

# NEWTON ENSLAVED BURIAL GROUND MEMORIAL



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### ADJAYE ASSOCIATES BUILDS MEMORIAL FOR THE DEAD AND THE LIVING

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Describing a project with words is sometimes not enough. Emotions only heighten with stunning images and auditory films.

In the case of the latest work by Tanzanian-born British architect Sir David Adjaye, it is not only the building project that excites us; it is above all the video, flanked by the vocal piece "Massa buy me" – sung by Roger Gibbs and choir – that generates goosebump moments. Reminding, painful, haunting and full of passion, we hear Gibbs' voice and meanwhile see the entire Newton Enslaved Burial Ground Memorial including the 570 wooden poles that tower imposingly for the remains of the 570 West African slaves found more immediately near the Newton Enslaved Burial Ground.

It is a story full of drama and traumatic past that Adjaye not only wants to keep alive, he also wants to manifest a new diasporic future for black civilization.

Already at the entrance to the site, the visitor's journey begins in a monolithic domed pavilion where information about history, burial grounds and the slave trade is presented. The architecture of the entire site creates an intentional spirit that reconciles earth and sky, water and land, the ancestors and the living, in this world and the next. We are sure an architectural highlight with such a message would make the experience even more immersive via a Virtual Reality tour.