactly

## A CRESCENT POINTING AT MECCA

the same amount of arc as a typical Islamic crescent, and is even red, like many Islamic crescents.

### It Points to Mecca

Almost immediately on the heels of Zombie's throbbing crescent came the further revelation that Murdoch's huge Islamic crescent is actually oriented on Mecca. This information was propelled across the blogosphere by yet another eye-popping graphic. One Etaoin Shrdlu (a pseudonym traditionally used by news-media professionals) had seen a comment at *Little Green Footballs* that claimed Mecca orientation. To check it out, he managed to find a map-making resource that can project a map of the world as seen from any particular point in space. Here is the view from directly above the Pennsylvania crash site:



**Figure 6.** Etaoin Shrdlu's graphical demonstration of Mecca-orientation.<sup>7</sup>

Other's verified Etaoin's finding. The niftiest graphical demonstration of Mecca orientation was put together by Sarah Wells at the *blue-merle* blog.<sup>8</sup> Sarah found a Muslim website (Islam.com) that hosts a

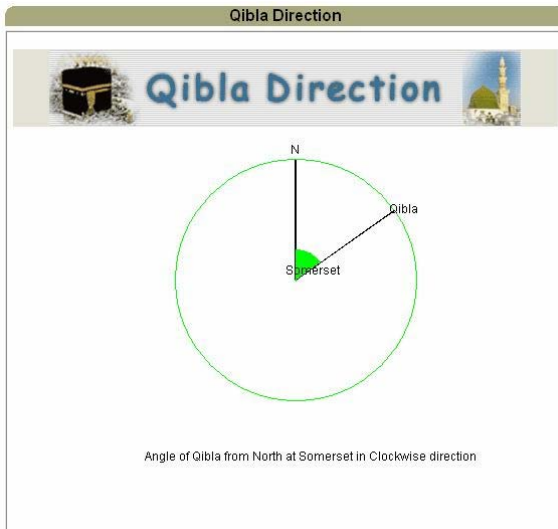
## CRESCENT OF BETRAYAL

Mecca direction calculator.<sup>9</sup> Visitors pick their state and city and the website produces a graphic of their *qibla* direction: the direction they should face for prayer. By superimposing this Mecca direction indicator on the Crescent of Embrace site-plan, Sarah was able to demonstrate not just the Mecca orientation of the crescent, but prove in the same fell swoop that this is indeed the direction that Muslims face for prayer.

Because Sarah's graphic is so easy to understand, I distributed my own version of it far and wide to reporters and officials. Take a look at what all these people refused to comprehend.

### Sarah's Graphic

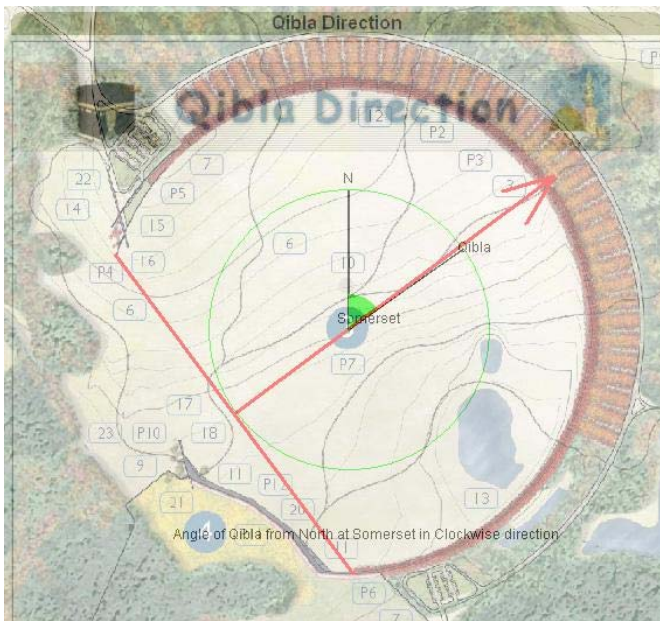
Here is the qibla direction from Somerset Pennsylvania (about ten miles west of the Shanksville crash site), as generated by Islam.com:



**Figure 7.** The direction to Mecca from Somerset PA: 55° clockwise from north.

Sarah just superimposed this qibla graphic on the site plan. In the graphic that I distributed, I added some orientation lines to the site-plan graphic first. To depict the exact direction faced by a person who faces directly into the Crescent of Embrace, simply connect the most obtruding tips of Crescent structure, then add a perpendicular bisector:

The red arrow in this graphic shows the orientation of the Crescent of Embrace. The upper crescent tip is the end of a gigantic, thousand-foot long, forty-foot tall Entry Portal Wall. The bottom crescent tip is the last red maple tree at the bottom. Overlaying this graphic with the qibla direction graphic shows that a person facing directly into the giant crescent will be facing almost exactly at Mecca:



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## CRESCENT OF BETRAYAL

### Do the Math

To analyze the Crescent graphics mathematically, Jonathan Haas at the *Politicalities* blog posted a simple trig formula for translating rise and run in pixels into degrees from north.<sup>10</sup> Applying this formula to the crescent bisector in Figures 8 and 9, the crescent turns out to point  $53.40^\circ$  from north,  $\pm .1^\circ$ . (The accuracy margin comes from fact that there are a couple of different pixels that could plausibly be taken as marking the furthest extents of the Crescent structure at the top and the bottom.) Thus a person facing directly into the Crescent is facing about  $1.8^\circ$  north of the exact Mecca direction.

#### **Want to do your own verifications?**

Readers can verify any of the graphical orientations described in this book by using the same pixel counting methods I did. Instructions in footnote here (with the crescent bisector used as an example).<sup>11</sup> Raw materials (the Crescent site-plans and other electronic images) are available at the [CrescentOfBetrayal.com](http://CrescentOfBetrayal.com) website.

One might wonder how the shortest-distance direction to Mecca from Pennsylvania can point to the northeast when Mecca is south of us. The answer is that Mecca and the United States are both in the Northern Hemisphere, with Mecca being about two-thirds of the way to the other side of the hemisphere. Thus the shortest distance route takes a shortcut towards the North Pole. (If Mecca were directly on the other side of the Northern Hemisphere, the shortest distance route would go directly over the pole.)

With multiple mathematical and graphical demonstrations of Mecca-orientation available, everybody who was following the story of the Flight 93 memorial on-line had strong reason to suspect that architect Paul Murdoch was trying to pull off some kind of Islamic and perhaps terrorist-memorializing intent. News reporters do follow stories on-line, so it is astounding that no mainstream media outlet deigned to inform the American people about the Mecca-oriented crescent, but that failure only made some of us more determined than ever to uncover exactly what Murdoch was up to. If the press was not going to report the most important information, then it was up to those of us who did have the information to make sure it got investigated.



## A CRESCENT POINTING AT MECCA

### The Central Feature of a Mosque

The Mecca orientation of the Crescent of Embrace was the last revelation about the Crescent design to be widely known across the blogosphere at the time of the original controversy. My own discoveries, however, were just beginning. In a blog comment, Yoel Natan tipped me off to the fact that every mosque is built around a Mecca-direction indicator, called a *mihrab*, which often has a crescent shape. Here is a photograph of the *mihrab* of the Great Mosque in Cordoba Spain. Face into the crescent to face Mecca:



**Figure 10.** The Cordoba mihrab has a similar crescent shape to the Crescent of Embrace. The most common mihrab shapes are pointed arch and crescent topped. Their primary function is to indicate the direction to Mecca. (Photo © Angus McIntyre, 1992.)

A *mihrab* indicates the direction to Mecca both through the orientation of its façade, and by the projection of its depth dimension. It is the focus of a mosque the way a cross is the focus of a Christian church. Mosque sermons are delivered from a pulpit, called a *mimbar*, placed either in front of the *mihrab* or to the side of the *mihrab*. Many *mihrabs* have a pointed arch shape, but the prototypical *mihrab* (as found in the Prophet's Mosque in Medina) is crescent-shaped, like the Cordoba *mihrab*.

## CRESCENT OF BETRAYAL

*Mihrabs* are usually three-dimensional. Sometimes the depth is fairly shallow (hence the common description of a *mihrab* as a “prayer niche”). Sometimes the depth dimension is pronounced, as in the Cordoba *mihrab*, but not all *mihrabs* are three dimensional.

