



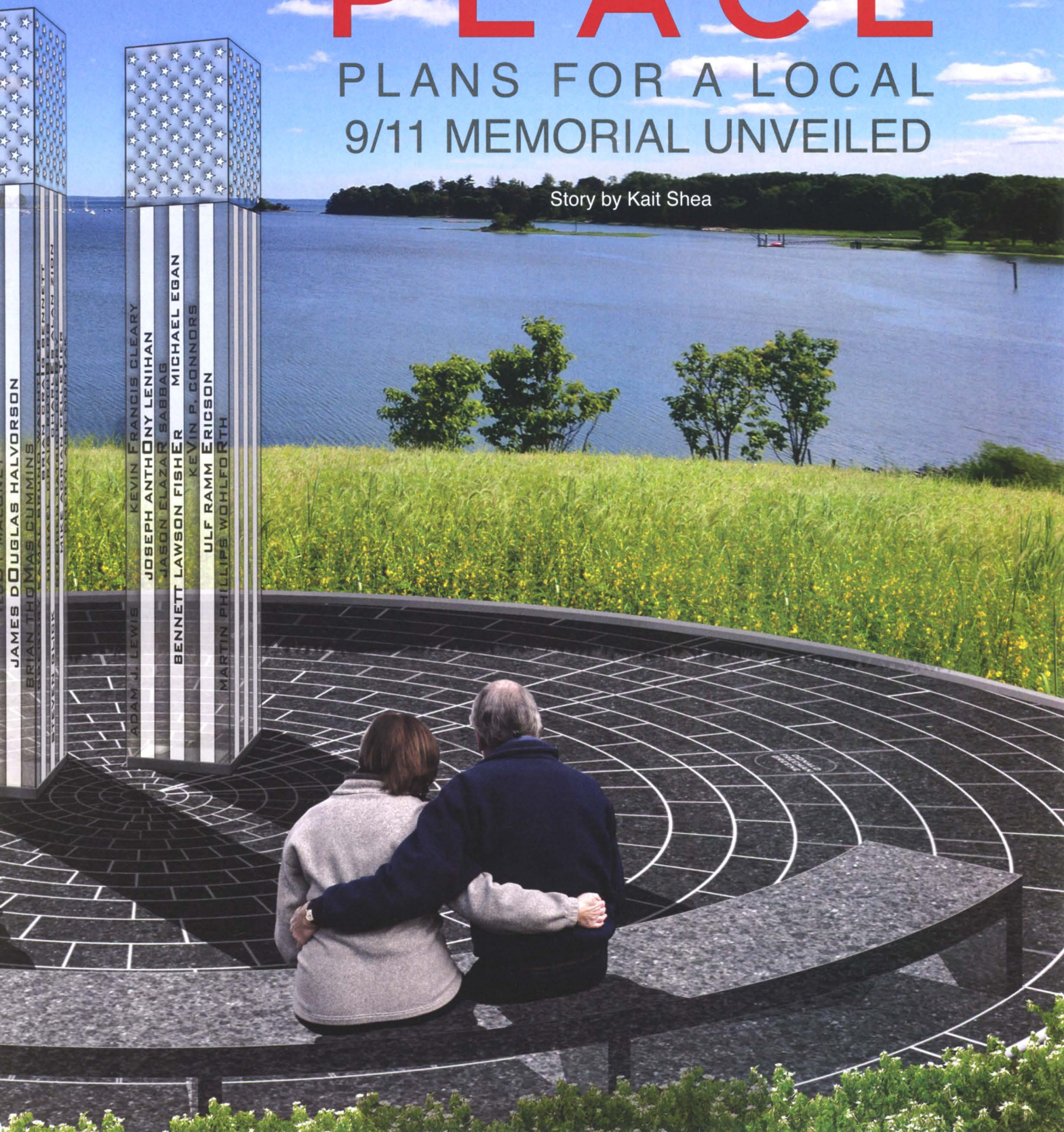
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MAKING PEACE

