



# Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: July 6, 2023

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>National 9-11 Pentagon Memorial Visitor Education Center</b> Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, Virginia	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 8472
	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 1.61(73.10)45690
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> Arlington National Cemetery Pentagon 9-11 Memorial Foundation	<b>APPLICANT'S REQUEST</b> Approval of comments on concept plans
<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Federal Projects in the Environs per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b> Approve comments on concept plans
	<b>ACTION ITEM TYPE</b> Staff Presentation

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

The Arlington National Cemetery, on behalf of the Pentagon Memorial Fund, has submitted for Commission comment a concept plan for a Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Visitors Center as part of the southern expansion of the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) in Arlington, Virginia. The Pentagon 9/11 Memorial opened in 2008 on the grounds of the Pentagon to honor the 184 lives lost during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The Pentagon Memorial Fund in coordination with the Department of the Army, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Virginia Department of Transportation has secured a 3.71-acre site that was previously an offramp from Washington Boulevard to Columbia Pike. The area roadways are currently being reconfigured as part of the Defense Access Road project and the Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion plan.

The Commission approved the Defense Access Road (DAR) project and the ANC Southern Expansion (ANCSE) in 2020. The DAR project realigned Columbia Pike, modified South Joyce Street, and minimized the Columbia Pike/Washington Boulevard (Route 27) interchange. The ANCSE plan increased the interment capacity of the Cemetery and included the site for the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Visitors Center, though no design details were included. The proposed concept design includes a new, two-story, 50,000-square-foot visitor education center on the north side of the site. South of the building is a 100-space parking lot and bus drop off area. The proposed building is designed into the topography and has two entrances, one facing the parking lot and bus drop off on the second floor the other entrance on the first floor that faces a pedestrian plaza and the path to the memorial at the Pentagon.

## KEY INFORMATION

- The terror attacks on September 11, 2001, included a plane that crashed into the Pentagon, killing 184 people. The Pentagon 9/11 Memorial opened in 2008 to honor the victims. The Pentagon 9/11 Memorial is the only one of the terror attack sites that does not have a visitor center.
  - Established in 1864, Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) is one of the oldest military cemeteries in the country. The Southern Expansion was approved to Arlington National Cemetery to increase the interment capacity of the cemetery by over 60,000 additional spaces.
  - The Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion and Defense Access Road projects realigned several roads and will create the space for the proposed site.
  - The applicant is proposing a two-story, 50,000-square-foot visitor education center for the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial.
  - The proposed building and site have been redesigned based on feedback from NCPC staff and the Commission of Fine Arts.
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## RECOMMENDATION

The Commission **Approves** the following **comments**:

**Notes** the applicant has coordinated closely with NCPC staff and CFA over the last year and has significantly improved the overall site layout since coordination began.

### *Site and Building Design*

**Supports** the overall site plan which locates the Visitor Center at the bottom of the hill closest to the memorial, emphasizing the building as the primary use of the site.

**Notes** that the applicant is proposing two building entrances, one at the bottom of the hill for visitors walking from the memorial, and one at the top of the hill fronting the parking lot and bus drop-off.

**Notes** that as proposed, the parking lot includes wide bus lanes/drop-off, visitor parking, and outdoor space for visitors referred to as a 'parking lot landing'.

**Recommends** the applicant continue to minimize the parking areas and differentiate these spaces, especially the areas dedicated to the visitor experience which are currently designed as part of the parking lot with no connection to the building and building yard.

**Notes** that the proposed design is conceptual and the applicant has stated they will make additional refinements to the building design based on NCPC and CFA reviews.

**Finds** that integrating the proposed building into the existing topography minimizes the height of the building and gives deference in scale to the Arlington National Cemetery.

**Finds** that the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial visitor experience will be improved with the addition of the Visitor Education Center's exhibits and amenities.

**Recommends** the applicant continue to refine the design of the building, and in particular:

- Re-evaluate the building entry and southwest building façade, with a focus on creating a sense of hierarchy and prominence that will help guide visitors.
- Consider avoiding literal design gestures, which may be inadvertently limiting and unnecessary given the purpose and setting of the museum.
- Demonstrate, through studies and renderings, how the building material palette will complement the established character of Arlington National Cemetery.

**Recommends** additional trees to provide shade and blend the site in with the existing tree canopy of Arlington National Cemetery.

#### *Transportation and Access*

**Notes** that the applicant has modified the overall design of the site and reduced the number of parking spaces since early staff coordination, however the 100 parking spaces are still the dominant use of the site.

**Requests** the applicant submit the rationale for the amount of visitor parking, differentiating between spaces for the museum and spaces for the conference rooms.

**Notes** that the site is not immediately adjacent to the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial and pedestrians will have to cross Columbia Pike, two on- or offramps, travel under Washington Boulevard, and cross a secured vehicle entrance to the Pentagon to access the Memorial from the Visitors Center.

**Requests** that the applicant coordinate with applicable local and federal transportation agencies to ensure the route between the Visitor Center to the Memorial prioritizes pedestrian safety over vehicular level of service.

**Requests** for preliminary review, the applicant share progress with the Commission regarding the proposed improvements for the route between the memorial and the new visitors center.

#### **PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE**

<b>Previous actions</b>	<b>November 2020</b> – Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion <b>June 2020</b> – Defense Access Road <b>July 2015</b> – Arlington National Cemetery Final Master Plan <b>December 2006</b> – Pentagon 9/11 Memorial
<b>Remaining actions</b> (anticipated)	– Preliminary/ Final approval

## PROJECT ANALYSIS

### Executive Summary

The Arlington National Cemetery on behalf of the Pentagon Memorial Fund, is proposing a new Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Visitor Education Center on a site approved as part of the southern expansion of the Cemetery. The 3.71-acre site includes a two-story, 50,000-square-foot building with exhibit and conference space and a 100-space parking lot. The proposed site is not immediately adjacent to the existing National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial and visitors will need to walk a short distance. The site location was included in the Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion plan which was approved by the Commission at the November 2020 Commission meeting. While the applicant has modified the design based on staff feedback, additional refinement will be necessary. Staff has reviewed the submission and recommends the Commission **approves the comments contained in this report.**

### Analysis

On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked airliners while in flight with the intent of crashing them into targets in New York City and Washington, D.C. One of those planes, Flight 77, crashed into the Pentagon, killing 184 people. Memorials have been constructed at each site effected by the 9/11 attacks including the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial (Memorial), dedicated in 2008, that honors the memory of the lives lost. Visitor Centers have been established in both New York City and Shanksville, Pennsylvania to provide educational exhibitions that tell the story of attacks at their respective locations. To help provide a better understanding of the events at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, the lives lost, and the historic significance of the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial Site, the Pentagon Memorial Fund (PMF) is proposing to construct the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial Visitor Education Center (VEC). The VEC will educate and remember the events of 9/11 at the Pentagon and provide logistical support for the existing 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.