The most common two dimensional *mihrab* is the Muslim prayer rug, called a *musalla* (translated “small mosque”). The prayer rug is a mosque reduced to its barest essentials. It is a personal *mihrab*, giving the direction to Mecca only in the horizontal dimensions of width and depth. Geometrically, the Crescent of Embrace is equivalent to a gigantic Muslim prayer rug.

In itself, this arrangement could possibly be coincidental. Architect Paul Murdoch says it comes from the bowl shape of the landscape being broken by the flight path.<sup>12</sup> If it was a coincidence, it would still be inappropriate for the the central feature of the Flight 93 memorial to be a geometric match for the central feature of a mosque. But Paul Murdoch also provides proof that the Mecca-orientation of his giant crescent is not a coincidence.

### Not a Coincidence

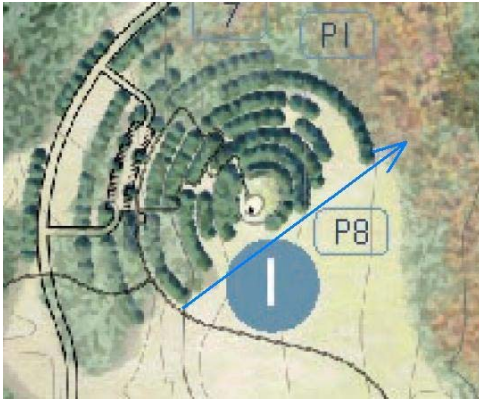
The giant central crescent is not the only crescent in Paul Murdoch’s memorial design. His Tower of Voices is a ninety-three-foot tall tower, formed in the shape of an extruded crescent, and surrounded by a vast array of crescents of trees. These Tower crescents repeat the Mecca-orientation of the central crescent (with a slight twist), proving that neither orientation is an accident.

The orientation of the central crescent was determined by drawing a line across the two most obtruding tips of the Crescent structure, then adding a perpendicular bisector. When a line is drawn across the most obtruding tips of the Tower crescents, this line itself turns out to have the exact same slightly-north-of-Mecca orientation as the central crescent. That is, the Tower-crescents are turned exactly 90° to the giant central crescent.

The following graphic shows the Tower of Voices section of the Crescent site plan, with a line drawn across the most obtruding tips of the Tower-crescents. The ninety-three-foot-tall tower is the black dot at the center of the array of crescents:

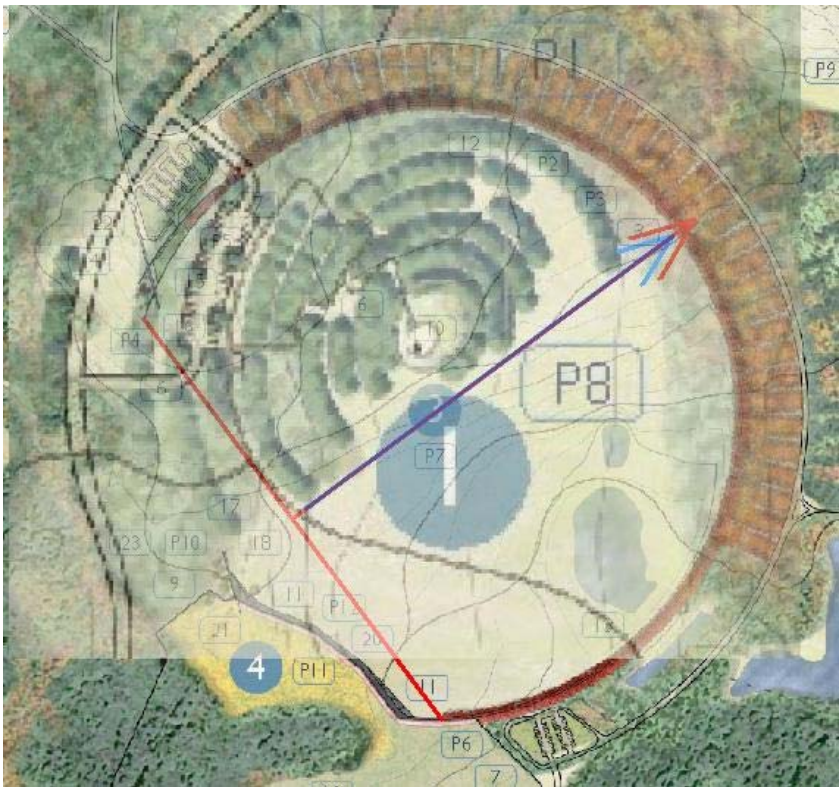


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**Figure 11.** A line drawn across the most obtruding tips of the Tower crescents points  $53.4^\circ$  clockwise from north, give or take a tenth of a degree, matching the orientation of the central crescent exactly. <sup>13</sup>

Without rotating either graphic, this blue arrow can be laid exactly on top of the red arrow that indicates the orientation of the central crescent:



**Figure 12.** Red and blue make purple. The orientations are identical, within the pixel resolution of the graphics. Both point  $1.8^\circ$  north of Mecca, give or take a few hundredths of a degree.

## CRESCENT OF BETRAYAL

As will be seen, Murdoch's design includes numerous such confirmations. It is jam-packed to the gills with Islamic and *jihadi* design elements, all of which point to each other and repeat each other, over and over and over and over again, generally to within a tenth of a degree (i.e. exactly, within the pixel resolution of the graphics).

Even after 9/11—a conspiracy of diabolical proportions—many people are loathe to even look at evidence of conspiracy for fear of being thought a conspiracy nut, but there is no murky sourcing of information here. Every factual claim made in this book is easy to verify. To be convinced of the Islamic and *jihadi* features of Murdoch's design, no one needs to trust anyone but themselves.

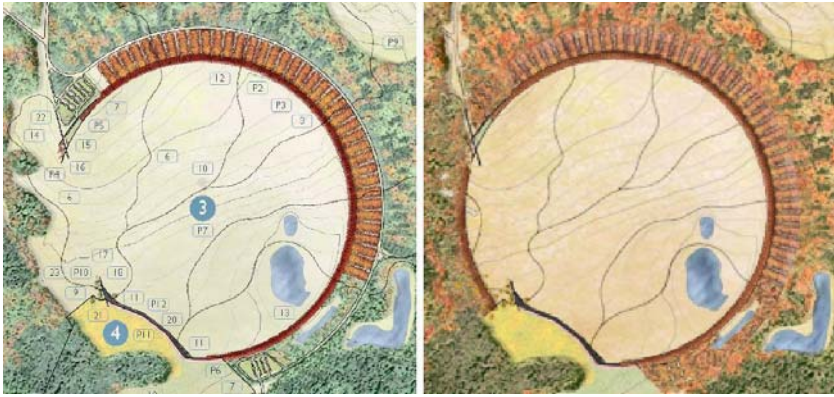
### The Phony Redesign

When the Mecca orientation of Murdoch's crescent was discovered, hundreds of blog readers, possibly thousands, sent urgent communications to the Memorial Project, warning that they were being hijacked. If the warnings were by email, they got bounced. If by telephone, calls were not returned. (I tried both.) The office of Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, who had oversight responsibility for the Project, directed callers to send their feedback to the Memorial Project.<sup>14</sup> Too bad they didn't tell the Project to accept it. Every door was slammed.

Thus the Memorial Project set itself up to be duped by Murdoch on the second go-round. Since no one at the Project had ever investigated any of the facts people sent in about Islamic and *jihadi* design elements, it was guaranteed that no one at the Project would be able to tell whether those elements were still present in any redesign.

At the end of November 2005, a Bowl of Embrace redesign was announced as the finalized design. Sure enough, the Bowl of Embrace (today called simply The Flight 93 Memorial) leaves *every* Islamic and *jihadi* element of the original Crescent of Embrace completely intact. Virtually the only change is the addition of a few trees to west side of the circle that the crescent partly inscribes:

## A CRESCENT POINTING AT MECCA



**Figure 13.** Screenshots of Paul Murdoch's half-mile-wide central crescent, both from the original Crescent of Embrace site-plans (left) and from the Bowl of Embrace redesign (right).<sup>15</sup>

Ignoring the re-coloring, the only real change is the additional arc of trees on the left of the redesign. This change leaves Murdoch's giant Mecca-oriented *mihrab* completely intact. This can be seen by looking closely at the structures that defined the original crescent.

