MH17 MEMORIAL
IN AMSTERDAM

OPEN IDEAS ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION
FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

competition brief
20.09.2014
Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 (MH17) was a scheduled international passenger flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur that was shot down on 17 July 2014, killing all 283 passengers and 15 crew on board. The Boeing 777-200ER airliner lost contact about 50 km (31 mi) from the Ukraine–Russia border and crashed near Torez in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, 40 km from the border.

The aircraft crashed outside Hrabove, near Torez in eastern Ukraine’s Donetsk Oblast. The fireball on impact is believed to have been captured on video. Photographs from the site of the crash show scattered pieces of broken fuselage and engine parts, bodies, and passports. Some of the wreckage fell close to houses in Hrabove. Dozens of bodies fell into crop fields, and some fell into houses.

All 283 passengers and 15 crew died. The crew were Malaysian and 193 passengers were Dutch, while many of the other passengers were Australians and Malaysians. By 19 July, the airline had determined the nationalities of all 298 passengers and crew.

Among the passengers were delegates en route to the 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, including Joep Lange, a former president of the International AIDS Society, which organized the conference. Also on board were Dutch senator Willem Witteveen, Australian author Liam Davison, and Malaysian actress Shuba Jay.

At least twenty family groups were on board the aircraft, and eighty of the passengers were children.
An international open ideas competition for architects and students is initiated to remember and honor the victims of the MH17 tragedy.

This man-made tragedy has influenced thousands of lives in direct or indirect manner across the entire world. Most of all this tragedy has affected the Netherlands - the Dutch nation that lost 193 souls in this catastrophe. Therefore Amsterdam, the departure point of this one way flight, was selected as a location for the MH17 Memorial.

MATTERBETTER has proposed to design an artificial island in the IJmeer in Amsterdam as a foundation for the MH17 Memorial. We believe that the memorial has to be for everyone - the place for the people who are directly connected to the tragedy and for the population of the world in general.

Because of its location the memorial has to be addressed to a broader public, as it will be visited by various groups of people. It should form a new public space - the place for remembrance, ceremonies, recreation, private gatherings and should become a vital point of the Amsterdam cultural infrastructure.

MH17 Memorial has to be free from the political over tone and should not directly express the tragedy in a type of a monologue - it should allow individuals to experience through the space and form their own memories and emotions. Human presence is vital. The Memorial has to become an inviting place open for physical interaction, the place that honors remembrances, respect for life and a preservation of peace.

It was decided that the MH17 Memorial site will accommodate a landscape park in addition to its main purpose in order to become a green axis that will connect the Old Center and the North of Amsterdam and strengthen the location that is reclaimed from the water - symbolizing traditional collaboration of the Dutch people with the nature.

“Death gives meaning to our lives. It gives importance and value to time. Time would become meaningless if there were too much of it.”

Ray Kurzweil
LOCATION DATA

Country: The Netherlands
City: Amsterdam
Site: Memorial Island*
Area: up to 8 hectares
Location: N: 52° 22' 50" E: 4° 55' 50"

*new island to be designed in the waters of the IJmeer.

POSSIBILITIES

Participants are asked to design a new island for the MH17 Memorial in the Amsterdam “Internal Sea” - IJmeer. It is situated between the Java-eiland and Amsterdam-Noord, the rapidly developing part of the city.

The size and configuration of the new artificial island is up to the participants and can be up to 8Ha within the borders of the highlighted area. Please find detailed DWG in the Download Section.

The site can be accessed by popular water transport (ferry/taxi) via nearby stations. The site is only 1800m away from the Amsterdam Central ferry station and is located right next to the Oostveer Ferry Station route.

The maximum building/structure height is 30m on the new island. The minimum height of the island above the water level is 1.3m.
OBJECTIVES
The main objectives of the competition are:
- embody the goals and spirit of the mission statement;
- to generate public discussion of the memorial program, location and main goals;
- to generate discussion in the professional environment;
- to provide the maximum freedom of design decision making to all participants;
- and last, but not the least – to make a world a better place.