As part of the Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion and the Defense Access Road projects, the east end of Columbia Pike will be realigned. The intersection at Columbia Pike and South Joyce Street and the interchange with Washington Boulevard will be modified. The reconfiguration of these roadways will create the site for the proposed project. The approximately 3.71-acre site is bounded by the realigned Columbia Pike to the north, South Joyce Street to the west, and Washington Boulevard to the east and south. The existing National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial is located on the other side of Washington Boulevard.

The applicant coordinated a prior version of the design with NCPC staff and presented it to the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). This proposal included a two-story building with a tall, prominent entry on the south side of the site, which is the tallest point. Leading out from the entrance was a large parking lot and bus drop off. Staff and the CFA made recommendations regarding the siting of the building to give deference to ANC, the overall design of the building and materials and the importance of providing a safe route to the Memorial. The applicant has modified the design significantly based on this feedback and staff recommends the Commission

**notes the applicant has coordinated closely with NCPC staff and CFA over the last year and has significantly improved the overall site layout since coordination began.**

The updated proposal shifts the building to the north end of the site. This change allows the building mass to nest into the slope of the site, creating a split-level entry condition, and reducing its prominence in the larger landscape. This location improves the overall impact of the building on ANC and important area views and staff recommends the Commission **finds that integrating the proposed building into the existing topography minimizes the height of the building and gives deference in scale to the Arlington National Cemetery and supports the overall site plan which locates the Visitor Center at the bottom of the hill closest to the memorial, emphasizing the building as the primary use of the site.**

The proposed parking lot has 100 spaces, which is less than the previous iteration, and has shifted to the south of the building. It's designed so visitors traveling by bus, car, or bike arrive via one of two right-in, right-out entrances to the site, one on South Joyce Street and the other on Columbia Pike. Staff recommends the Commission **notes that the applicant has modified the overall design of the site and reduced the number of parking spaces since early staff coordination, however the 100 parking spaces are still a dominant use of the site.** The two entries lead via a wide entry drive and bus drop off, to the parking lot. At the northern end of the parking lot is a 'parking lot landing' where the submission states "*Once parked, visitors are pointed to a small landing spot before crossing the entry drive and entering the building. A small collection of benches, stone paving, and shade trees serve as a beacon to lead visitors to the VEC entry.*" Staff recommends the Commission **notes that as proposed, the parking lot includes wide bus lanes/drop-off, visitor parking, and outdoor space for visitors referred to as a 'parking lot landing'.** The applicant has indicated that they would have added more parking on the site if the space allowed to accommodate the proposed building uses. Staff suggests the Commission **recommends the applicant continue to minimize the parking areas and differentiate these spaces, especially the areas dedicated to the visitor experience which are currently designed as part of the parking lot with no connection to the building and building yard and requests the applicant submit the rational for the amount of visitor parking, differentiating between spaces for the museum and spaces for the conference rooms.**

Across the wide entry drive to the north is the proposed Visitor Education Center building. The main entry facing the parking area is the second floor because the building is designed into the existing topography. Upon entering, visitors descend through a glazed atrium on axis with the Memorial via a staircase to the ground floor, to the main exhibit space. Staff suggest the Commission **notes that the applicant is proposing two building entrances, one at the bottom of the hill for visitors walking from the memorial, and one at the top of the hill fronting the parking lot and bus drop-off.**

The VEC will include exhibits and programs to engage visitors and educate the public as to the effects and broad impact of the tragedy from a variety of perspectives including details of the 184 individuals who lost their lives on 9/11, interpretive displays discussing the symbolism of the memorial design, permanent restrooms, shelter for visitors, a café, bookstore, and conference space. The intent of the exhibit gallery is to educate visitors on the events surrounding 9/11, personal stories honoring those lost at the Pentagon, the response from the United States and

partner countries in the days, weeks, and months to follow, and the design of the Memorial and its significance and meaning. Staff recommends the Commission **finds that the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial visitor experience will be improved with the addition of the Visitor Education Center's exhibits and amenities.** A multi-purpose conference center and education space is also proposed within the building, which will be used for both daytime conferences/meetings and evening special events.

After touring the exhibition, the visitor exits through the doors on the north façade and proceeds across the Columbia Pike crosswalk and under Washington Boulevard/Highway 27 to the Memorial itself. Staff recommends the Commission **notes that the site is not immediately adjacent to the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial and pedestrians will have to cross Columbia Pike, two on- or offramps, travel under Washington Boulevard, and cross a secured vehicle entrance to the Pentagon to access the Memorial from the Visitors Center.** Visitors traveling by foot can also enter the building from the Memorial-facing entrance on the first floor. Staff recommends the Commission **requests that the applicant coordinate with applicable local and federal transportation agencies to ensure the route between the Visitor Center to the Memorial prioritizes pedestrian safety over vehicular level of service.** In addition, staff suggests the Commission **requests for preliminary review, the applicant share progress with the Commission regarding the proposed improvements for the route between the memorial and the new visitors center.**

The proposed materials include precast concrete, glazing, and metal that is inspired by the character of ANC. The proposed massing of the building is broken down into a series of repeating 30-foot modules that when viewed in plan, are intended to reflect the repeating benches of the Memorial. The lobby module materials are transparent and intended to symbolize a “missing piece” that has been rebuilt, with its upward sloping butterfly roof reflective of the enduring message of hope and recovery arising from the bravery displayed on 9/11. The building's roof form, seen from the air, makes reference to Flight 77 in the form of two 7's. Staff suggests the Commission **notes that the proposed design is conceptual and the applicant has stated they will make additional refinements to the building design based on NCPC and CFA reviews and recommends the applicant continue to refine the design of the building, and in particular:**

- **Re-evaluate the building entry and southwest building façade, with a focus on creating a sense of hierarchy and prominence that will help guide visitors.**
- **Consider avoiding literal design gestures, which may be inadvertently limiting and unnecessary given the purpose and setting of the museum.**
- **Demonstrate, through studies and renderings, how the building material palette will complement the established character of Arlington National Cemetery.**

The proposed landscape design for the VEC site is intended to be sympathetic to its context and proximity to Arlington National Cemetery. The applicant has indicated that they created exterior places for people to gather, pause and reflect. Sidewalks will be installed around the perimeter of the site as well as through the site to promote safe pedestrian access and connection. Visitors arriving by bus, car, or bike will be directed to the parking lot. There are very few trees included on the east side of the site against the Washington Boulevard onramp and staff suggests that the

Commission recommends additional trees to provide shade and blend the site in with the existing tree canopy of Arlington National Cemetery.

## CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

### Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Staff finds that this project is not inconsistent with the relevant policies contained within the Urban Design, Transportation, Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, Visitors and Parks and Open Space Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.

Policies within the Visitors Element of the Comprehensive Plan support the proposal to improve memorial visitor experience with an interpretive education center and visitor amenities. These policies encourage the use of federal facilities by the public, the inclusion of visitor education and the development of facilities to help interpret important memorials.

### National Historic Preservation Act

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the ANC, as the site owner, initiated Section 106 review. The ANC has initiated consultation with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (DHR). As this project is located in the environs, NCPC does not have an independent Section 106 responsibility.