As can be seen in the image on the left, the most obtruding upper tip of the original Crescent of Embrace was not defined by trees. Rather, it was created by the end of the thousand-foot-long, forty-foot-tall, Entry Portal Wall. Since the upper crescent-tip was defined by the wall, not by trees, adding a few trees out beyond the end of the concrete wall does nothing to alter the presence or definition of the original upper crescent-tip. The bottom crescent tip is also unchanged in the redesign. The last red maple tree on the bottom of the Bowl of Embrace remains exactly where it was in the original Crescent of Embrace design. With its defining features unchanged, the giant *mihrab* is unchanged.

To understand the irrelevance of the additional trees to Murdoch's mosque design, just note that, like a Christian cross, Muslim prayer rugs and *mihrabs* are self-contained religious constructs. A prayer rug should be placed in an area that is clean and fit for prayer, but other than that, its meaning is unaffected by its surroundings. All architect Paul Murdoch did was plant some additional trees behind his giant *mihrab*/prayer-rug, which is no different than a Muslim placing his prayer rug in front of some trees. The trees make no difference to the presence or meaning of the *mihrab*.

To see how overtly the upper tip of the original Crescent of Embrace remains in place, look at this graphic from the redesign:

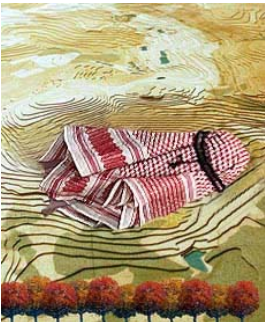
## CRESCENT OF BETRAYAL



**Figure 14.** The upper tip of the original Crescent of Embrace was the end of the towering Entry Portal wall. The end of the entry portal wall remains completely unchanged in the Bowl of Embrace redesign (shown). (Portion of illustration by Aleksander Novak-Zemplinski, 2005.)

The only significant change in the redesign is the addition of the trees on the left of this image. These trees are not even in the field of vision of a person facing into the crescent (towards the right side of the image). Thus they do not even affect a person's perception of the giant Mecca-oriented crescent/*mihrab*, never mind the *mihrab*'s presence or integrity.

What was startling about the original design was the nakedness of its crescent-and-star configuration. The Bowl of Embrace redesign makes the Islamic crescent a bit less naked, but that is all it does. Murdoch just added a few irrelevant trees, planted to the rear of a person facing into his central crescent. After being foiled in his first attempt to hijack the Flight 93 memorial, Murdoch in effect just added a fake beard (the irrelevant trees), wrote "not a bomb" on his bomb, and the Memorial Project waved him aboard.



**Figure 15.** Just because something isn't funny doesn't mean you can't joke about it. Here is Allah Pundit's publicity shot of the redesigned memorial: "A spokesman for the new design said that the panel wanted to avoid all controversy or symbols of Islamism in the new design, and so chose a happy, uplifting central feature: the folded table cloth from a family-style Italian bistro." (Reported by Ace of Spades.)<sup>16</sup>

## CHAPTER TWO

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# A BEAUTIFUL DISGUISE

AS THE BLACK cloak that had hidden the winner was removed, a collective gasp came from those gathered,” wrote Paula Reed Ward, reporter for *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, about the September unveiling of the Crescent of Embrace design.<sup>1</sup> But the gasp that came from those who saw the actual unveiling was not the same as the gasp of those across the nation who saw Paul Murdoch’s crescent-and-star publicity photo. Rather, the gathered “then rose to their feet to applaud,” and for good reason. What they were gasping at was beauty, as seen from ground level.



**Figure 16.** The walkway around the Crescent of Embrace.

Paula Reed Ward recorded the sentiments of the Flight 93 family members who had helped to pick the Crescent design.



## CRESCENT OF BETRAYAL

"It's powerful but understated," said Kiki Homer, whose brother, LeRoy W. Homer Jr., was copilot on the plane that crashed after passengers rebelled against terrorist hijackers. "It's beautifully simple...My breath is taken away."

Esther Heymann, whose daughter, Elizabeth Wainio, died in the crash, agreed.

"The understatement speaks to the profoundness of what occurred here," she said.

"It's simple and yet it's complex," said Dorothy Garcia, whose husband, Andy, died in the crash. "The void that's there speaks so loudly to the heroism of these 40 souls."

Appreciate what they are saying. A half-mile-wide crescent, ringed by a mile long colonnade of trees, serving as the spine for thirty-eight radial arbors understated. A towering, tapering, thousand-foot long, forty-foot tall curved wall, understated:



**Figure 17.** Entry Portal Walkway traces the path that Flight 93 followed to ground. It cuts through the last hundred yards of the huge Entry Portal Wall "breaking the circle."

A soaring tower, shaped in the form of an extruded crescent, surrounded by a vast array of crescents of trees, understated:



**Figure 18.** "The Gateway." Entrance to the memorial through the crescents of trees that surround the Tower of Voices.

## A BEAUTIFUL DISGUISE

All overlooking the hallowed ground from which the remains of our heroes can never be recovered, understated:



Figure 19. Sacred Ground Plaza.

Vastness upon vastness, structure upon structure, all somehow understated. It must have seemed like a miracle to the Flight 93 family members and the other jurors who had stepped up to the task of selecting a winning design for the Flight 93 memorial. Murdoch's flow of invention was beyond beautiful, beyond moving, beyond sublime. Extraordinary complexity became almost invisible through unity and elegance, expanded to immense scale, grown to towering heights and mind-stretching distances, expressing the confidence of an entire civilization.

Who could question such a gift? And this unparalleled monument would be dedicated to the valor of the loved ones that these jurors will never stop grieving for. If there could be such a thing as solace, if there could ever be a *place* of solace, surely this was it. They had no idea that Murdoch did not begin from scratch, that he had over a thousand years of elegantly simple structure and complexity to draw upon.

For the design competition to be on a level playing field, Murdoch should have been competing with architects who were drawing on the thousand-plus years of soaring simplicity and complexity in the design of Christian cathedrals. Barred by the Constitution from creating a cathedral, Murdoch's competitors were instead all pulling their designs out of their ears. By building a mosque, Murdoch cheated. He had an unfair advantage. He broke the rules.

Which at least leaves one final option, if all else fails. It is unconstitutional to build a national memorial in the form of a mosque. If the

## CRESCENT OF BETRAYAL

Park Service tries to go ahead with Murdoch's design, it is hard to imagine that they won't be sued.

### Sympathy for the Families

The perspective of the Flight 93 family members carried over to many of the local reporters, who not only witnessed the sentiments of the family members, but also witnessed the design from the inside, the same way the family members did. How could sympathy for the family members help but become sympathy for the Crescent design when reporters were seeing each dynamic vista and each intimate detail through the eyes of one grieving parent or spouse after another? So much did *Post-Gazette* architecture critic Patricia Lowry see the design in terms of the embracing character of its central crescent and the beacon character of its Tower of Voices that she could even describe the crescent design as "a safe choice, one with which families, design professionals and community representatives could feel comfortable because of its timeless quality and accent on healing and spirituality."<sup>2</sup>

When critics couldn't help but see the blatant Islamic crescent-and-star flag, *Post-Gazette* columnist Dennis Roddy hit back from the jurors' perspective, proclaiming that the heroism of Flight 93 had placed the memorial "beyond politics."<sup>3</sup> "Murdoch knows a great deal about architecture," Roddy opined, "but little about the dynamics of political rhetoric." But Roddy was the one injecting politics into the debate, characterizing opposition to the memorial as "right wing." The *Post-Gazette* was taking the politically correct, multiculturalist, "left-wing" position that anyone who objected to placing a symbol of Islam on the crash site was an anti-Muslim bigot.

This charge was also taken up by juror Tom Sokolowski, director of Pittsburgh's Andy Warhol Museum. (Family members made up just under half of the jury. The others were mostly design professionals like Sokolowski.) He called local evangelist Ron McRae "asinine" for seeing the Crescent of Embrace as a memorial to the terrorists. "If the families of the 40 people who were killed felt this was an appropriate symbol to honor their loved ones, then I think he is delusional," he said. "To take this small-minded, bigoted view is disgusting and repellent."<sup>4</sup>

Choosing the crescent had been *Sokolowski's* decision, but when it came under criticism, he hid behind the skirts of the families. This would be a repeated theme when anyone tried to point out the Islamic meaning of Murdoch's constructions: "How dare you accuse the fam-



## A BEAUTIFUL DISGUISE

ily members of intending to honor the terrorists?" The Memorial Project was supposed to protect the families. Instead it used them for protection.

