The World Trade Center redevelopment tends to be overlooked as a cohesive landscape architecture project. While individual elements—One World Trade Center or the 9/11 Memorial—are well known, this session will reveal the fully integrated project by addressing public realm design, open space, infrastructure, transit, and security within a complex, high-profile, dense urban site.

OBJECTIVES:

+ Understand how this redevelopment represents best practices in urban design
+ Understand how infrastructure was conceived in relation to the community
+ Learn about the technical and security challenges of rebuilding the streets
+ Learn about the design of Liberty Park, a critical element of the WTC public realm
Valerie Aymer, RLA, ASLA
Ms. Aymer has been working as a landscape architect for more than 12 years and served as a technical leader for AECOM’s landscape design studio in New York until the Spring of 2015. She joined AECOM in June 2011 with a focus in urban design and revitalization and community planning and has a strong interest in site grading and green roof architecture. She has a background in information resources management and biology. She holds a Masters of Landscape Architecture from Cornell University where she currently teaches full time.

Joe Brown, FASLA
For over 30 years, Joe Brown has worked across disciplines and continents to resolve social and ecological challenges through the development, redevelopment and conservation of land, communities, and cities. He has served as chief innovation officer for AECOM, chief executive of AECOM’s planning, design + development practices, and CEO of EDAW. His projects have included the Eisenhower Memorial, World Trade Center District Streetscape, Saadiyat Island, the Stapleton redevelopment, redevelopment planning in Jeddah, low-income housing in Brazil, Mexico and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and a management strategy for lands belonging to the Masaai Tribe of Kenya.

Gonzalo Cruz, ASLA
Gonzalo Cruz is a Principal at AECOM’s landscape design studio in New York. His diverse professional accomplishments are supported by his multidisciplinary background, with professional degrees in both architecture and landscape architecture. He brings over 12 years of professional design services and project design management experience. He has orchestrated projects at a broad array of scales, ranging from large-scale urban design developments to smaller residential and commercial work. As a design leader in both public and private sector jobs, Gonzalo works closely with clients and consultants from initial project conception, throughout each design phase. He holds a Masters of Landscape Architecture from Harvard University.

Diana Mendes, AICP
Diana Mendes is a senior vice president and director of transit, North America, for AECOM, encompassing projects in bus, streetcar, light rail, commuter rail and high speed rail. As a transportation professional, she has focused her work on implementing environmentally responsible transportation solutions that enhance economic development and community livability. Under the contract to the Federal Transit Administration, she played a key role in the redevelopment and rebuilding of transit facilities in Lower Manhattan following 9/11. She is the vice chair of the American Public Transportation Association's Legislative Committee and serves on the APTA Board of Directors,
INTRODUCTION:
Joe Brown, FASLA, AECOM, [Moderator]

World Trade Center Public Realm. Context and overall understanding of its reconstruction

A. Video: 5 min.
B. Timeline: Design Staging and Phasing
C. Context: Downtown New York, its ability to accommodate a very aggressive reconstruction undertaking
THE BIG PICTURE:
The challenges in rebuilding cities: Security, resilience and public & private partnerships
Diana Mendes, AECOM

A. Security: How to reinstate security while balancing the experience of the public realm

B. Resilience: How to plan for the worst

C. Public & Private Partnerships: The process of working with city agencies, consensus building and budgetary constraints
THE WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE:
The technical challenges in rebuilding the streets:
World Trade Center Public Realm. Context and overall understanding of its reconstruction
Valerie Aymer, ASLA, Cornell University

A. The New Standards: The design process and its necessity to accommodate change

B. Accessibility: The staging of reconstruction, building with restrictive adjacencies while providing access for both new public realm zones and areas of reconstruction

C. The New Right-of-Way: The design of a new typology for building peripheries
NEW TRAFFIC AND ADJACENCIES:
Restablishing community connections
Diana Mendes, AECOM

A. Traffic: Vehicular and Pedestrian, how the planning process accommodated the World Trade Center campus context in relation to future streets and sidewalk peripheries
NEW OPEN SPACE:
The process of designing Liberty Park
Gonzalo Cruz, ASLA, AECOM

A. The Moving Elevated Plane: The challenges associated with a design-build parking structure below the elevated park

B. Iterations and Compromise: A brief narrative of the many design proposals and how the final design was created

C. Program: Evaluating purpose, accommodating needs and finding opportunities
Q + A / DISCUSSION

Sources:

http://www.aecom.com


http://www.aecom.com/What+We+Do/Design+and+Planning