### National Environmental Policy Act

Pursuant to its responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act, the PMF, on behalf of ANC as the lead federal agency, is preparing an Environmental Assessment to consider the project's effects on environmental resources. As this project is located in the environs, NCPC does not have an independent NEPA responsibility.

## CONSULTATION

### U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts included this project on its April 21, 2022 agenda for concept review of a prior version of the design. At that meeting, the Commission “...*observed that the proposed building would be an expressive object calling attention to itself, which is not appropriate for its context and purpose; they advised that the facility should be a quiet, background building that honors and extends the design language of the cemetery.*” The Commission provided the following comments on the updated design at the June 15, 2023 Commission meeting “...*recommends the applicant revise the literal elements of the design and ensure the design looks less like an industrial or commercial building and more like it's context*”. The full letters from CFA are attached to this report.

**ONLINE REFERENCE**

The following supporting documents for this project are available online at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov):

- Submission Package
- Commission of Fine Arts Letters

Prepared by Jamie Herr  
06/13/2023

**POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)**



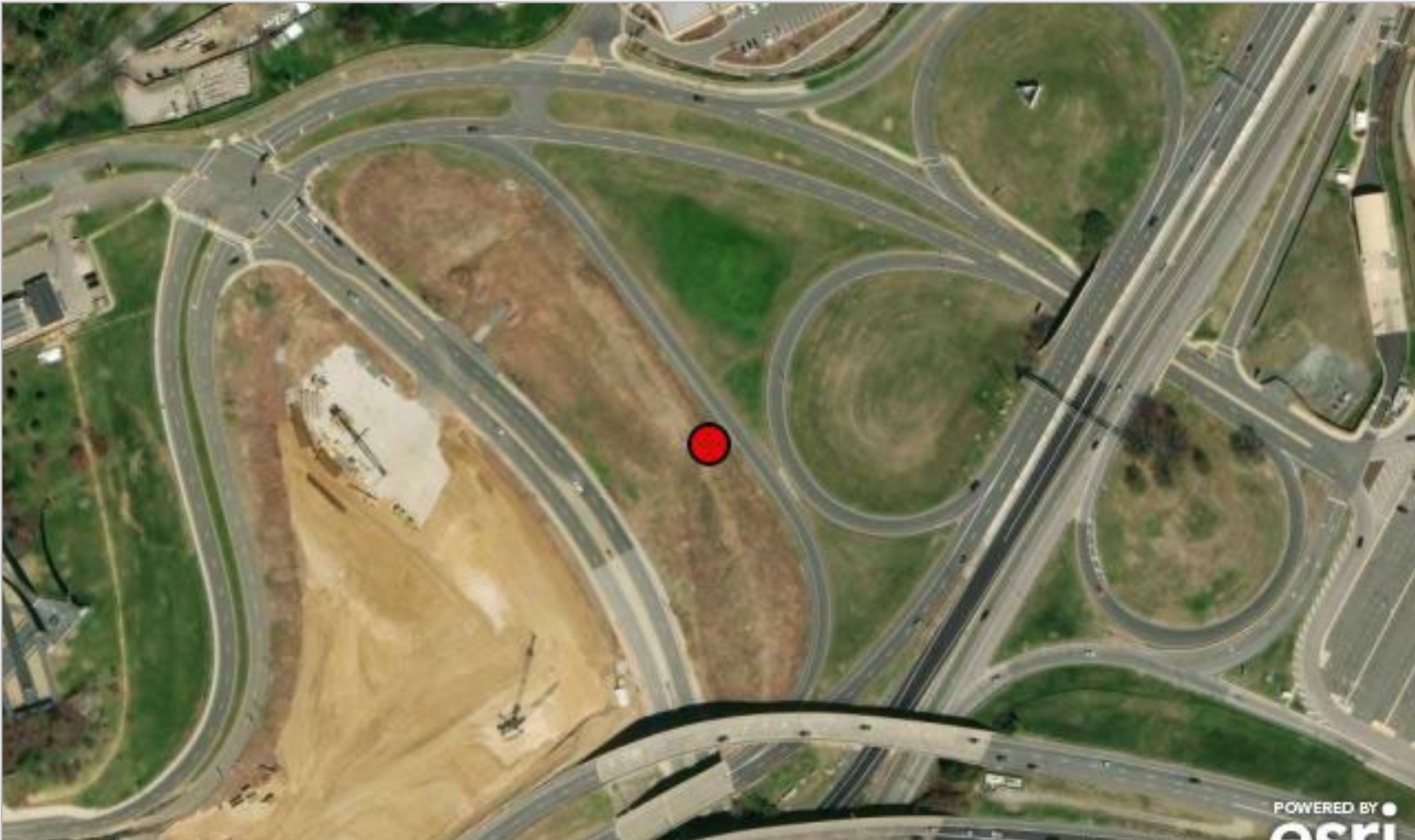
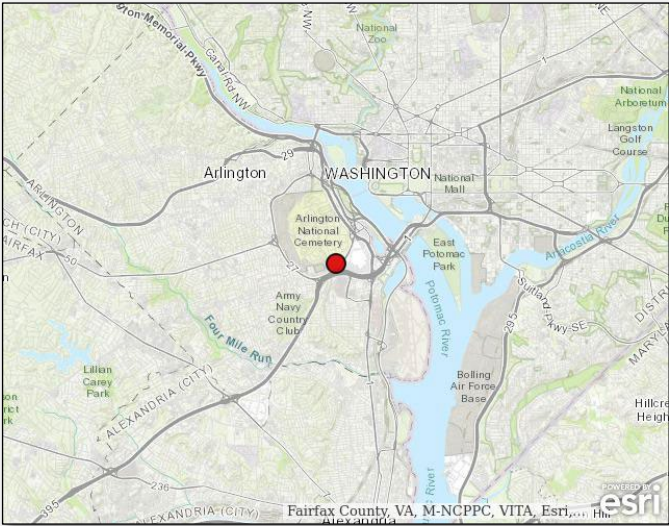
# 9-11 Pentagon Memorial Visitor Education Center

Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia

Approval of Comments on Concept Plans

Arlington National Cemetery

# Site Location



Location Map

# Concept Review Site and Building Improvements:

- Is the project appropriate for the site given the site's context?
- Are there particularly unique and or complex issues associated with the project?
- Are there relevant stakeholders that should be involved?

# Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Visitor Center Context

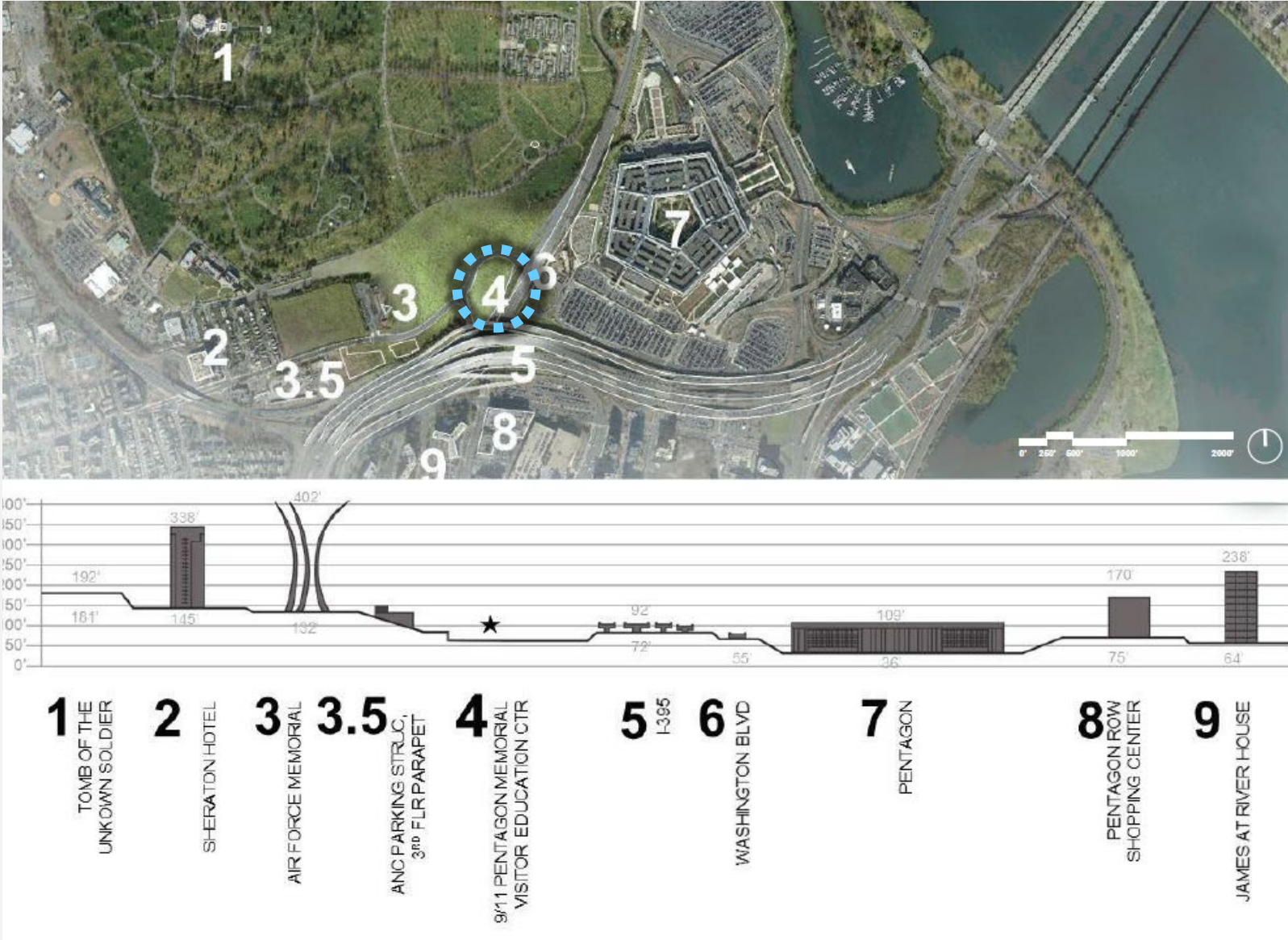


# Site Location From Arlington National Cemetery Master Plan

## SOUTHERN EXPANSION



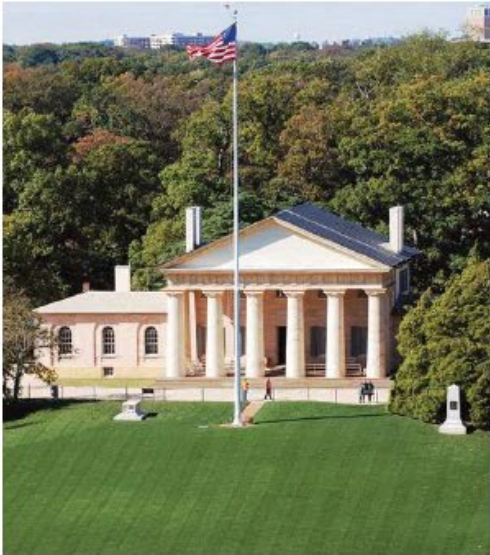
# Elevation Variation Adjacent to Site



# Design Inspiration ANC



# Design Inspiration ANC

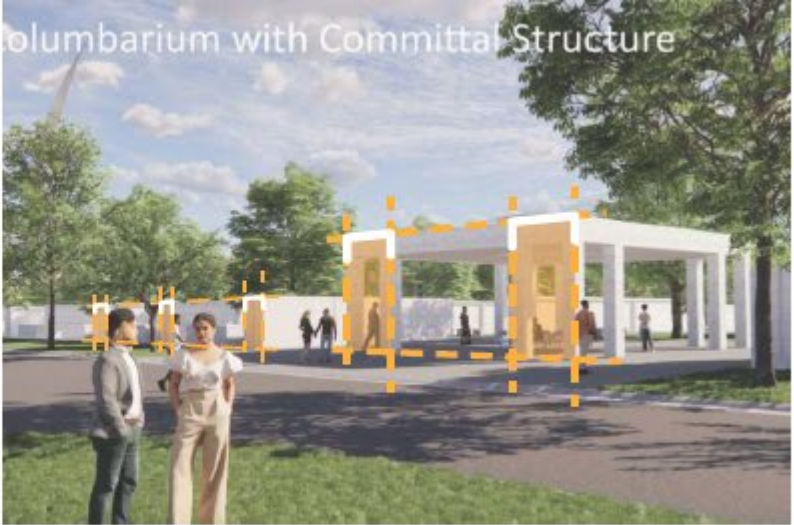




# Design Inspiration ANC



# Design Inspiration ANC



# Design Inspiration Pentagon 9/11 Memorial



# Design Inspiration Existing Memorial Visitor Centers



9/11 MEMORIAL + MUSEUM  
NYC, USA - Michael Arad/Peter Walker, Snøhetta/Davis Brody Bond