### **The International Freedom Center** (*Director's Cut* bloated)

The disjoint between what the Flight 93 families were seeing and what the critics were seeing could not have been greater. To the mostly conservative critics, it just seemed to be one more instance of how incomprehensible the other side of our political divide has become. Does a person have to be *conservative* to think it is inappropriate to plant an Islamic flag on the crash site? Yet this was not the first such travesty to emerge. Throughout the summer of 2005, patriots had been fighting to stop another debacle at yet another 9/11 memorial.

In the spring of 2005, it came out that a cadre of New York leftists had gained control over the World Trade Center memorial and were planning to build a why-they-hate-us museum at Ground Zero.<sup>5</sup> This was not a surprising development for one of America's most left-leaning cities, but was utterly galling nevertheless. Immediately after 9/11, America's academic and media elites were replete with soul-searching about what we had done to deserve this attack. All of the left's anger at America was trotted out and put into the mouths of Muslim fanatics whose motivations have no overlap with the left's. Like the pseudo-Christian Fred Phelps calling hurricane Katrina God's judgment of New Orleans homosexuals, the American left saw the 9/11 attacks as a response to their own complaints, and the planned International Freedom Center was to house just a small part of the contrition that they think America owes to the world.

After months of organized efforts to stop the International Freedom Center, New York Governor George Pataki finally gave the IFC the boot in late September. In early September, however, when the Crescent memorial for Flight 93 was unveiled, the Freedom Center controversy was still at full rage.<sup>6</sup> Now there was to be a giant Islamic crescent on the Flight 93 crash site? It was hard to believe.

The multiple airplane hijackings on 9/11 had been a sneak attack, but these multiple hijackings of our 9/11 memorials were being perpetrated by *Americans*. It would be like, in the midst of a hard-fought war, reading leak after leak of national security secrets in *The New York Times*. The selection of the Crescent memorial seemed to fit a pattern of contempt for America, and that naked crescent-and-star publicity photo made it all look willful.

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There *was* a willfulness behind the jury's selection of the crescent, but not the anti-American willfulness of the IFC or the *Treason Times*. It seems that the jurors maintained a conscious determination not to entertain any ill thoughts about Islam, and in so doing, limited what they would let themselves see.

### Goodwill towards Islam

Public statements by some of the jurors reveal that the jury had been worried about Islamic symbolism. According to *The Johnstown Tribune Democrat* :

...even the second-stage jury that selected the design recommended changing its name to steer clear of religious overtones. Rather than crescent, the jury suggested using circle or arc of embrace instead.<sup>7</sup>

It isn't clear why the jury's rejection of the Crescent name was not heeded, but the shape is more fundamental than the name, and to be aware of the Islamic association of the name is to be aware of the Islamic association of the shape. At least one juror thought that the crescent shape itself was a bad idea, according to *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*:

Tom Burnett Sr., whose son died in the crash, said he made an impassioned speech to his fellow jurors about what he felt the crescent represented.

"I explained this goes back centuries as an old-time Islamic symbol," Burnett said. "I told them we'd be a laughing-stock if we did this."

But his fellow jurors—and it turns out, many of the other family members—disagree with his interpretation. "I got blown off."<sup>8</sup>

Most accepting of the possible Islamic symbolism has been Alice Hogle, mother of murdered passenger Mark Bingham. She is explicit in welcoming the fact that the Crescent can be interpreted as a symbol of Islam, seeing it as a gesture of openness to the good people of the Islamic world. In a letter to Colorado Representative Tom Tancredo, she wrote:

The Flight 93 Memorial selection committee has admitted to misgivings about the term "crescent." I almost wish that instead,

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they could claim that they deliberately chose the crescent design as a gesture of peace and unity with the Islamic world. If they were to make that claim, I would not object. I would welcome such a compassionate gesture.

When he and his stand-up band of brothers stood and fought aboard that doomed aircraft, my son Mark was not fighting Muslims in general. He and his seatmates were battling the disciples of a corrupt version of a peaceful religion. The crescent moon does not represent al Qaida and other terrorist groups. The crescent represents the religion of Islam. Islam is not al Qaida.<sup>9</sup>

Whether this view was influential enough within the Memorial Project to explain the retention of the Crescent name is unknown, but given the jury's keen awareness of Islam's use of the crescent symbol, it seems clear that something like Hoglan's desire to make a gesture of goodwill toward Islam must have been widely shared.

Constitutional prohibitions on the inclusion of religious symbolism in government structures are over-enforced these days, but this semi-conscious attempt to reach out to Islam would have been a good place to remember them. That said, the idea of a healing embrace with the Islamic world is not in itself a bad thing (even if it seems premature). Just don't stop there. *Presumptions* of goodwill are not enough.

If we want to separate the good from the bad in the Islamic world, we obviously have to be willing to look at the facts of particular cases so that we *can* separate the good from the bad. Just offering good will to *all* Muslims, without distinguishing between the good and the bad, is no help at all. Indeed, it is worse than no help, as the Memorial debacle illustrates. In its determination not to associate anything negative with Islam, or with the crescent symbol of Islam, the Memorial Project shut its eyes to the true nature of Paul Murdoch's terrorist-memorial mosque, advancing what would be a great victory for the very worst in the Islamic world.

### **Religion of Peace** (*Director's Cut* extra)

Our entire nation has struggled with this same desire to assume the best of the Islamic world. In the wake of 9/11, President Bush insisted many times that Islam is a religion of peace:

All Americans must recognize that the face of terror is not the true faith — face of Islam. Islam is a faith that brings comfort to a

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billion people around the world. It's a faith that has made brothers and sisters of every race. It's a faith based upon love, not hate.

*President George W. Bush at Roundtable with Arab and Muslim-American Leaders, Afghanistan Embassy, Washington, D.C., September 10, 2002*<sup>10</sup>

The many highly placed Islamic clerics who justify al Qaeda would obviously disagree. Iran's Shi'ite mullahcracy probably thinks it knows Islam better than George Bush does. Similarly for the Sunni clerisy of Saudi Arabia, who created the Wahhabism that bin Laden follows, and who have been spending tens of billions of dollars of Saudi oil money to spread bin Ladenism around the globe.<sup>11</sup>

It is no accident that fifteen of nineteen hijackers on 9/11 were Saudi. Here is a sample of what they were taught by their state required textbooks: "It is permitted to stay [in a non-Muslim country] provided...the stay includes hidden hostility toward and hatred of the infidels."<sup>12</sup> Everyone ought to be worried that an estimated 80 percent of all U.S. mosques are Saudi-funded Wahhabi mosques.<sup>13</sup>

Bush also might meet disagreement about the nature of Islam from the 25 percent to 75 percent in most Muslim countries who say they trust Bin Laden.<sup>14</sup> None of which means that President Bush is the one who is wrong about the true nature of Islam, and he is certainly right to insist that there is good in the Islamic world, so long as we are also frank about the bad.

It took President Bush four years, but in September 2005 he finally came around to naming the bad that has staked its claim to Islam. In a speech to the National Endowment for Democracy, Bush for the first time referred to our enemies, not just by the means they employ (terrorism), but by the ideology that drives them:

...their attacks serve a clear and focused ideology, a set of beliefs and goals that are evil, but not insane. Some call this evil Islamic radicalism; others, militant *Jihadism*; still others, Islamofascism. Whatever it's called, this ideology is very different from the religion of Islam. This form of radicalism exploits Islam to serve a violent, political vision: the establishment, by terrorism and subversion and insurgency, of a totalitarian empire that denies all political and religious freedom. These extremists distort the idea of *jihad* into a call for terrorist murder against Christians and Jews and Hindus—and also against Muslims from other traditions, who they regard as heretics.<sup>15</sup>

## A BEAUTIFUL DISGUISE

Now we are getting somewhere. Good wishes alone don't achieve anything. What matters is to distinguish the good from the bad in Islam, so that we can support the good against the bad.

**Islamofascism** (or *Director's Cut* bloat as I have called it)

Reza Aslan, who advocates for peaceful interpretations of Islam, thinks that the term "Islamofascism" tars all of Islam as fascist.<sup>16</sup> He prefers to call violently imperialistic Muslims "*jihadists*." The *jihadist* term is reasonable, and I use it myself sometimes, but logically speaking, it is the *jihadist* label, not the Islamofascist label, that sweeps too broadly.

*Jihad* is a fundamental Muslim obligation, according to the Koran.<sup>17</sup> Thus any peaceful interpretation of Islam must find a way to interpret *jihad* as either non-violent or as limited to defense against violent attack. Muslims who embrace these peaceful interpretations of *jihad* will technically still be *jihadists*, making *jihadism* too broad a label for the bad in Islam. Taken by itself, it fails to distinguish between violently imperialistic Muslims and peaceful Muslims, relying on contextual understanding of how the term is intended.