PLANS FOR A LOCAL 9/11 MEMORIAL UNVEILED

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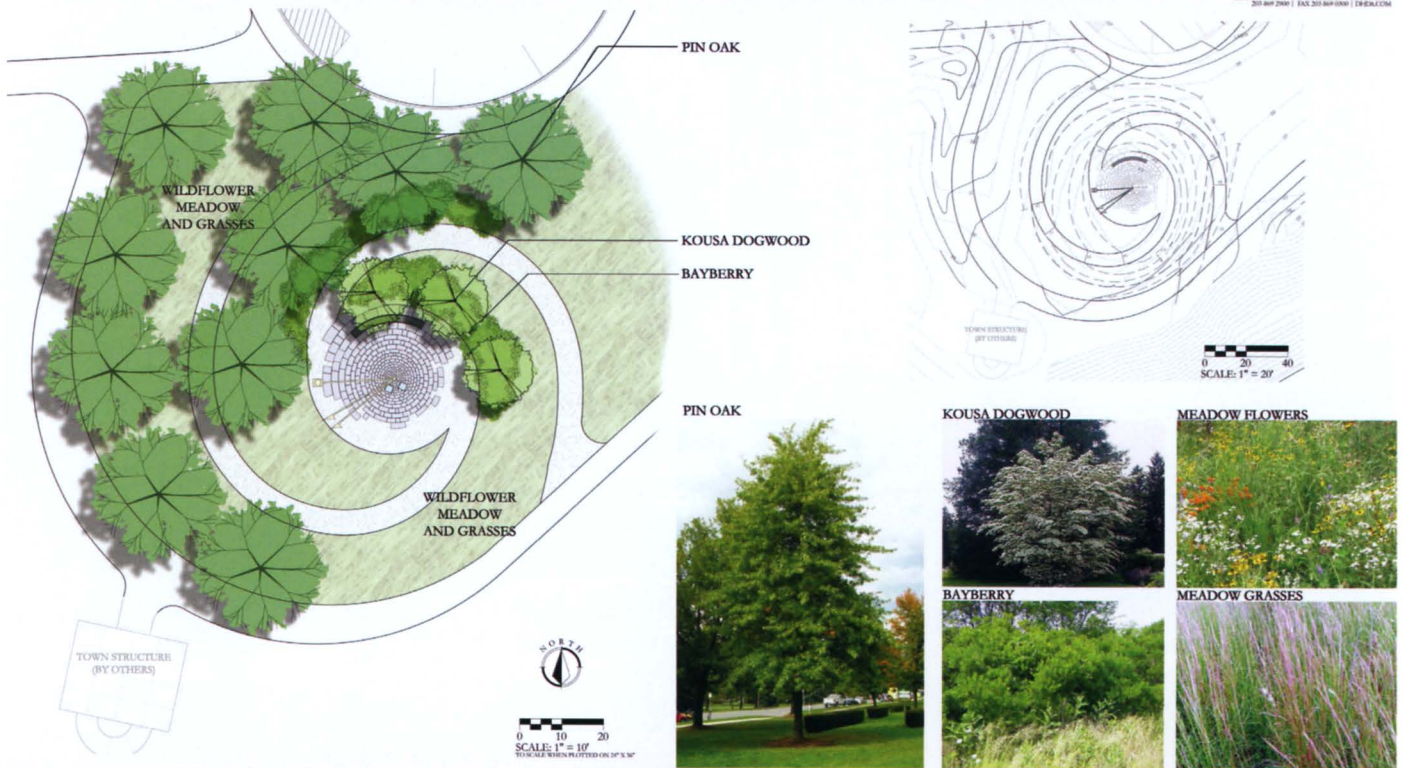
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SEPTEMBER 11th MEMORIAL

