



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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### THE ARK OF RETURN: LEST WE FORGET

#### VIDEO

GOREE ISLAND

HOUSE OF SLAVES

DOOR OF NO RETURN

OFFICIALS

ART WORK

GRAPHIC ANIMATION

OF LOCATION OF MONUMENT

SIMPSON ON-CAMERA

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION:

Goree Island, Senegal. This is the House of Slaves and its Door of No Return – the point where millions of slaves were sold and shipped to British, Dutch, French, Spanish, and Portuguese colonies around the world. (17)

Centuries later, in 2007, the United Nations General Assembly agreed to establish a Permanent Memorial on the grounds of the United Nations in honour of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. (16)

Prime Minister of Jamaica, Portia Simpson: (2.5)

##### PORTIA SIMPSON: (In English) F

“Their blood, sweat, tears watered sugar plantations across our nation. Some led rebellions and were tortured and hanged. They paid the price for our freedom with their lives. We must continue to acknowledge the

tragedy, and consider the legacy, lest we forget.” (29)

NARRATION:

MODELS AND CONTESTANTS

In 2011 together with UNESCO, the Permanent Memorial Committee launched an international design competition. (7)

Under-Secretary-General of the UN Department of Public Information, Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal: (6)

LAUNSKY-TIEFFENTHAL: (In English) M

LAUNSKY-TIEFFENTHAL ON-CAMERA

“It was very important to set a symbolic gesture, a sign here at United Nations Headquarters to commemorate the victims of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. And through that experience be reminded of the atrocities committed and at the same time ensure that events like this would not occur again.” (19)

NARRATION:

CONTESTANTS

Some 310 nationals from 83 countries and five continents submitted their proposals. Sixteen made the initial cut. Dr. David Boxer, former curator of the National Gallery of Jamaica, and Chairman of the five-panel jury. (16)

DR. BOXER: (In English) M

DR. BOXER ON-CAMERA

“Up to that stage this was a blind competition...we knew nothing about the participants. // ..From that blind competition//

we were able to choose seven people and then we were informed who they were. And I tell you there were some surprises.” (18)

NARRATION:

UNVEILING CEREMONY

An architecture student from China...famous architects from Italy... the United States...France... Colombia...,Portugal... and Finland. (10)

NARRATION:

Among the seven finalists, only one model would be chosen. (4)

Nervous, anxious and excited... the finalists weren't even sure what the judges were looking for. (7)

DR. BOXER: (In English) M

BOXER ON CAMERA

“The big challenge for me was to find something that spoke to both things – the tragedy itself which requires a memorial in a more traditional sense, and something that is aspirational, something that looks towards the future that deals with the whole question of hope.” (22)

MUSIC ROLL – DRUM BEAT

COURTENAY RATTRAY: (In English) M

RATTRAY AT PODIUM

“This is the moment we were all waiting for. The winner is Rodney Leon’s Ark of Return.” (12)

APPLAUSE

NARRATION:

SET-UP SHOTS OF RODNEY

A descendant of slaves shipped to Haiti from the coast of Africa, Rodney is an architect based in New York. Known for his work on the African Burial Ground National Monument in lower Manhattan, he explains his design. (13)

RODNEY LEON: (In English) M

LEON ON CAMERA

“What we decided to do was to establish a design that was reflective of a ship and at the same time a space that people can actually interact and kind of come into and learn more about the transatlantic slave passage.” (15)

NARRATION:

Expected to be on display in New York in 2014, the Memorial will serve as a reminder to millions of visitors, teaching future generations to remember one of the most tragic events in history. (11)

The Ark of Return...a stark contrast to the Door of No Return...will stand as a call to action to ensure that this tragedy is never to be repeated. (10)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Mary Ferreira for the United Nations. (4.5)