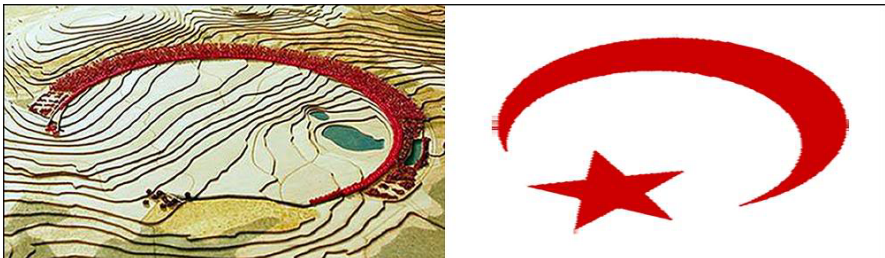


# Muslim consultants LIED to Park Service

The Park Service enlisted three outside consultants to assess whether the Crescent of Embrace memorial to Flight 93 could indeed be seen as a giant *mihrab*: the Mecca-direction indicator around which every mosque is built. All three consultants, including two Islamic scholars, were blatantly and provably dishonest. This matters because the Crescent of Embrace is *still there*. The Park Service calls the memorial a broken circle now, but the unbroken part of the circle, what symbolically remains standing in the wake of 9/11, is just the original giant crescent:



The Crescent of Embrace publicity shot from architect Paul Murdoch (left) shows what appears to be a bare naked Islamic crescent-and-star flag planted on the crash site. The only actual change was to add an extra arc of trees that explicitly represents a broken off part of the circle. This small change only enhances Murdoch's original circle-breaking crescent-creating theme.

We all know who broke the circle of peace on 9/11. It was 19 Islamic terrorists. Thus the circle-breaking theme of the memorial can only be depicting the actions of the terrorists. But Murdoch isn't content just to show the terrorists as smashing our circle of peace and replacing it with their own crescent-and-star flag. He has much bigger things in mind.

Murdoch's giant crescent points almost exactly at Mecca (a little less than 2° north of Mecca in the original Crescent of Embrace design and a little less than 3° south of Mecca as built). This is a very familiar construct in the Islamic world. Every mosque is built around a Mecca-direction indicator called a *mihrab*, and the classic mihrab is crescent shaped.

Could the memorial actually be a giant al Qaeda victory mosque? To answer this question the Park Service turned to three hand-picked consultants. All three did just what the Park Service wanted, coughing up three of the most blatant whoppers ever told.

## Academic charlatan calculates the direction to Mecca, then tells the press that there is no such thing as the direction to Mecca

Here's a novel way to deny that the giant crescent points to Mecca. Just deny that there is any such thing as the direction to Mecca. This from the Park Service's first consultant, as reported by the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*:

"Daniel Griffith, a geospatial information sciences professor at the University of Texas at Dallas, said anything can point toward Mecca, because the earth is round."

That is not an errant paraphrase. Griffith said the same thing to *Tribune Democrat* reporter Kirk Swauger: "He said you can face anywhere to face Mecca."

So when Muslims face Mecca for prayer, they are just deluding themselves? They could actually face *any old* direction and still be facing Mecca? Is there really no such thing as a direction on planet earth?

Griffith was lying of course, and the Park Service knew it, because the first thing Griffith's report on the orientation of the Crescent of Embrace does is calculate the direction from Shanksville to Mecca: "I computed an azimuth value from the Flight 93 crater site to Mecca of roughly 55.20°."

"Azimuth" means *direction*, in degrees clockwise from north.

Muslims calculate the direction to Mecca by the "great circle" or "shortest distance" method ("as the crow flies," curving only in the over-the-horizon direction), and this is the method Griffith used. He also accepted that the Crescent in the original design drawings points a mere .62° away from Mecca (about a degree closer than it actually points, but no matter).

In short, Griffith *confirmed* the Mecca-orientation of the giant crescent, then denied it to the public, because they had Griffith's actual report. Thus when the Park Service repeated Griffith's denials that the giant crescent points to Mecca, they too were hiding the truth from the public. An example is the previous Park Superintendent Joanne Hanley. Asked directly whether the giant crescent points to Mecca she denied it, telling the *Post Gazette* that: "The only thing that orients the memorial is the crash site."

The Mecca-orientation of the giant crescent is clear evidence of an enemy plot to re-hijack Flight 93. The people need to know the facts, but these public figures have worked desperately to keep the facts hidden.

## Muslim consultant #1 lied about one of the most familiar of all Islamic doctrines, claiming Mecca-orientation must be exact

After Griffith verified that the crescent/broken-circle does indeed point almost exactly at Mecca, the Park Service asked two Islamic scholars whether there was any Islamic significance to this giant Mecca-oriented crescent. Could it by any chance be seen as a giant mihrab? After all, the archetypal mihrab *is* crescent shaped.

The Park Service's second consultant, a professor of Islamic and mosque architecture at M.I.T. named Nasser Rabbat, assured the Park Service that because the crescent does not point *exactly* at Mecca it cannot be seen as a mihrab: "Mihrab orientation is either correct or not. It cannot be off by some degrees."

