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ON

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THE ARK OF RETURN: LEST WE FORGET

VIDEO

GOREE ISLAND

HOUSE OF SLAVES

DOOR OF NO RETURN

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)

PORTIA SIMPSON: (In English) F

“Their blood, sweat, tears watered sugar plantations across our nation. We must continue to acknowledge the tragedy, and consider the legacy, lest we forget.”

NARRATION:

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

DR. BOXER ON-CAMERA

DR. BOXER: (In English) M

“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.”

RATTRAY AT PODIUM

COURTENAY RATTRAY: (In English) M

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

APPLAUSE

SET-UP SHOTS OF RODNEY

NARRATION:

A descendant of slaves shipped to Haiti from the coast of Africa, Rodney is an architect based in New York.

LEON ON CAMERA

RODNEY LEON: (In English) M

“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)

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)

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