GREENWICH, CT
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We all remember that day — the smoke, the sirens, the sorrow as the death toll rose. September 11, 2001 has long been accompanied by the phrase “never forget” and the Greenwich community is doing its part to ensure that’s the case with plans for a 9/11 memorial that will be accessible to visitors 365 days per year. The Greenwich Community Projects Fund, a local nonprofit that introduced the idea back in 2011, spearheaded the campaign. The project was halted until last August, however, when a location for the memorial was selected. Approval of the site still needs to be made by town agencies, but those involved in the project are hopeful they’ll get a green light. If all goes as planned, the memorial is expected to be completed by late summer or early autumn of next year at the new Cos Cob Park, which is currently under construction but slated to open in fall 2014. James Ritman, president of the Community Projects Fund, said that while finding a location for the memorial has been challenging, Cos Cob Park is exactly the kind of scene the organization was looking for. “I can’t imagine a better site,” Mr. Ritman said. The most important feature of whichever site is ultimately approved, however, is that visitors, whether they are friends and family of the victims or the general public, will have access to the memorial 365 days a year, Mr. Ritman said. It was important to the Community Projects Fund that whether someone wanted to pay their respects to

victims on Sept. 11 each year or on one of the victims’ birthdays or anniversaries, they could access the memorial without any constraints, he said. What will visitors find when they encounter the finished product? According to Nick Rotondi of Charles Hilton Architects, the Greenwich-based firm charged with constructing the memorial, the answer is a “a serene, calm and reflective” site with a memorial that provides an incorporated meaning behind every last detail of its design. The design of the memorial, Mr. Rotondi said, was inspired by the towers of light that shone in place of the Twin Towers in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. Charles Hilton Architects will try to recapture that “ethereal” quality in material form using glass to construct the two towers of “light” that will comprise the memorial, he said. The clear, glass towers will each have an American flag design carved into them, with each stripe bearing the name of a victim that died in that respective tower. The towers will stand 12 feet tall and 20 inches wide and will be built using similar proportions to those that existed within the former World Trade Center, Mr. Rotondi said. The radial path leading up to the memorial site is also significant, Mr. Rotondi explained. Based on an abstraction of the actual courtyard that existed between the Twin Towers, the pavement pattern becomes bigger and is absorbed into two gradually inclining paths — one along the parking area of the site and one that functions as a perimeter walkway. The design will allow visitors a glimpse of the memorial only at



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the last minute as they approach the top of the hill, he said. "It's in that last moment that you overlook the water and the mouth and the Riverside Yacht Club and overlook the whole thing," Mr. Rontondi said.

According to Chuck Hilton, principal of Charles Hilton Architects, the concept behind the memorial is not only to provide a place for friends and family of victims to reflect, but also for the community as a whole. Specifically, Mr. Hilton said he hopes it will serve as an "educational tool" for future generations to learn about the pivotal historic event.

The idea of creating an enclosed, meditative area for the memorial was something landscape architects at Doyle Herman Design Associates also made a top priority, according to Cheryl Brown, one of the firm's designers.

"We wanted to create a place for reflection that complemented the memorial but didn't overwhelm it," Ms. Brown said.

With that goal in mind, principal Kathryn Herman and designer Cheryl Brown of Doyle Herman Design Associates set out to design a landscape that was not only aesthetically appealing and meaningful, but would also incorporate plants that could withstand the climate. As a result, the curvilinear pathways leading up to the monument will be lined with pin oaks — trees that are not only native to the area but represent strength and longevity, Ms. Brown said. In addition, the planting areas lining the paths will be filled with meadow grass and wildflowers. The intent there, Ms. Brown said, is to heavily plant wildflowers that bloom in the fall, providing a beautiful memorial setting that will be at its height when the September 11 anniversary is recognized each year.

Additionally, at the very top of the hill, approaching the memorial will be Kousa dogwoods, which are smaller trees that "create a canopy and a sense of enclosure and privacy," she said. Accompanying the dogwoods will be bayberry shrubs, which will help focus visitors' at-



attention out towards the memorial and the Long Island Sound, she added. The result will be a relaxing environment that allows visitors to take in the scenery without forgetting why they're there. With less than a year until the 9/11 memorial is slated to be unveiled, those involved with its construction say the only obstacles now are getting town approval of the Cos Cob site and wrapping up the funding necessary to complete the project. For those interested in making an on-line donation or learning more about the memorial, visit Sept11memorialgreenwich.org.



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