Not so with "Islamic fascists," which specifically singles out those Muslims who are fascistic. Neither is the inevitable linkage with the fascist movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century inappropriate. The fascist regimes of World War II Germany, Italy and Japan all harked back, as Victor Davis Hanson put it, "to a lost, pristine past, in which the devout were once uncorrupted by modernism," and so does violently imperialistic Islam.<sup>18</sup> Fascist movements (including Islamofascism) are not just a naked power-plays, like communist totalitarianism. Rather, they spring from a moral perfectionism that cannot abide outsiders.

Don't forget either that the Arab-Muslim world was an integral part of the axis alliance of WWII. The Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husseini, worked to ally the Muslim world with NAZI Germany from the beginning of Hitler's rise to power and was embraced by Hitler as a full partner during the war.<sup>19</sup> Post-war, the Baathist parties of Saddam Hussein's Iraq and today's Syria were modeled on the NAZI party. Currently, an Arabic translation of "Mein Kampf" into "My Jihad" has achieved best-seller status throughout the Middle East.<sup>20</sup>

Of course the Islamofascists themselves also charge that the "Islamofascist" term brands all of Islam as fascist, but they mean it literally. As far as the Islamofascists are concerned, a peaceful Muslim is not a real Muslim. Any Muslim who does not accept the command

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to spread Islam by the sword is an apostate who should be put to death. As they see it, branding all violently imperialistic Muslims as fascist brands all *real* Muslims as fascist.

This should be an easy position to reject. The Islamofascists are *not* the one true voice of Islam. Since they do not accept the Ten Commandments, they have no tenable claim to be true Muslims at all. Nevertheless, they do make their claims. They are fascists who claim Islam as their own. They are *Islamofascists*, and they need to be distinguished from decent Muslims by *calling* them Islamofascists.

Worst of all would be to simply call the Islamofascists “Muslim,” as they call themselves. Lumping the bad together with the good helps the bad and hurts the good. Alice Hoglan is right when she says that her son Mark was “not fighting Muslims in general,” but he *was* fighting Muslims. He distinguished the bad in Islam, and so must the rest of us. It is not enough to say: “The crescent moon does not represent al Qaida and other terrorist groups.” Paul Murdoch’s crescent *does* represent al Qaeda. Goodwill towards Islam must not be carelessly extended to those who commit murder in its name.

### Enjoy your Croissant (*Director’s Cut*)

It is possible to read untoward meaning into innocent designs, and there actually has been a spate of this activity, but it has not come from the West. In September 2005, controversy arose over a British Burger King ice cream cone lid that, turned sideways, bore a likeness to the Arabic script for *Allah*. A British Muslim named Rashad Akhtar saw the lid as mocking *Allah* and threatened to wage *jihad*. “There is no way it could be a coincidence,” Akhtar raged: “I’m going to bring this country down.”<sup>21</sup>



**Figure 20.** Turned on its side, the BK Cone graphic (left) actually does constitute a legible Arabic *Allah* (right).

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Upon inspection, the cone lid turned sideways actually can be read as the Arabic script for *Allah*, if rules for connecting letters are interpreted liberally (as they sometimes are).<sup>22</sup> In the illustration above, the *alif* on the right would usually not be connected, but excepting that technicality, the sideways swirly-cone actually does say “*Al-lah*.” If this odd coincidence is offensive to Muslims, there is nothing wrong with changing it, as Burger King did.

What is interesting in this story (and several others like it) is the hostile reaction, looking for an excuse to take offense.<sup>23</sup> Imagine if Burger King had instead put a cross on its BK Cones. It might have lost some of the atheist market, but it would have become an instant favorite amongst Christians.

Rashad Akhtar is acting as a classic politically correct multiculturalist, looking for trumped-up excuses to claim offense and demand redress. Of course not all Muslims are of this stripe. Muslims are called upon to proselytize just as Christians are. By presenting his religion as hostile, Akhtar is violating this Islamic prescription. So it is with all Islamofascist behavior. Some of it is traditional Islam, but none of it stands up to scrutiny.

Unlike Rashad Akhtar, the Flight 93 jurors were trying to take the higher road, trying *not* to see ill intent, but there are places where people of good will must draw the line, even on coincidental likenesses to religious symbols. If Paul Murdoch planned to plant the Arabic script for *Allah* in groves of trees on the Flight 93 crash site, everyone would understand that this was inappropriate, whether intended or not.

The situation is the same with Murdoch placing the central feature of a mosque on the crash site, except that here there is also confirmation of intentionality. Rejecting this use of the Islamic crescent does not imply any hostile attitude towards Islam, or call for any aversion to croissants, Comcast, circles or crescents in general.

Interestingly, croissants actually *were* inspired by the Islamic crescent. The year was 1683. Kara Mustafa’s vast Muslim army was encamped outside of the gates of Vienna. Jason Goodwin tells the rest:

It was then, according to legend, that the city bakers saved Vienna: for early one morning, standing beside their bread ovens, they heard the tell-tale noise of Turkish tunnelers, and alerted the defense in the nick of time; which feat they commemorated by baking little crescent buns, or croissants.<sup>24</sup>

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Croissants in. Terrorist-memorializing crescents out.

### **The Significance of a Terrorist-Memorial Mosque in Shanksville (bloat)**

No one should doubt the fundamental importance of symbolism in our war with radical Islam. To understand the symbolic importance of mosques, and what the building of a mosque on the Flight 93 crash site would mean, just look to India, where contested mosque sites provide a constant excuse for terrorist attack.

In the imperialistic and theocratic Islam embraced by the terrorists, it is a first duty of all Muslims to fight to bring additional lands under Islamic theocracy, wherever this objective can be advanced. Even more fundamentally, the theocrats teach that Muslims must fight to keep any conquered territory from ever reverting to infidel control.

How central are these motivations? Bin Laden's video statement on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2001, explaining his attack on America, listed three primary *casus belli*: the loss of Muslim control over Andalusia (Moorish Spain); the loss of Muslim control over Israel; and the influence of infidels in Saudi Arabia. Here is the beginning and the end of bin Laden's statement:

Let the whole world know that we shall never accept that the tragedy of Andalusia will be repeated in Palestine. We cannot accept that Palestine will become Jewish. ...

As to America, I say to it and its people a few words: I swear to God that America will not live in peace before peace reigns in Palestine, and before all the army of infidels depart the land of Mohammad, peace be upon him.<sup>25</sup>

Fighting over claimed territories is radical Islam's first priority, and their claims are always forever. They are still seeking revenge for the fall of Moorish Spain! If a terrorist memorial mosque is built on the Flight 93 crash site, the stain will be very difficult to remove. So long as there is even a trace of bin Laden's murderous brand of imperialistic, totalitarian and theocratic Islam, the ground on which Murdoch's mosque once sat will be staked with the Islamofascist claim. Can a more thorough desecration of the graves of our murdered heroes even be imagined?

### **The Master Manipulator**

Paul Murdoch has proved to be a master manipulator. The determined goodwill of the Flight 93 families is a vulnerability that he has ex-



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plotted with consummate skill. When the Memorial Project agreed to ask for a redesign—a time of great risk for Murdoch’s plan—he was able at the same time to lay out his insistence that nothing important be changed, and get the Flight 93 families to man the battlements for him.

In an interview with *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Murdoch laid out the limits of his willingness to compromise. He had three requirements:

...that the tribute is seen as coming from the land—using the topography of the site; that the flight path cutting through the bowl-shaped piece of land is still represented; and that there is still an embracing gesture of the crash site.