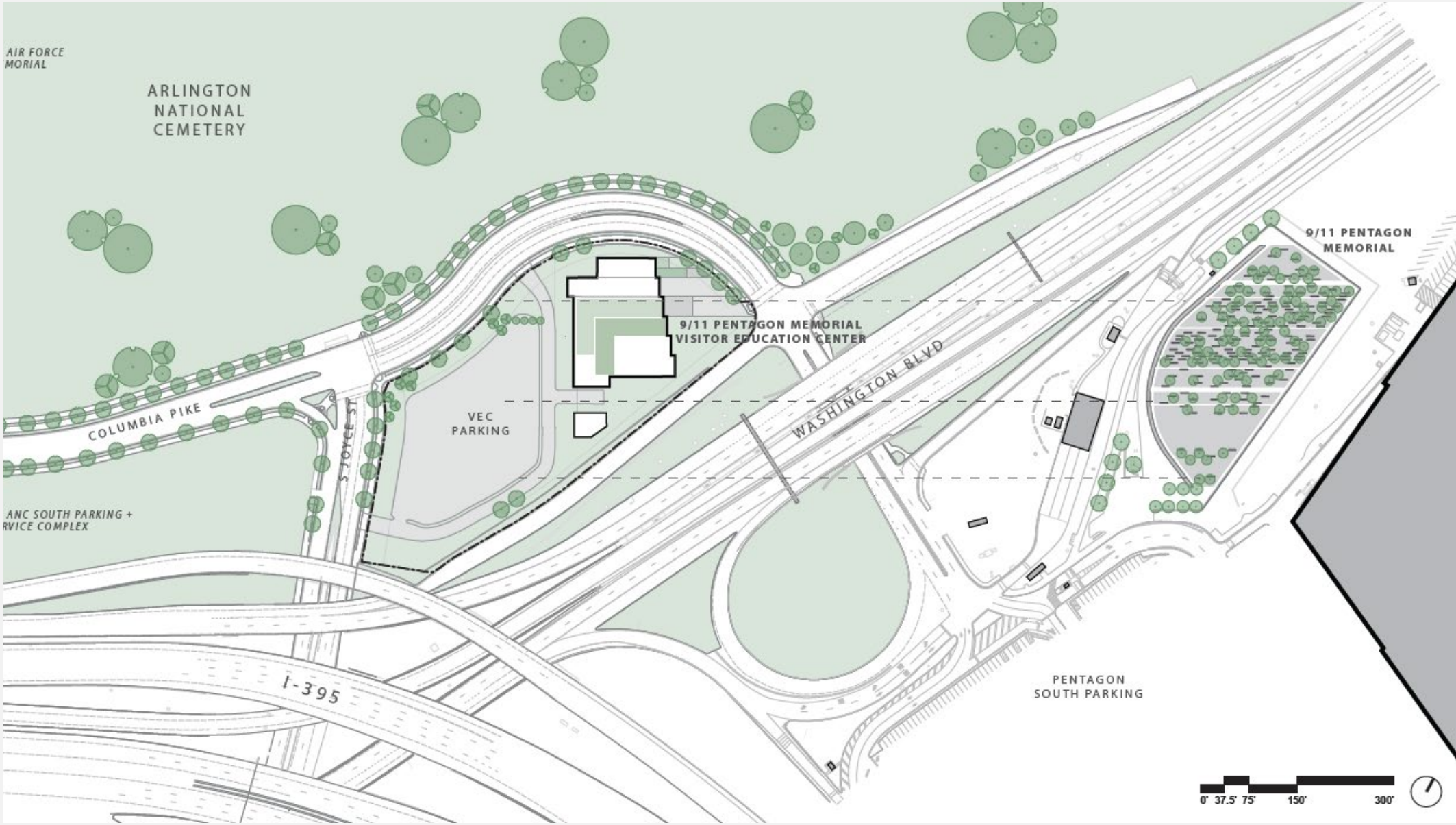


FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL  
Shanksville, PA, USA - Paul Murdoch/Nelson Byrd Woltz



NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY VISITOR CENTER  
Colleville-Sur-Mer, France - SmithGroup

