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## **Brian Sell of Moody Nolan Architects wins Nelson Mandela Memorial competition**

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One year after the passing of the late Nelson Mandela on December 5, 2013, the winning proposal of the [Nelson Mandela Memorial Design Competition](#) was revealed. From April to October, the Nelson Mandela Foundation invited all U.S. residents over the age of 13 to design a permanent memorial in San Mateo, California that honors Mandela's legacy.

Out of 200 submissions from across the country, the Foundation chose Brian Sell, a senior designer and architect at Moody Nolan Architects in Columbus, Ohio, as the winner.

The final monument will be unveiled in late 2015 and will be permanently constructed at Skylawn Memorial Park.

More project details below.



*Click above image to view slideshow*  
Rendering of the winning Nelson Mandela Memorial design by Brian Sell of Moody Nolan Architects.

"The monument's location in Northern California reinforces the strong connection between the San Francisco Bay Area and Mandela's life and work, which dates back almost three decades. In opposition to Mandela's imprisonment, Oakland, Calif. Congressman Ron Dellums drafted the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986. Thousands of Bay Area residents rallied for civil rights and Mandela's release from prison. Shortly following his release in 1990, he visited Oakland."

An Ohio native and a graduate of Ohio State University, Brian Sell credits his passion for meaningful architectural design as a reflection of his social values and his inspiration for the memorial. Moody Nolan embraced the design competition as a firm and a number of their staff prepared initial designs.

The Moody Nolan team immersed themselves in a wide range of material related to Mandela's life and legacy. The final design, meant to symbolize life, growth and shelter, reflects a translation of his birth name, Rolihlahla, which means 'pulling the branch of a tree.' A series of quotations, made famous by Mandela, represent the three distinct phases of his life before, during and after imprisonment."

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