“Those are the qualities the families and I feel are important,” Murdoch told the *Post-Gazette*: “There’s a certain degree of flexibility in how that is achieved.”<sup>26</sup>

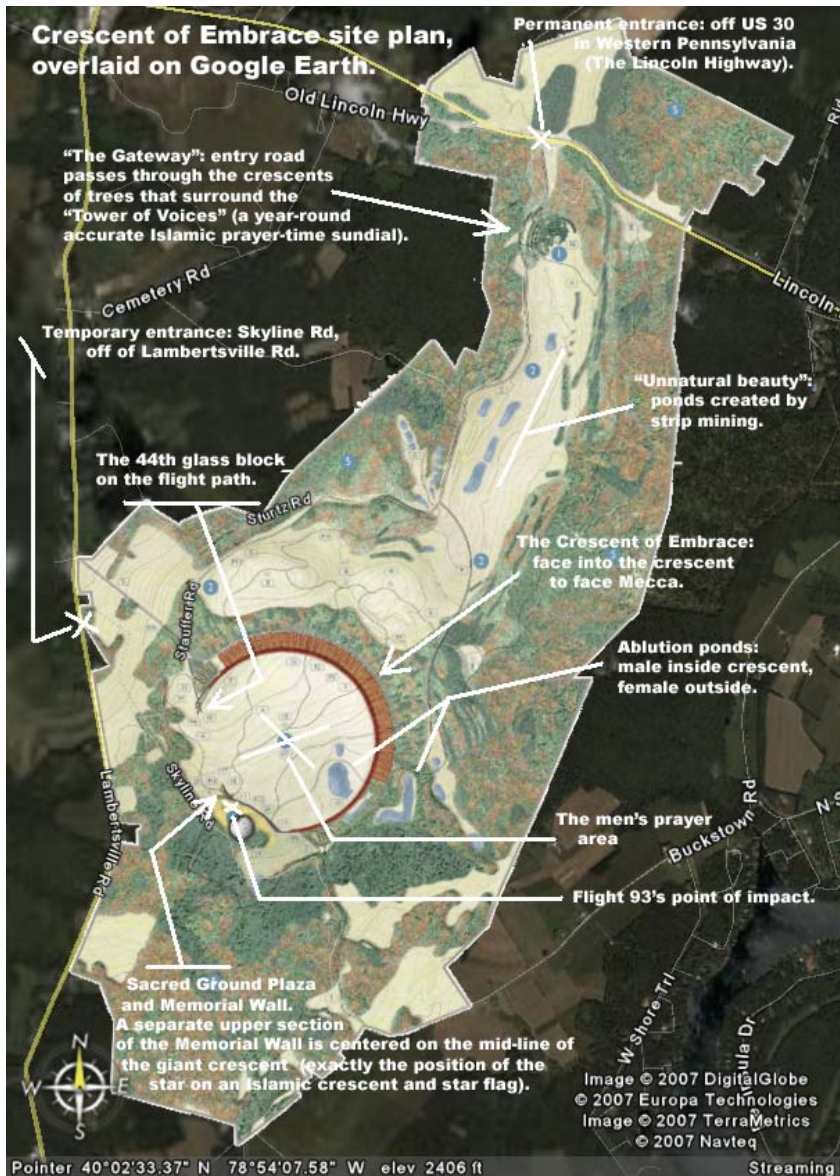
Notice that Murdoch’s three requirements are just the conditions for maintaining the Islamic and *jihadist* core of his design. He would still use a round shape, to fit the “bowl-shaped” topography; this round shape would still be broken by the flight path; and it would still be broken in such a way as to create an embracing gesture, still pointing towards the crash-site, *i.e.* it would still be a crescent, still with the crash site situated as the star to the crescent. The continued central role of the flight path had to be non-negotiable because it meant that the circle would still be “broken” in the same place as in the original Crescent design, allowing the giant crescent to remain oriented on Mecca.

The Flight 93 families not only backed these non-negotiable conditions, they explicitly brought the fighting spirit of Flight 93 to the task, only reluctantly supporting Murdoch’s willingness to compromise at all.<sup>27</sup>

With the families standing behind Paul Murdoch’s clearly stated plan to retain all the critical features of his design, I knew that the real battle would begin when the redesign was announced. In the meantime, I continued to uncover Murdoch’s terrorist-memorial mosque.

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Crescent of Embrace site plan, with some main features marked:



**Figure 21.** The Crescent of Embrace site-plan (extracted from the Crescent PDF's) overlaid onto Google Earth's map of the local roads (using Google's "image overlay" feature). Hound Dog used this procedure, together with Google Earth's line-projecting tools, to verify the Mecca orientation of the giant crescent (see the end of Chap. 6). The same graphic but with additional explanatory information (suitable for posting as a stand-alone flyer) is available for copying and printing at [CrescentOfBetrayal.com](http://CrescentOfBetrayal.com).<sup>28</sup>

# NOTES



## Introduction Notes

<sup>1</sup> Publicity image published with the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* newspaper article: “Flight 93 marker design picked” (Paul Reed Ward, September 8, 2005). Flag array from, “Is the ‘Crescent of Embrace’ an outrage?” Tom Bevan, *Real Clear Politics*, September 8, 2005,

<[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/Commentary/blog\\_9\\_8\\_05\\_1045.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/Commentary/blog_9_8_05_1045.html)>.

<sup>2</sup> Reported by Kirk Swauger (“Flight 93 design provokes uproar,” Kirk Swauger, *Johnstown Tribune-Democrat*, September 14, 2005. Swauger implies that the “broken circle” description came from Murdoch but does not assert it directly. A press release by Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CO) attributes the description to Murdoch directly (“Tancredo raises questions about Penn. 9/11 memorial,” Press release, office of Representative Tancredo, 9/12/2005,

<<http://tancredo.house.gov/press/pressers/0912TancredoRaisesQuestionsAboutPenn911Memorial.htm>>.

<sup>3</sup> “Flight 93 Outrage,” Charles Johnson, Little Green Footballs, September 8, 2005,

<[http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=17441\\_Flight\\_93\\_Outrage&only](http://littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog/?entry=17441_Flight_93_Outrage&only)>.

<sup>4</sup> Tancredo press release, *op cit*.

<sup>5</sup> “Congressman questions shape of 9/11 memorial,” *Drudge Report*, September 13, 2005,

<[http://www.drudgereportarchives.com/data/2005/09/13/20050913\\_191600.htm](http://www.drudgereportarchives.com/data/2005/09/13/20050913_191600.htm)>.

The Tancredo link (middle-bottom, in red) is to “Tancredo questions shape of 9/11 memorial,” Jennifer Talhelm, Associated Press, September 13, <2005,

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2005/09/13/D8CJI83G2.html>>.

<sup>6</sup> “Architect offers to alter Flight 93 memorial to appease critics,” Kimberly Hefling, Associated Press, September 14, 2005.

<sup>7</sup> The bloggers were the anonymous “Etaoin Shrdlu,” whose graphical demonstration of Mecca orientation was posted at the *Zombietime* website. (“[Flight 93 Memorial Project](#),” *Zombie, Zombietime*, September 8, 2005,

<[http://www.zombietime.com/flight\\_93\\_memorial\\_project/](http://www.zombietime.com/flight_93_memorial_project/)>.) Another graphical demonstration was provided by Sarah Wells at the *blumerle* blog. (“Biting on Tinfoil,” *blumerle*, September 10, 2005, <[http://blumerle.blogspot.com/2005/09/biting-on-tin-foil\\_10.html](http://blumerle.blogspot.com/2005/09/biting-on-tin-foil_10.html)>).

Jonathan Haas at *Politicalities* was the first to use pixel counting tools to analyze the orientation of the crescent and compare it to the great-circle direction to Mecca. (“It points towards Mecca,” *Politicalities*, September 11, 2005,

<[http://politicalities.typepad.com/politicalities/2005/09/it\\_points\\_toward.html](http://politicalities.typepad.com/politicalities/2005/09/it_points_toward.html)>.

His results were verified by Richard Fernandez at the *Belmont club* blog. (“The Flight 93 memorial,” September 12, 2005, <<http://fallbackbelmont.blogspot.com/2005/09/flight-93-memorial.html>>), and by Cao at *Cao’s Blog* (“The real ‘crescent of embrace’,”

September 18, 2005, <<http://caosblog.com/2161>>). I also verified Haas’ calculations, adding a slight correction to how Haas was defining the tips of the giant crescent, and hence its orientation. (“Forty-four dead people, forty-four translucent blocks on the flight path,” Alec Rawls, *Error Theory*, September 24, 2005,

<<http://errortheory.blogspot.com/2005/09/44-dead-people-44-translucent-blocks.html>>.)

<sup>8</sup> The site-plan PDF’s (Portable Document Format documents) for the Crescent of Embrace are still available but they now stored behind password protection. For access, contact the National Park Service curator at (814) 443-4557. (Online information

at: <[http://www.flight93memorialproject.org/design\\_competition.asp](http://www.flight93memorialproject.org/design_competition.asp)>.) A variety of source graphics will also be available at <[CrescentOfBetrayal.com](http://CrescentOfBetrayal.com)>.

