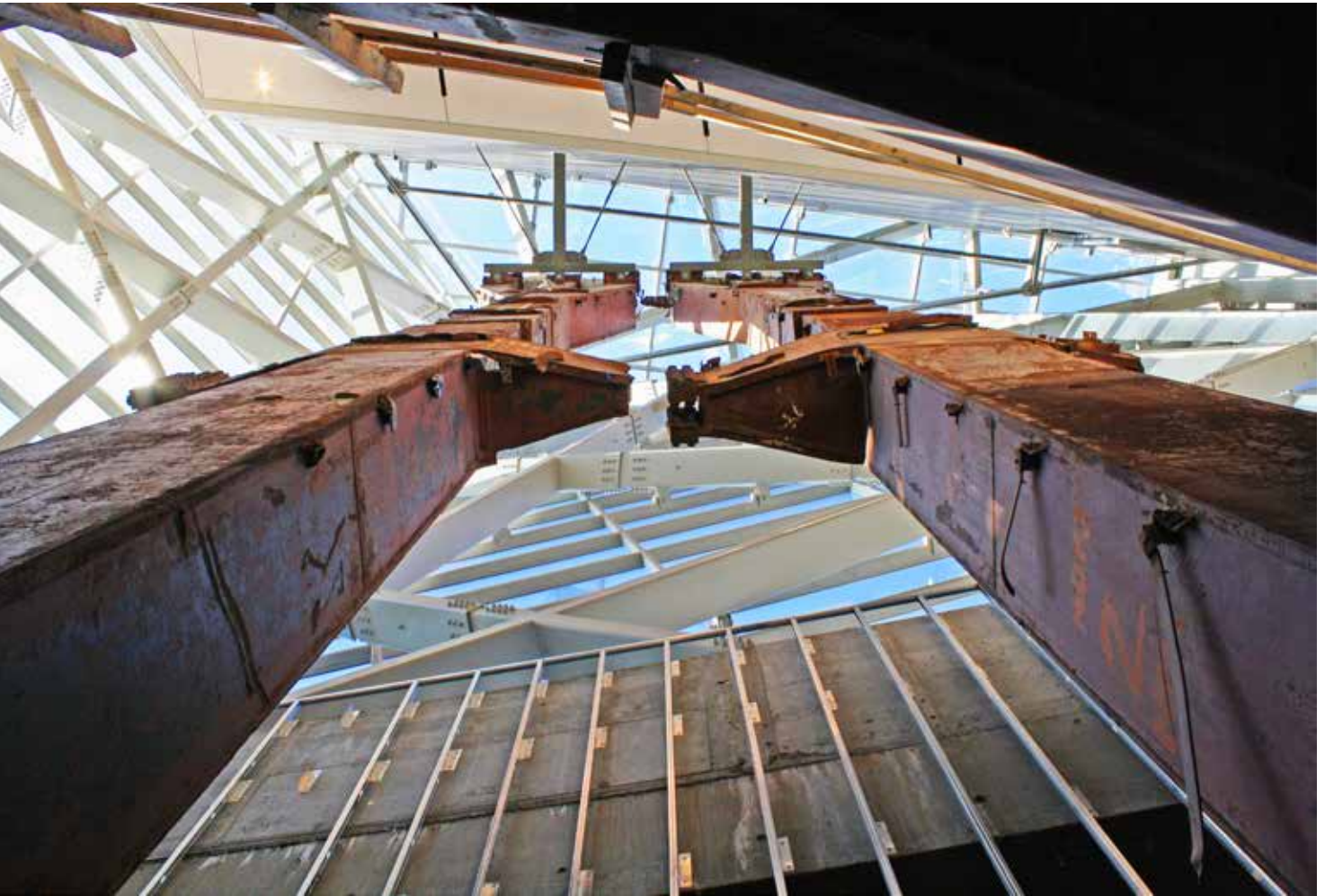


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TRIDENT TRUE



THIS PAST SEPTEMBER marked the 12th anniversary of 9/11, and construction is nearly complete on the National September 11 Memorial Museum, which features several steel artifacts.

Two of these are the steel “tridents.” Soaring from their base one level below grade up into the glass atrium of the museum’s entry pavilion, the forked columns stand approximately 70 ft tall and weigh 50 tons apiece. According to the museum, several of these steel tridents—originally referred to as “trees”—formed the perimeter structure of the Twin Towers’ lower floors. Rising from the base, they branched from one column into three at the sixth floor, then the three columns continued to the tops of the towers.

Visible not only from inside the building but also from the memorial’s plaza, the two tridents installed at the museum serve as a visual reference to the original World Trade Center—and actually stood next to each other on the eastern façade of the original North Tower—as well as a symbol of endurance.

“The progress inside the museum has been remarkable,” says

9/11 Memorial president Joe Daniels. “As we move toward the museum opening this spring, it is rewarding and deeply moving to see this historical institution taking shape. From iconic pieces of steel carrying messages of the recovery effort to rescue vehicles representing the bravery and courage of our first responders, these artifacts will preserve the powerful story of 9/11 for generations to come.”

More than 8,000 tons of structural steel was used in the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, which was designed by Davis Brody Bond. The entry pavilion, designed by architect Snøhetta (Adamson Associates was the architect of record) and structural engineer Buro Happold, uses 1,200 tons of steel, fabricated and erected by AISC member/AISC Certified fabricator/Advanced Certified Steel Erector W&W/AFCO Steel.

To learn more about the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, visit www.911memorial.org. Also, next month’s issue will feature One World Trade Center, which sits across the memorial’s plaza from the museum and has recently been named the tallest building in the hemisphere. ■