EVALUATION CRITERIA
- Creative approach: aesthetics and originality
- Emotional power
- Connection with the rest of the city
- Sustainability and Functionality
- Realization of the maximum potential of the site and internal harbour
- Clarity and comprehensibility of the overall design.

PROGRAM
MATTERBETTER invites architects and students to design the MH17 Memorial* and a landscape park on the artificial island in the IJmeer in the center of Amsterdam.

MH17 Memorial as a main design objective should also allocate the following enclosed spaces**:
- Multifunctional Space: 600 m²
- Meeting Room: 2x50 m²
- Administration Office: 30 m²
- Public Restrooms
- Cafe for 50 visitors

* the ratio between memorial and park area is up to the participants
** the program can be extended with an argumentated necessity

SUBMISSION MATERIALS (A1 Panel)
- MH17 Memorial plan(s), section(s), artist impressions and a 250 word statement;
- Masterplan scheme that shows the position of the Memorial, the layout and the main principles of the landscape park, connection with the city.
**MATTERBETTER AWARD**

The total money prize is **6000 EUR**.

1st place: 3000 EUR + certificate  
2nd place: 2000 EUR + certificate  
3rd place: 1000 EUR + certificate

**Honorable Mentions Award:** 7 Awards + certificate

**Editor’s Choice Award** – granted individual publication on our blog and social media pages to three entries that are carefully selected by matterbetter editors.

**Top 50** – Fifty short-listed entries featured in one single online publication on our blog and social media pages.

**REGISTRATION**

Architects, students, engineers, and designers are invited to participate in the competition. We encourage you to have multidisciplinary teams.

Participants must register by **December 21, 2014**

**Early Registration:** 60 EUR until 31st of October, 2014.  
**Standard Registration:** 80 EUR from 1st of November till 31st of November  
**Late Registration:** 100 EUR from 1st of December till 21st of December

Teams can be represented by a maximum number of 5 participants. Individual entries are also accepted.

After your registration has been approved matterbetter will send you the unique 6-digit Team Code and a Password (within 24 hours), which will be necessary for the design proposal submission.

**SCHEDULE**

20th of September 2014 – Official announcement of the competition.  
20th of September 2014 - Start of the registration period.  
31st of October 2014 – Deadline for submission of questions.  
21st of December 2014 – Registration Deadline (23:59 team local time).  
5th of January 2014 – Closing date for submissions (23:59 team local time).  
20th of January 2015 – Announcement of results.

Results of the competition will be published on the leading architectural and design websites, including European and Malaysian Press.
REGULATIONS

1. This is an anonymous competition and the registration number is the only means of identification.
2. The official language of the competition is English.
3. The registration fee is non-refundable.
4. Contacting the Jury is prohibited.
5. matterbetter, as the competition organizer, reserves the right to modify the competition schedule if deemed necessary.
6. **Entrants will be disqualified if any of the competition rules or submission requirements are not considered.**
7. Participation assumes acceptance of the regulations.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The project submission must contain the following files:
- **A1 horizontal board in PDF** (150 dpi) no more than 10MB, that includes artist impressions, plans and sections. Participants are encouraged to submit all the information they consider necessary to explain their proposal. Maximum 250 words for project explanation on the submission boards. In the TOP LEFT corner of the submission board you should mention your unique 6-digit registration number using Arial 24pt font.
- **DOC file** containing the project statement (600 words max) and your unique 6-digit registration number in the header.

FILE NAMES

Your submission files (PDF, DOC) should have the following name: “MHM-A-XXXXXX”, where XXXXX is your unique 6-digit registration number.

COMPETITION MATERIALS

Basic material includes a competition brief in PDF and a vector drawing of the site in Amsterdam in DWG that can be downloaded from the competition page on the matterbetter.com

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We highly recommend our participants to check the FAQ section on the matterbetter website as this will provide additional vital information. In case you still have questions, please send them to info@matterbetter.com with FAQ subject until 31st of October. All answers will be posted in our blog on 7th of November.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please see the terms and conditions section on the www.matterbetter.com