That is a bald lie, and *every* practicing Muslim knows it. For most of Islam's 1400 year history far-flung Muslims had no accurate way to determine the direction to Mecca. Thus it developed as a matter of religious principle that what matters is *intent* to face Mecca, with no requirement for precision in *actually* facing Mecca. Two or three degrees off is highly precise by Islamic standards. Many of the world's most famous mihrabs face 20, 30, 40 or more degrees away from Mecca and it matters not one whit.

Every practicing Muslim knows that they only need to face very roughly towards Mecca for prayer because they are constantly availing themselves of this allowance when, five times a day, they seek out walls that they can pray towards that will leave them facing roughly towards Mecca. Not having to face exactly at Mecca for prayer is one of the most familiar of all Islamic doctrines.

## Saudi religious authorities confirm: mihrab orientation does NOT have to be exact

The mihrab-orientation issue came up in 2009 when the denizens of Mecca itself realized that even their local mosques only face very roughly towards the Kaaba. This is an unusual case because the people who built these mosques couldn't say they didn't know the actual direction to the Kaaba. They could *see* it. No problem, according to the Saudi Islamic Affairs Ministry, which assured worshippers that, "it does not affect the prayers"

Nobody would know this better than Nasser Rabbat, who actually teaches mosque design. Indeed, he would know the full basis for the primacy of intent: that intent is given pre-eminence *throughout* Islamic teaching, not just in Mecca-orientation. For instance, Islam's first instruction to converts is that they are supposed to lie about their religion (Tabari 8.23):

"Then Nu'aym came to the Prophet. 'I've become a Muslim, but my tribe does not know of my Islam; so command me whatever you will.' Muhammad said, 'Make them abandon each other if you can so that they will leave us; for war is deception.'"

What matters in Islam is not whether Muslims tell the truth, but whether their intent is to advance Islamic conquest.

Of course we made sure the Park Service saw the proof from the Saudi Islamic Affairs Ministry that their Muslim consultant had lied to them about the Mecca-orientation of a mihrab needing to be exact. That was a couple of years ago now. If they had any integrity they would re-open their investigation, but then if they had any integrity they would never have handed their watchdog role over to a pair of Muslim consultants in the first place.

## Islamic scholar #2 says don't worry, no one has ever seen a mihrab anywhere near this BIG before

Kevin Jaques, a professor of Islamic sharia law at Indiana University, does not say whether he is Muslim (remember Tabari 8.23: converts who live amongst the infidels are supposed to hide their religion), but he *did* write an article right after 9/11 urging that any U.S. response should be based on the principles of sharia law, so he pretty much has to be Muslim. He is definitely an Islamophile.

Professor Jaques' report to the Park Service acknowledges that the crescent is geometrically similar to the Mecca-direction indicator around which every mosque is built, but dismisses any concern about Islamic symbolism on the grounds that no one has ever seen a mihrab anywhere near this BIG before:

"... most mihrabs are small, rarely larger than the figure of a man, although some of the more ornamental ones can be larger, but nothing as large as the crescent found in the site design. It is unlikely that most Muslims would walk into the area of the circle/crescent and see a mihrab because it is well beyond their limit of experience. Again, just because it is similar does not make it the same."

You know, like no one can recognize Abe Lincoln's likeness on Mount Rushmore. It's just too darn big for ordinary folks to get their tiny little minds around, and the Flight 93 crescent is much bigger than that. It's actually big enough to be easily visible from airliners like Flight 93 passing overhead. The scale would be epic beyond belief so ... don't believe it!

Not technically a lie perhaps, but a transparently dishonest excuse. That it was good enough for the Park Service shows how badly they wanted to be deceived. It would even be funny if the issue were not so deadly serious. Muslims are not allowed to deceive for just any reason. Orthodox doctrine tells them to deceive when by doing so they can advance the cause of Islamic conquest, and one of the oldest traditions of Islamic conquest is the building of victory mosques on the sites of their attacks.

To be completely certain that the memorial is actually *intended* to be a mosque one has to work through Murdoch's endless proofs of intent: his elaborate repetition of the Mecca-orientations, the year-round accurate Islamic prayer-time sundial (yesterday's ad), the 38 instead of 40 Memorial Groves (Thursday's ad), etcetera. But the Park Service's extensive lying to the public about the most basic facts of the design should by itself be a clarion call to everyone to insist on an independent investigation. The Service's own internal investigation was nothing but proven lies from beginning to end. That is not acceptable!

Neither is the news media's consistent refusal to check and report the facts. News-people all know that Muslims face Mecca for prayer, yet the *Post-Gazette* did not question Griffith's claim that "anything can point to Mecca, because the earth is round." They too are complicit in foisting this lie on the public. Every reporter who reads this ad and does not try to fact-check our easy-to-verify claims is part of the problem.

What this means, people, is that you have to stand up on your own. Your opinion leaders have abandoned you to this Islamic assault, but if you *do* stand up to your supposed betters, if you check the facts for yourselves and demand that the press and the government conduct proper investigations, then Murdoch's plot can still be undone. The hijacker can still be ousted from the cockpit. Now *that* would be a fitting memorial to Flight 93.

*Alec Rawls and Tom Burnett Sr.*