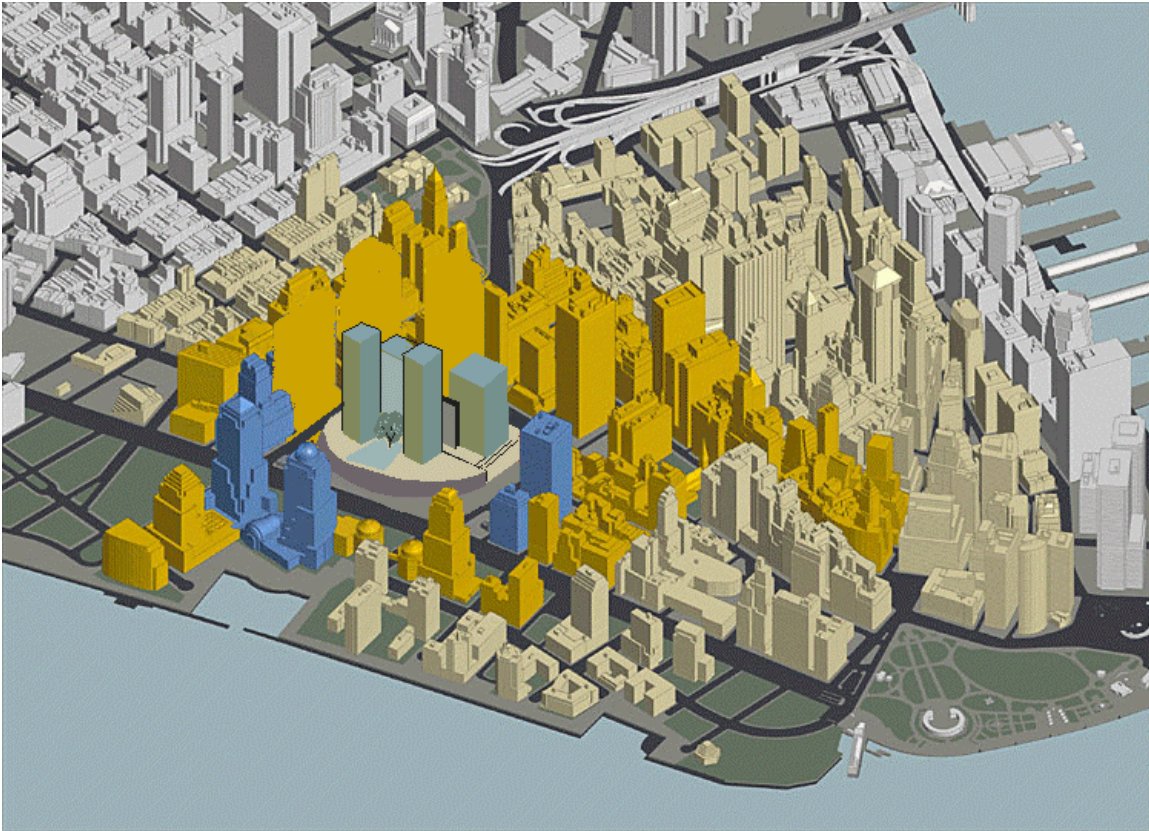


# WTC Memorial Plaza

Site overview for Memorial Plaza:



View shows new cluster of structures surrounding a plaza that frames a view towards the river through the "Tree of Life" garden. Garden is elevated for open public access and river view. Structures are the best examples of "Green Towers" environmentally responsive architecture with solar photo voltaic glass oriented to capture sunlight energy. The central axis of the plaza & view is marked in the plaza with a shallow water stream that ends in the memorial obelisk. Slot in the memorial obelisk directs a shaft of sunlight to a dichroic reflecting mirror that lights up the obelisk face and the entire plaza at 9 am on September 11<sup>th</sup>. All the victims' names are engraved on the obelisk face directed towards the plaza. The glass skin of the surrounding buildings will reflect the multicolor light that is produced the day of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> every year.

The axis of the plaza, garden and structures is aligned with the solar angle for that day. This is a "camera obscura" concept that is carried out at the urban scale. The garden is a semicircle that centers on a large specimen tree. The plaza is rectangular, and opens to the street.

The theme is life and regeneration. The structures are business and retail office, ground floor service and amenities, restaurants, cafes. In the plaza, straddling the obelisk on each side are single, massive remnants from the WTC towers themselves.

Laurie Barlow, AIA  
January 15, 2002

Elevation of memorial obelisk, showing "slot" positioned for 9 am Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Set facing plaza, buildings in back, plaza in shadow. Slot allows sunlight to hit dichroic mirror across the plaza, at the base of the "Tree of Life" garden, and illuminates the obelisk and the interior glass faces of buildings around the plaza.