<sup>9</sup> See addendum 10, exhibit 5, available at the [CrescentOfBetrayal.com](http://CrescentOfBetrayal.com) website.

<sup>10</sup> A partial exposition of my scheme for protecting liberty directly is laid out in two extended essays, both available on my [rawls.org](http://rawls.org) website. See “Direct protection of liberty” (<http://www.rawls.org/DirectProtectionFrame.htm>), and “Having juries issue multiple verdicts under multiple standards of guilt” ([http://www.rawls.org/Multiple\\_verdicts\\_frame.htm](http://www.rawls.org/Multiple_verdicts_frame.htm)).

<sup>11</sup> To say that there is no significant conflict between liberty and claims of desert is not to say that the economic system of liberty (competitive capitalism) perfectly rewards desert. It rewards people only roughly for the value of their productivity as measured at the margin. This goes a long way towards rewarding desert, but certainly not all the way. The reason that the shortfall is not “significant” is that the way to answer such differences is not to interfere with market prices, but is to answer claims of need. Where meritorious efforts fail, don’t try to figure out how to reward the merit of the effort. Just have some minimum level of assistance available to those who do fail, for whatever reason.

Similarly with market imperfections that keep some productive successes from being rewarded (like imperfect markets for future value). We should try to set up market institutions to work as well as possible, and even try to substitute for missing markets, but to try to compensate unrewarded merit will usually increase, not decrease market imperfection. More generally, letting government into the business of judging the merits of people’s efforts would put us on the road to losing our liberty entirely. The importance of liberty is to empower moral agency, or individual moral judgment, so that people can discover where value lies and how to pursue it. If government interferes with that, then it is destroying progress in the discovery and pursuit of value, not enhancing it.

<sup>1</sup> Sandy Dahl was interviewed on the Dan Caplis and Craig Silverman show, KHOW 620 Denver, 9/15/2005. Sissy Willis posted a partial transcript (“Islam does not own the crescent moon,” *SISU*, September 15, 2005, <[http://sisu.typepad.com/sisu/2005/09/tiny\\_gets\\_into\\_.html](http://sisu.typepad.com/sisu/2005/09/tiny_gets_into_.html)>.

<sup>2</sup> “Sometimes a grove of maples is just a grove of maples,” Sissy Willis, *SISU*, September 11, 2005, <[http://sisu.typepad.com/sisu/2005/09/sometimes\\_a\\_gro.html](http://sisu.typepad.com/sisu/2005/09/sometimes_a_gro.html)>.

<sup>3</sup> As reported by the *Johnstown Tribune-Democrat*, “Flight 93 memorial challenged,” by Kirk Swauger, September 9, 2005..

<sup>4</sup> On the circular shape of the inside of an Islamic crescent, see *Wikipedia*’s instructions for how to construct a Turkish flag, <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag\\_of\\_Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Turkey)>..

<sup>5</sup> Karonen’s source photo, and information on ShareAlike2.5, can be found at the following Wikipedia link: <[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Earthshine\\_Karonen.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Earthshine_Karonen.jpg)>.

<sup>6</sup> Zombie, “Flight 93 Memorial Project in Pennsylvania,” *op. cit.* The image here is similar to Zombie’s animation, except that Zombie rotated the site-plan to match the horizontal orientation of the crescent on the Tunisian flag instead of rotating the crescent to match the site-plan.

## NOTES

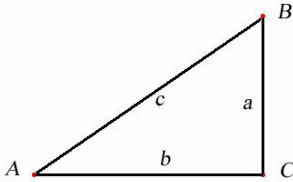
<sup>7</sup> [Etaoin's graphic was](#) linked by Zombie ("Flight 93 Memorial Project," *op. cit.*) [The highest traffic site to re-post it was Ace of Spades.](#) ("Another 'Inadvertant' Feature of Flight 93 Memorial: Crescent Points Towards Mecca," *Ace of Spades*, September 11, 2005, <<http://ace.mu.nu/archives/117149.php#117149>>.)

<sup>8</sup> Sarah Wells, "Biting on tinfoil," *op cit.*

<sup>9</sup> Sarah Wells, "Biting on tinfoil," *op cit.*

<sup>10</sup> Haas, "It points towards Mecca," *op cit.*

<sup>11</sup> The trig formula for calculating degrees from north is easy to derive. The tangent function describes the relationship between rise and run and the angles of a triangle:



For any right triangle, the tangent function of an acute angle A is defined as the ratio of the side opposite A to the side adjacent to A. That is:  $\text{tangent}(A) = (a/b)$ .

The arctangent function is the inverse of the tangent function. Applying the arctangent function to both sides of the above equality preserves the equality:  $\text{arctangent}(\text{tangent}(A)) = \text{arctangent}(a/b)$ .

Applying a function and its inverse to a quantity A just returns A, so the above equation becomes:  $A = \text{arctangent}(a/b)$ , which is just what we need.

The crescent tip line in figure 24 (similar to figures 8 and 9) goes down 448 pixels and over 332 pixels. That means the crescent bisector has a rise of 332 px and a run of 448 px. Plugging these measurements into the triangle above we get:  $A = \text{arctangent}(a/b) = \text{arctangent}(332/448) = 36.54^\circ$ .

A is positioned to give slope in degrees counter-clockwise from east. Global orientations are usually specified in terms of degrees clockwise from north. Degrees down from north and up from east sum to 90, so subtract 36.54 from 90 to get that the Crescent of Embrace is oriented  $53.46^\circ$  clockwise from north.

Given the difficulty of picking just the right pixels to identify the most obtruding points of the Crescent of Embrace, the practical accuracy within which the orientation of the crescent can be measured is probably about  $\pm$  a tenth of a degree. When I needed to remake figure 24 to do the recreation of Sarah's graphic, the end points I picked yielded a bisector that points just under  $53.4^\circ$  clockwise from north, so I round the bisector orientation off to  $53.4^\circ$  from north, about  $1.8^\circ$  north of the exact Mecca direction of  $55.19^\circ$  from north.

<sup>12</sup> See Introduction, footnote 2.

<sup>13</sup> Rise and run for a line across the most obtruding tips of the tower crescents are 179px and 241px. Degrees from north =  $\text{arctangent}(241/179) = 53.40$ . This is 6/100ths of a degree steeper than the Crescent/Bowl's inexact Mecca orientation of  $53.46$ , which is identical, within the accuracy enabled by the resolution of the graphics.

<sup>14</sup> Reported by Michelle Malkin via one of her readers. ("Flight 93 Memorial: fight back," Michelle Malkin, September 14, 2005, <<http://michellemalkin.com/archives/003533.htm>>.) Her reader claims to have been directed to an out of service National Park Service phone number. Throughout the next year, every time I tried to contact higher ups at interior, I was passed back down to someone at the Memorial Project, so I presume this is what happened in September as well.

## NOTES

<sup>15</sup> The site plan for the redesign is available on the Memorial Project website at: <[http://www.nasites.com/cmprojects/projects/Flight93\\_bulibmgr/docs/Site%20Plan.tif](http://www.nasites.com/cmprojects/projects/Flight93_bulibmgr/docs/Site%20Plan.tif)>.

<sup>16</sup> “The blogosphere gets results: new Flight 93 memorial announced,” *Ace of Spades*, September 9, 2005, <<http://ace.mu.nu/archives/117018.php>>.

### Chapter Two Notes

<sup>1</sup> “Flight 93 marker picked,” Paula Reed Ward, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 8, 2005..

<sup>2</sup> “Winning Flight 93 memorial comforts,” Patricia Lowry, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 8, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> “Throwing ‘em a curve,” by Dennis Roddy, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 18, 2005.

<sup>4</sup> “Flight 93 memorial decried as Islam symbol,” Paula Reed Ward, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 10, 2005.

<sup>5</sup> The warning of the hijacked WTC memorial went national when Debra Burlingame, sister of Chic Burlingame (pilot of the hijacked flight 77 before it was flown into the Pentagon on 9/11) published an expose in the *Wall Street Journal*. See “Memory failure: the great ground zero heist,” June 8, 2005. The struggle to take back the WTC memorial is chronicled at the Take Back the Memorial website, <<http://takebackthememorial.org/>>.

<sup>6</sup> Pataki nixed the International Freedom Center September 28, 2005. See “Pataki nixes WTC Freedom Center,” NY1News, September 28, 2005, <<http://www.ny1.com/ny1/content/index.jsp?std=1&aid=53875>>.

