

CHAIRMAN BROWN: Thank you very much.

And finally, Leroy J. Manor.

A VOICE: He had to leave.

CHAIRMAN BROWN: All right.

We will move on to those in opposition of the proposal, and we start with Maya Ying Lin, the Architect/Designer, who won the original competition.

MS. LIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Today the Commission has before it a proposed addition to the previously approved design for the Vietnam Veterans memorial.

Over one year ago the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and I appeared before you seeking approval of the original design, a design supported by many of the groups you have heard testify today. You approved that design.

Since you granted that approval some people have voiced an opposition to the appropriate nature of the original design and have sought to amend or alter it by making it, in their words, more "realistic." The product of that effort is the proposal that is before you today.

As the artistic conscience of the Nation, I appealed to the Commission to protect the artistic integrity of the original design.

What is realistic? Is any one man's interpretation better able to convey an idea than any other's? Should it not be left to the observer? The original design gives each individual the freedom to reflect upon the heroism and sacrifice of those who served. It is symbolic of individual freedom, which this country stands for.

The original design is not just an object to be looked at: it is a moving composition to be understood as the individual moves through it. It is a journey to the awareness of the service and supreme sacrifice of the Vietnam Veteran. It is a living park, symbolic of life -- the life of the returning Veteran, who sees himself reflected within the time, within the names. It is not a memorial to politics or war or controversy, but to those men and women who served. It leaves the individual with the freedom of reflection and contemplation at a place where he is at once part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and a part of our memorialized history. The Vietnam Memorial takes its shape from and reflects two great symbols of our country, the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

The experience or visual perception of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial should not be interrupted visually by the abrupt verticality of a flag pole, or conceptually by a

sculpture that forces a specific interpretation.

To attempt to make a "unified totality" out of two different works of art fails. These "intrusions" which treat the original work of art as no more than an architectural backdrop reflect an insensitivity to the original design's subtle spatial eloquence. Its use as a retaining wall in the presence of sculpture and flag desecrates the design's artistic integrity. It violates basic principle of design in trying to juxtapose incongruous elements.

The scale and verticality of the flag pole (which from any angle will appear to rise out of the wall) is totally out of character with the sweeping horizontality of the memorial. Paradoxically, the scale of the flag pole is too great for the memorial and too small for the site and the statues -- merely eight feet tall -- are taller than the wall for most of its length. These intrusions as placed rip apart the meeting of names, beginning and end, destroying the meaning of the design. Accordingly, the proposed sculpture and flag pole should not be in visual contact with the original design.

I am not approving or disapproving of the sculpture per se. I only disapprove of the forced melding of these two different memorials into one memorial.