



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS MONUMENT

Architects: Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc.

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Client: America 500 Anniversary Corporation

Construction Cost: \$1,050,000

Completion: 1992

VSBA was asked to design a monument, located in the International Sculpture Garden at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia's old seaport, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage and to celebrate the role of all immigrants in the development of Philadelphia and the United States.

Our design utilizes steel technology to create a modern representation of a traditional Italian symbol -- the Obelisk, which punctuates Roman plazas. Instead of being hewn from solid stone, the monument is fabricated from thin stainless steel panels cantilevered from an internal stainless steel structure. The base of the three-sided monument is granite with polychrome inscriptions and dedications resting on a granite and brick plaza in the shape of a compass rose.

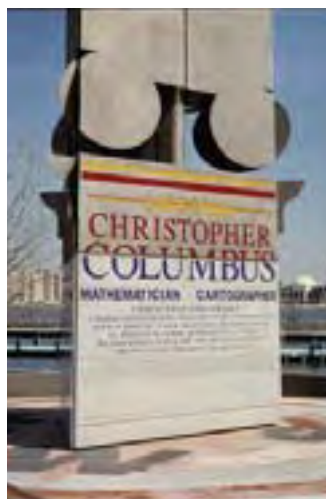
The obelisk rises to the height of 106 feet and is capped by a sphere and weathervane/banner representing the national colors of Italy and Spain. The large, open joints between the panels create deep shadows during the day and are illuminated at night by beams of light projected up through the obelisk and into the sky.

Award:

1993 Design Award for Excellence in Architectural Design, The Pennsylvania Society of Architects



Views of the monument by night and day



Detail of the base



As seen from the harbor