# Proposed Site Plan

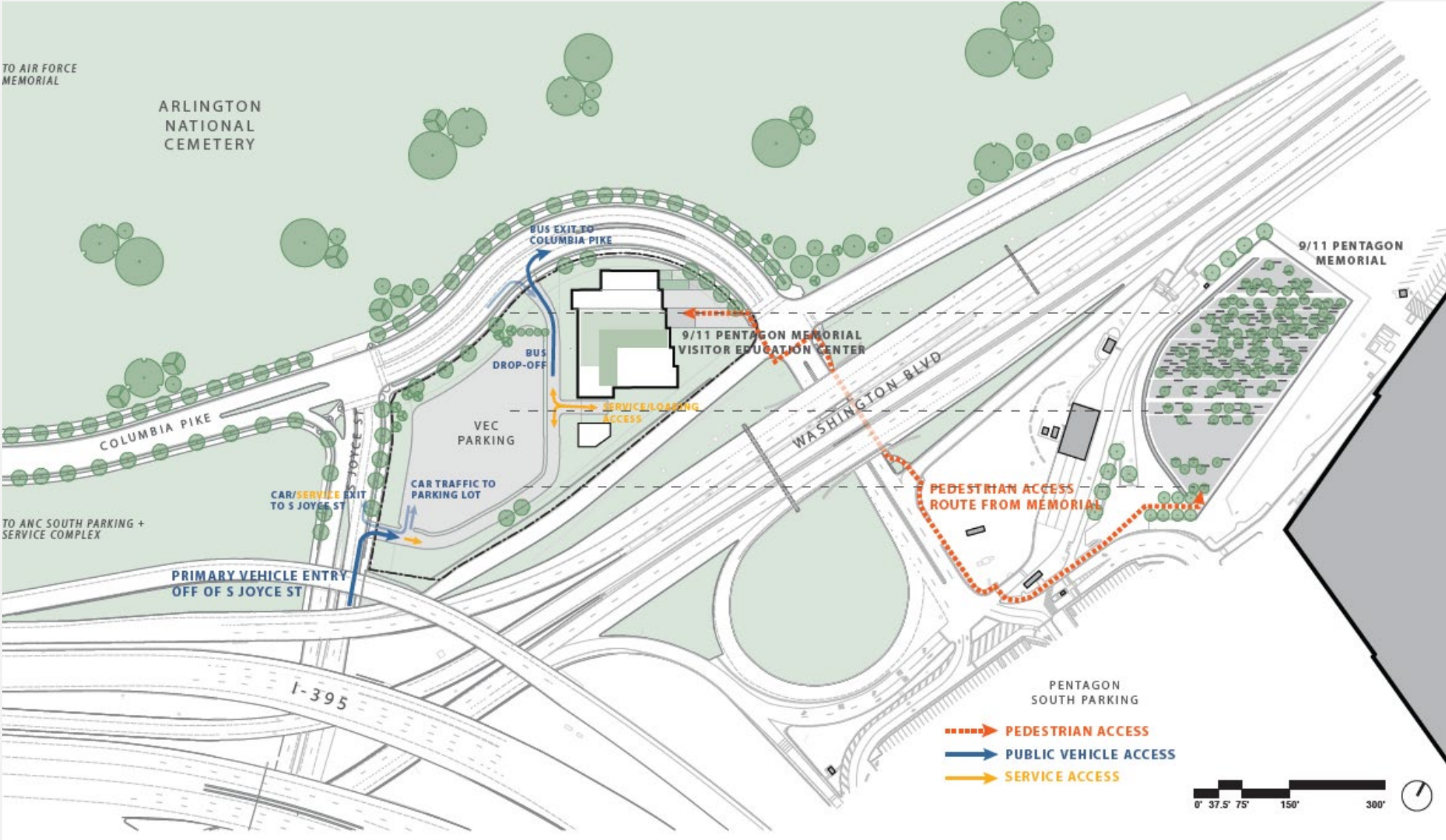


# Proposed Plan

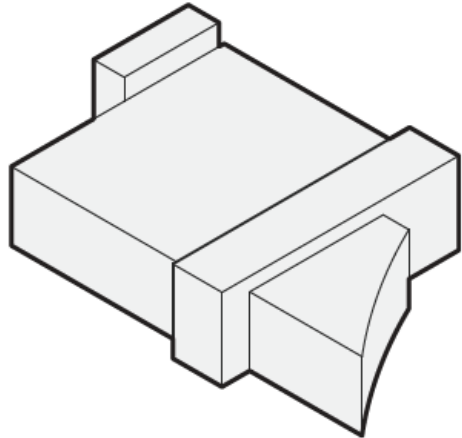


Building: 50,000 sq. ft.  
Parking: 100 spaces

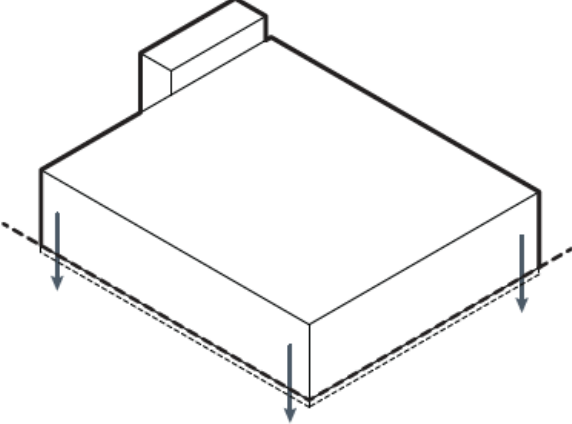
# Proposed Plan Vehicular and Pedestrian Access



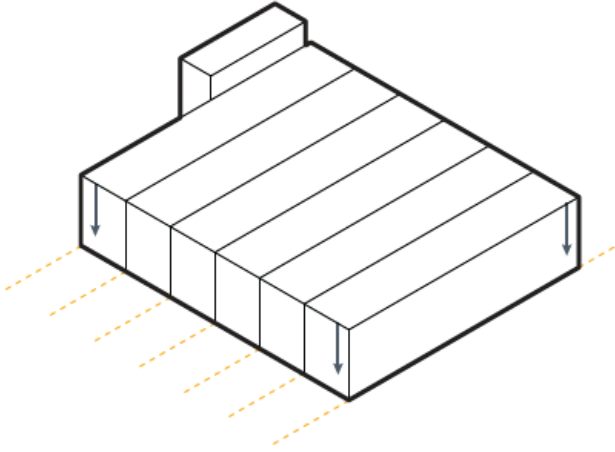
# Building Design Progression



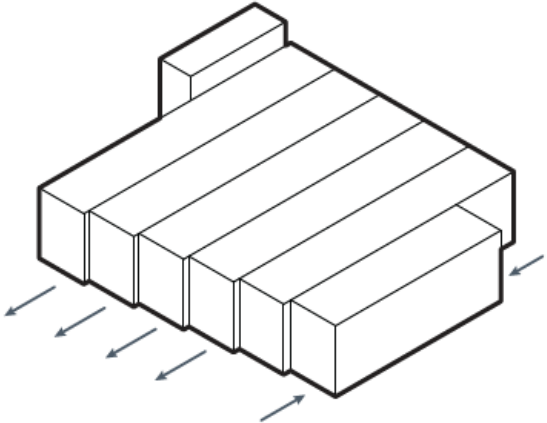
01. PRIOR BUILDING MASSING



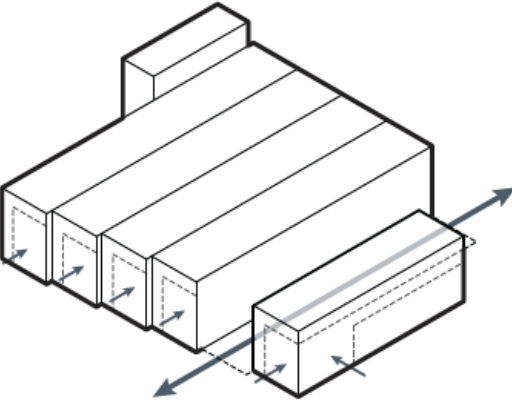
02. SIMPLIFY BUILDING FOOTPRINT  
SINK BUILDING 4' INTO GROUND



03. SEGMENT INTO 30' BAYS  
REMOVE 3' FROM FLOOR-TO-FLOORS



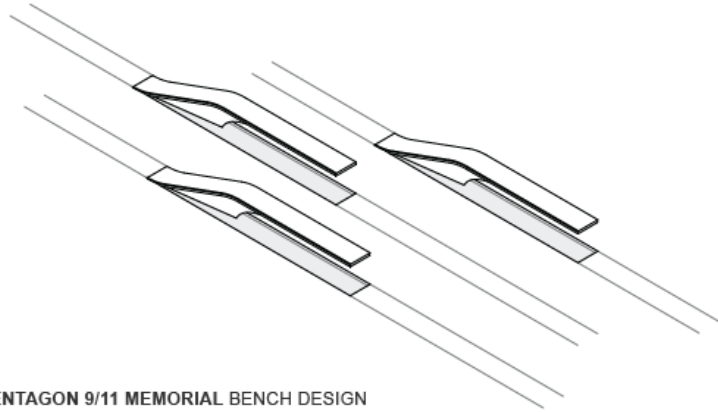
04. STEP FORWARD/BACK TO MODULATE FACADE



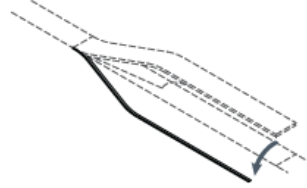
05. SUBTRACT FROM SOLIDITY BY INTRODUCING  
OPENINGS (REGULAR AND IRREGULAR)



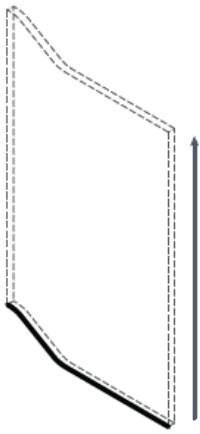
# Proposed Building Design Inspiration



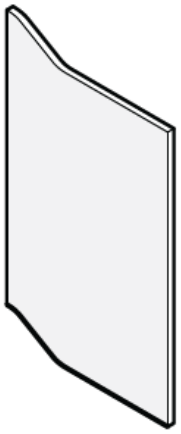
01. PENTAGON 9/11 MEMORIAL BENCH DESIGN



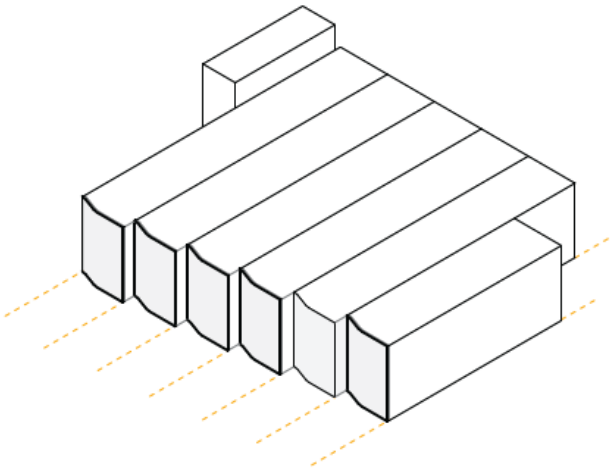
02. ROTATE BENCH PROFILE TO GROUND PLANE