<sup>7</sup> “Concerns over memorial grow,” Kirk Swauger, *Johnstown Tribune-Democrat*, September 10, 2005.

<sup>8</sup> “Designer of Flight 93 memorial receptive to changes,” Paula Reed-Ward, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, September 16, 2005.

<sup>9</sup> “Re: Flight 93 memorial design, ‘Crescent of Embrace’,” Alice Hoglan, letter to Representative Tancredo, September 14, 2005, <<http://www.markbingham.org/home.html>>.

<sup>10</sup> “Backgrounder: the President’s quotes on Islam,” The White House, <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/ramadan/islam.html>>.. This list of Bush quotes on Islam contains many examples similar to the one quoted here.

<sup>11</sup> *The Washington Post* reports estimates in this range from a couple of sources: “David D. Aufhauser, a former Treasury Department general counsel, told a Senate committee in June that estimates went ‘north of \$75 billion.’ Edward L. Morse, an oil analyst at Hess Energy Trading Co. in New York, said King Fahd tapped a special oil account that set aside revenue from as much as 200,000 barrels a day -- \$1.8 billion a year at 1980s oil prices.” (“U.S. eyes money trails of Saudi backed charities,” David B. Ottaway, *The Washington Post*, August 19, 2004.)

<sup>12</sup> “Saudi Study Offers Critical Analysis of the Kingdom’s Religious Curricula,” Alumna Dankowitz, MEMRI, Inquiry and Analysis Series #195, November 9, 2004, <<http://www.memri.org/bin/articles.cgi?Area=ia&ID=IA19504>>. MEMRI translates and analyzes Arabic documents. The source Dankowitz cites for the quoted translation is “Al-Tawhid curriculum, first year high school, p. 93.” Dankowitz’ analysis shows the quoted teaching to be not at all atypical. The teaching of violent hatred for the West, and for dissenting Muslims, as pervasive. Neither has this changed significantly post 9/11, despite claims to the contrary. See “This is a Saudi textbook. (After the intolerance was removed.)” by Nina Shea, *The Washington Post*, May 21, 2006.)



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<sup>13</sup> “Expert: Saudis have radicalized 80% of US mosques,” Haviv Rettig, *The Jerusalem Post*, December 5, 2005. The expert who talked to the Jerusalem Post is Yehudit Barsky, terrorism expert at the American Jewish Committee: “Over 80 percent of the mosques in the United States ‘have been radicalized by Saudi money and influence,’ Barsky said.”

Stephen Schwartz offers the same estimate in his article “Radical Islam in America,” *IMPRIMIS*, the monthly journal of Hillsdale College, May 200, <<http://www.hillsdale.edu/imprimis/2004/may/mayprintable.htm>>.

In 2005, Freedom house compiled an extensive report on Saudi influence over U.S. mosques: “Saudi Publications on hate ideology fill American mosques,” by Nina Shea, Paul Marshall and Elyse Bauer, 2005,

<<http://freedomhouse.org/religion/publications/Saudi%20Report/FINAL%20FINAL.pdf>>.

<sup>14</sup> Pew Research Center has been doing continuing research into Muslim attitudes post 9/11. Their 2003 report found about half of all Muslims worldwide trusting in Bin Laden “to do the right thing.” (“Views of a changing world,” Pew Research Center, June 3, 2003, <<http://people-press.org/reports/print.php3?PageID=712>>.) Subsequent polls have found substantial movement away from Bin Laden in many countries:

In Morocco, just 26% of the public now say they have a lot or some confidence in bin Laden, down sharply from 49% in May 2003. In Indonesia, the public is now about evenly split, with 35% saying they place at least some confidence in bin Laden and 37% saying they have little or none; that represents a major shift since 2003, when 58% expressed confidence in bin Laden. (“Islamic Extremism: Common Concern for Muslim and Western Publics,” Pew Research Center, July 14, 2005, “<http://pewglobal.org/reports/display.php?ReportID=248>”).

The exceptions are Pakistan and Jordan, where confidence in Bin Laden has actually increased slightly between 2003 and 2005.

<sup>15</sup> “President Discusses War on Terror at National Endowment for Democracy,” press release, the White House, October 6, 2005,

<<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/10/20051006-3.html>>.

<sup>16</sup> It was in a speech at Stanford University that I heard Reza Aslan favor the “jihadist” term over the “Islamofascist” term on the grounds that the “Islamofascist” term brands all of Islam as fascist. (“Welcome to the Islamic Reformation!” Speech by Reza Aslan, sponsored by the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, Stanford University, Kresge Auditorium, October 24, 2006, <<http://events.stanford.edu/events/93/9364/>>.

<sup>17</sup> See for instance, verses 33.18-22, where Muhammad berates those of his followers who do not go off to war, offering himself as the example they should follow.

<sup>18</sup> “Islamic fascism 101,” Victor Davis Hanson, *National Review Online*, October 25, 2006,

<<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=OGEyNjcyNzBjYTQ2MDM0ZGIzZjY5YjhhMzViYjdjNTA>>.

<sup>19</sup> “Hitler’s Mufti, not Hitler’s Pope,” Rabbi David G. Dalin, *FrontPage Magazine*, August 9, 2005,

<<http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=19064>>.

<sup>20</sup> “Hitler’s ‘Mein Kampf’ sells 50,000 copies in Turkey in three months,” Agence France Presse, *The Daily Star*, March 18, 2005,

<[http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=10&categ\\_id=4&Article\\_id=13511](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=10&categ_id=4&Article_id=13511)>. Victor Davis Hansen discusses the “My Jihad” translation in: “The waiting game,” *National Review Online*, September 1, 2006,

<<http://article.nationalreview.com/?q=MTkxNzhIZDBmZTI0ZTc1ZDlmNjRkYTZiNzM1NTI4NjY>>.

## NOTES

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<sup>21</sup> “I’m hatin’ it,” Davina Patel, *Harper’s Magazine*, March 2006, <<http://www.harpers.org/ImHatinIt.html>>.

<sup>22</sup> The script accuracy issue was examined by the anonymous blogger Dum Pendepat Filius. (“Cone controversy,” September 19, 2005, <<http://dumpendebat.net/2005/09/19/cone-controversy/>>.)

<sup>23</sup> Other proclaimed sightings of Islamic scripts have also brought threats of jihad and murder. For a partial round-up, see: “Finding Allah in unlikely places,” Daniel Pipes, *Daniel Pipes Weblog*, September 16, 2005, <<http://www.danielpipes.org/blog/513>>.

<sup>24</sup> Jason Goodwin, *Lords of the Horizons*, Henry Holt, New York, 1998, p. 230.

<sup>25</sup> Mid-east Web has bin Laden’s statement posted at: <http://www.mideastweb.org/osamabinladen3.htm>. Bin Laden also mentioned “80 years, of humiliation and disgrace.” This could either be a reference to the beginning of the British mandate over Palestine, or to the breakup of the Ottoman Empire and the creation of Saudi Arabia and Iraq at the end of WW I. Either interpretation would be another form of the grievance of loss of Muslim control, with Palestine eventually going to Jewish control and the modern Arab states being, by implication, western puppets. For a discussion, see Chris Suellentrop’s article in the online magazine *Slate*, “What’s Osama talking about?” October 8, 2001, <<http://www.slate.com/id/1008411>>.

<sup>26</sup> “Designer of Flight 93 memorial receptive to changes,” Paula Reed Ward, *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, 9/16/2005.

<sup>27</sup> “Remarks of Families of Flight 93,” op-ed by The Families of Flight 93, September 14, 2005, <[https://www.communicationsmgr.com/projects/Flight93\\_bulibmgr/docs/FL93%20Person%20Respond%20to%20Memorial%20Questions\\_OPED\\_9\\_14\\_05b.pdf](https://www.communicationsmgr.com/projects/Flight93_bulibmgr/docs/FL93%20Person%20Respond%20to%20Memorial%20Questions_OPED_9_14_05b.pdf)>.

<sup>28</sup> To fit the site plan as best I could to the surrounding roads, I rotated the site-plan .5° counter-clockwise. The source of this minor discrepancy seems to be a discrepancy between Google Earth’s satellite images and the available maps of the area rather than any manipulation of the available maps. The site plan matches up perfectly with the map included in Appendix B, page 21, of the Memorial Project’s June 2007 *Final General Management Plan* (<http://www.flight93memorialproject.org/docs/FINAL2--Appendices.pdf>).