

## WORLD TRADE CENTER COMPETITION

New York, New York, USA

RAFAEL VIÑOLY ARCHITECTS



April 2016

In October 2002, pursuant to the destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) initiated the Innovative Design Study, a master plan competition to envision alternatives for rebuilding the Ground Zero site. The design team known as THINK, led by architects Rafael Viñoly, the late Frederic Schwartz, Shigeru Ban, and landscape architect Ken Smith, proposed several plans before settling on and finalizing the World Cultural Center, wherein the image of the World Trade Center is transformed from commerce and capitalism to a civic resource and public memorial.

Rising around and above the footprints of One and Two World Trade Center, two open latticework towers immediately reconstruct the iconic city skyline and create a vertical infrastructure for a memorial and cultural center. Significantly, the plan situates civic uses at the centerpiece of the development, envisioning public and cultural facilities—not office space—as the primary catalyst for the revitalization of downtown. Two viewing platforms at the top of the towers ensure that the highest points remain accessible to the public, a rarity among high-rise buildings, and a performing arts center and museum of remembrance is elevated 40 stories above street level.

### DETAILS + FIGURES

#### Completion

Competition

#### Size

1,189,160 gsm

#### Awards

Merit Award, AIA New York, 2004

#### Media Coverage

*The New York Times*, "A Visionary of the Skyline, with 3 Pairs of Glasses," January 2003

#### Client

New York City, Lower Manhattan Development Corporation

#### Consultants

##### MEP Engineer

BuroHappold Engineering

##### Structural Engineer

Arup

##### Landscape Architect

Ken Smith, Principal at  
Ken Smith Workshop

#### Construction Manager

Peter Davoren, President  
and CEO at Turner  
Construction Company

#### Interiors / Retail Planner

Rockwell Group

#### IT / Interactive Consultant

R/GA

#### Special Structures Engineer

Schlaich Bergermann and Partner

#### Urbanism Consultant

William Morrish, Professor of  
Urban Ecologies at School of  
Design Strategies, Parsons  
the New School of Design

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