03. SCALE TO 30' MODULE  
EXTRUDE TO PARAPET HEIGHT

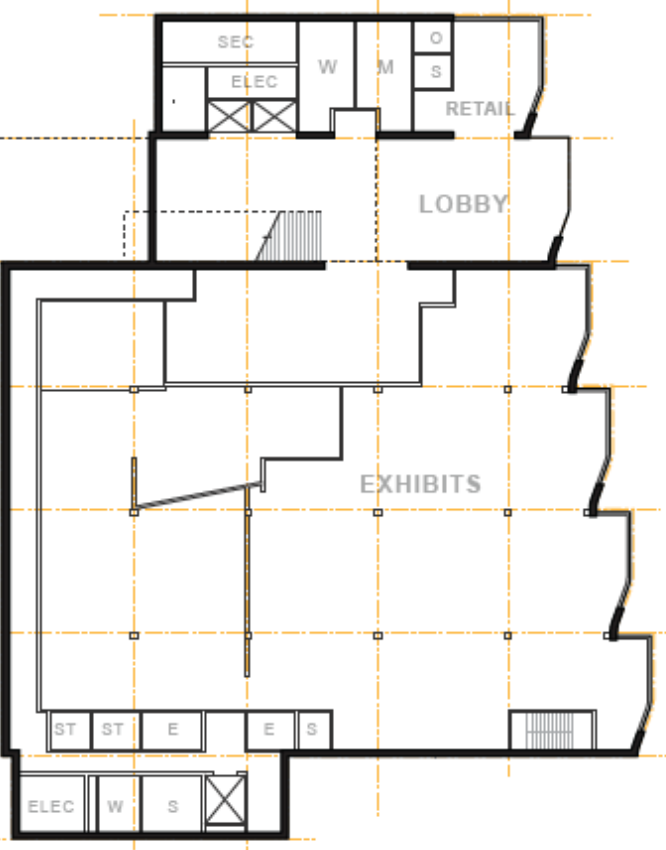


04. FORM WALL PANEL

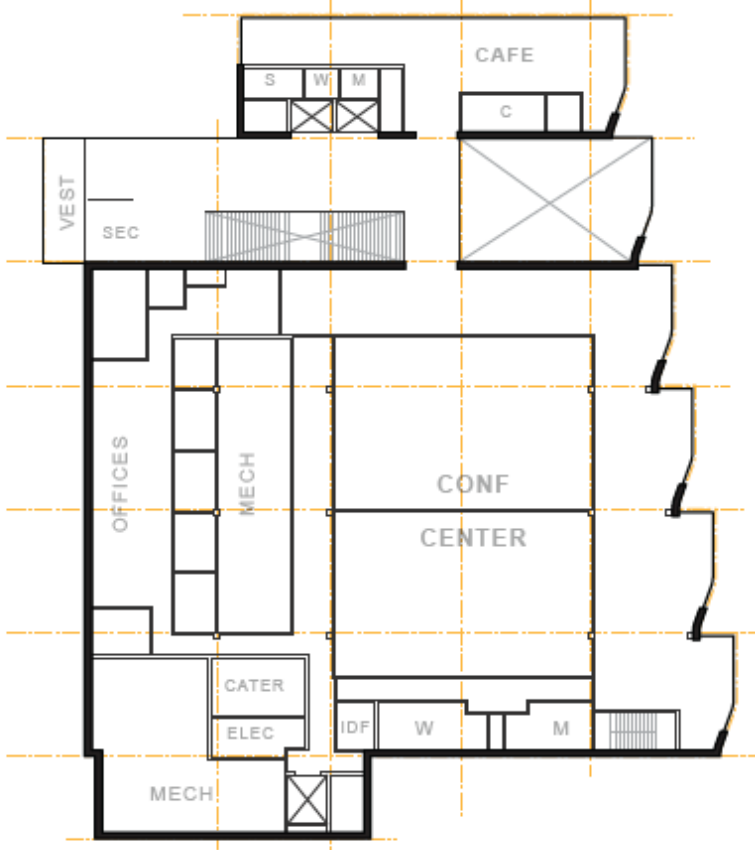


05. AGGREGATE TO CREATE MODULATED FACADE

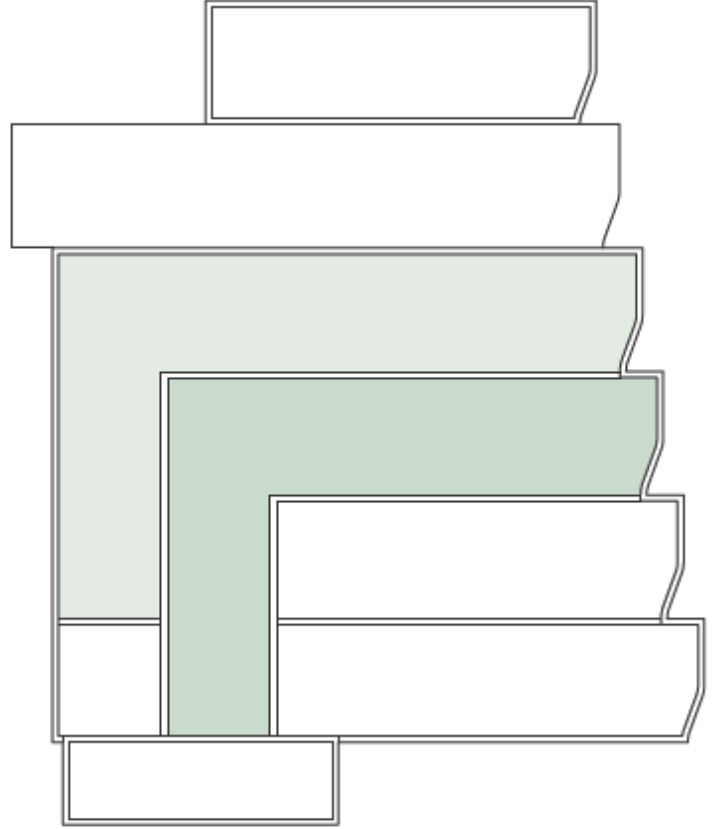
# Proposed Building Layout



PLAN: FIRST FLOOR



PLAN: SECOND FLOOR



PLAN: ROOF

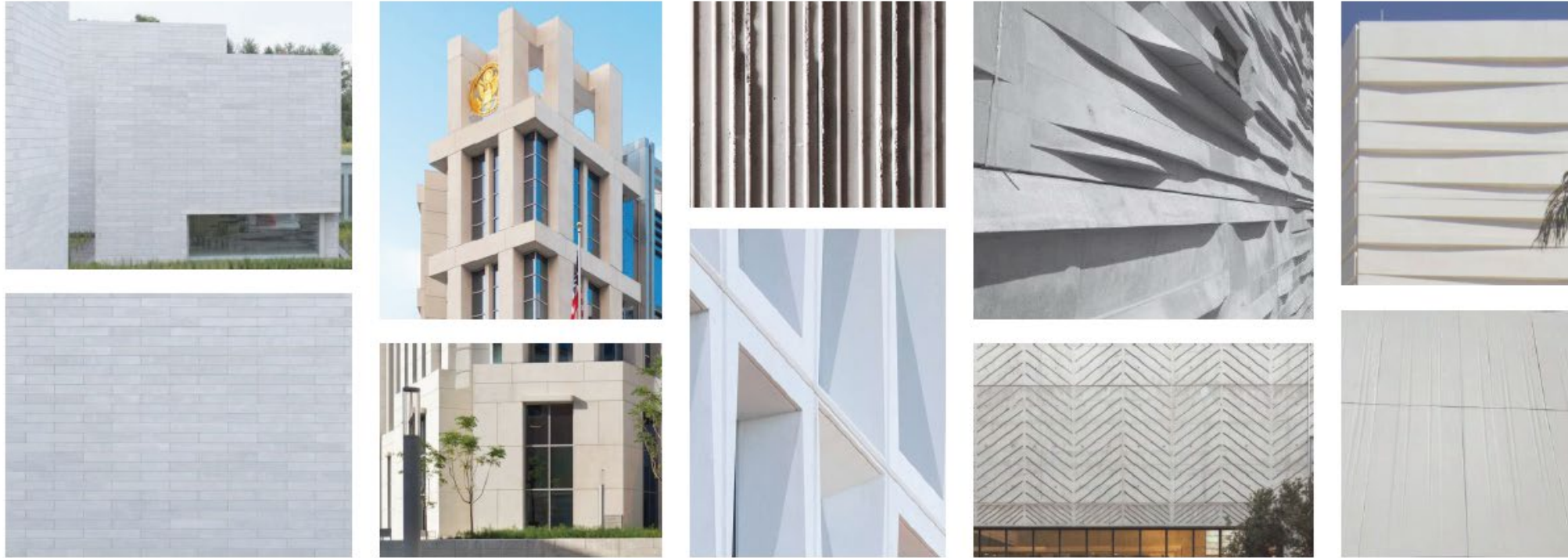
# Proposed Site Section



# Proposed Building Finishes



PALE PRECAST FINISHES  
