

Rachel Ferrier

Time: Frame

Professor Leopold

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Oculus Questions

When I first walked into the Oculus, I was truly blown away. The space makes you feel small in the grand scheme of things; it was a space that gave you a bigger-than-life, yet peaceful experience. You feel as though you are stepping onto an airplane mid flight, with its material choices and structure. Also discovering that this \$4 billion project was partially spent on buying and harvesting a mountain in Italy for its white marble that is all over the structure made me feel small, almost not worthy of it. Yet, the fact that it's all-white trait makes the space airy and peaceful.

Especially since it's opening, traffic has been a whirlwind, and, according to construction workers, there are 250,000 people in and out of this structure each day. It seemed to be most busy when the New Jersey Path train entered the station and commuters flooded the open space. Personally, I think the combination of the structure being a Path station and a shopping center might bring too much traffic, along with tourists visiting the structure itself based on its correlation to 9/11. The structure and space perfectly relate to 9/11, bringing not just New Yorkers, but all Americans to an emotional connection with it. When first learning about the structure, I discovered the shape is a dove, which is a symbol for peace, mid-flight. The sky light that opens once a year on 9/11 which reveals the Freedom Tower above brings awareness of the attack, and how we will always reflect and remember that day in history. With that in mind, we should still as a community and country be able to heal and move forward from this, which is why the "dove" is mid-flight. We will move forward, together, with peace in our minds and hearts. This symbolism is beautifully and perfectly parallel with its physical appearance. It really effected my experience in the most emotionally beautiful way.