As-cast, Sandblasted, Acid-etched, Exposed Aggregate



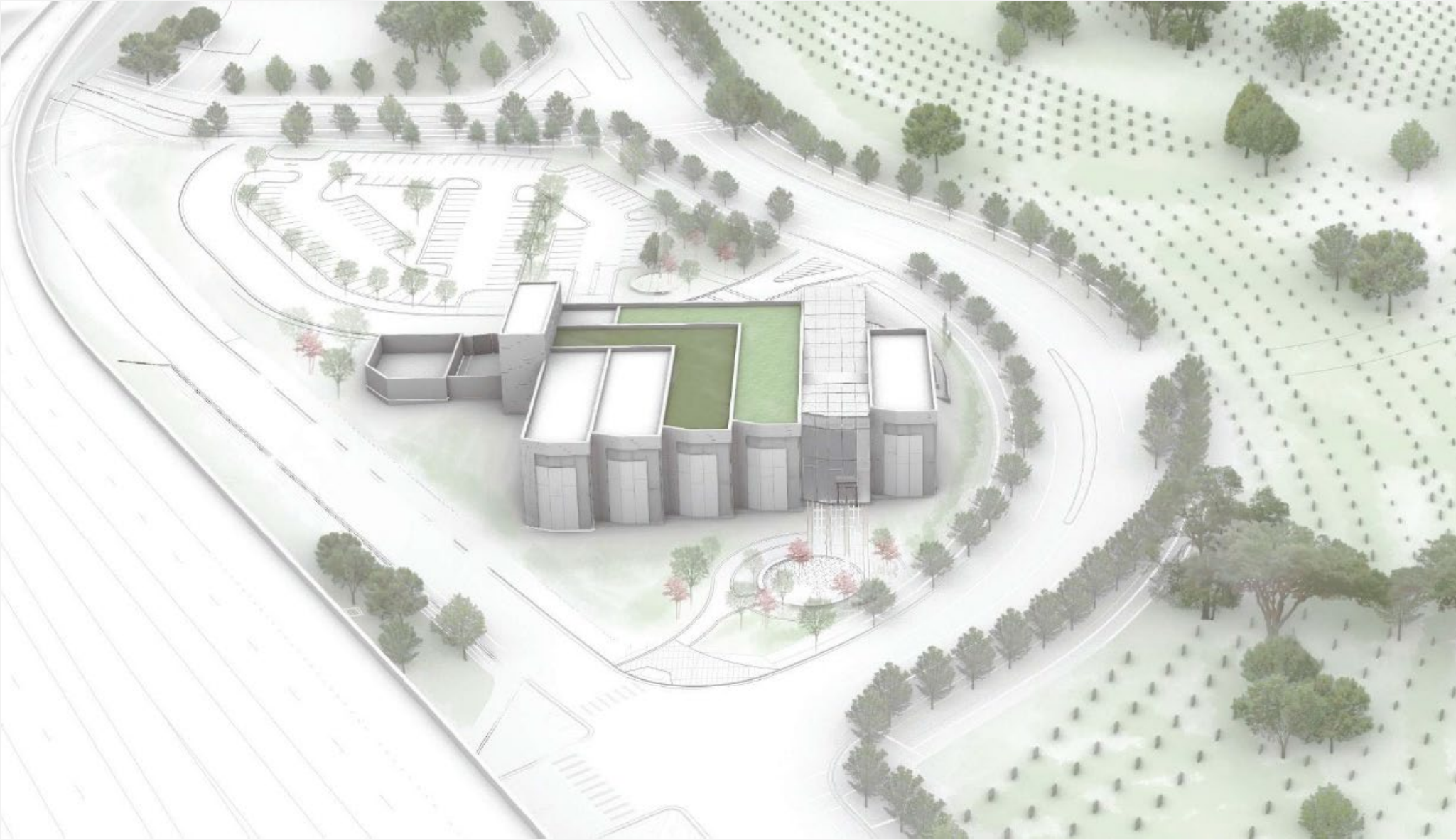
# Proposed Building Finishes



GLAZING: Vision + "Shadow Box"  
Control Transparency (to Support Interior Program)



# Proposed Building Rendering



# Proposed Building Rendering



# Proposed Building Rendering





# Proposed Building Rendering



# Proposed Entry Plaza Rendering



# Proposed Vehicular Entry Rendering



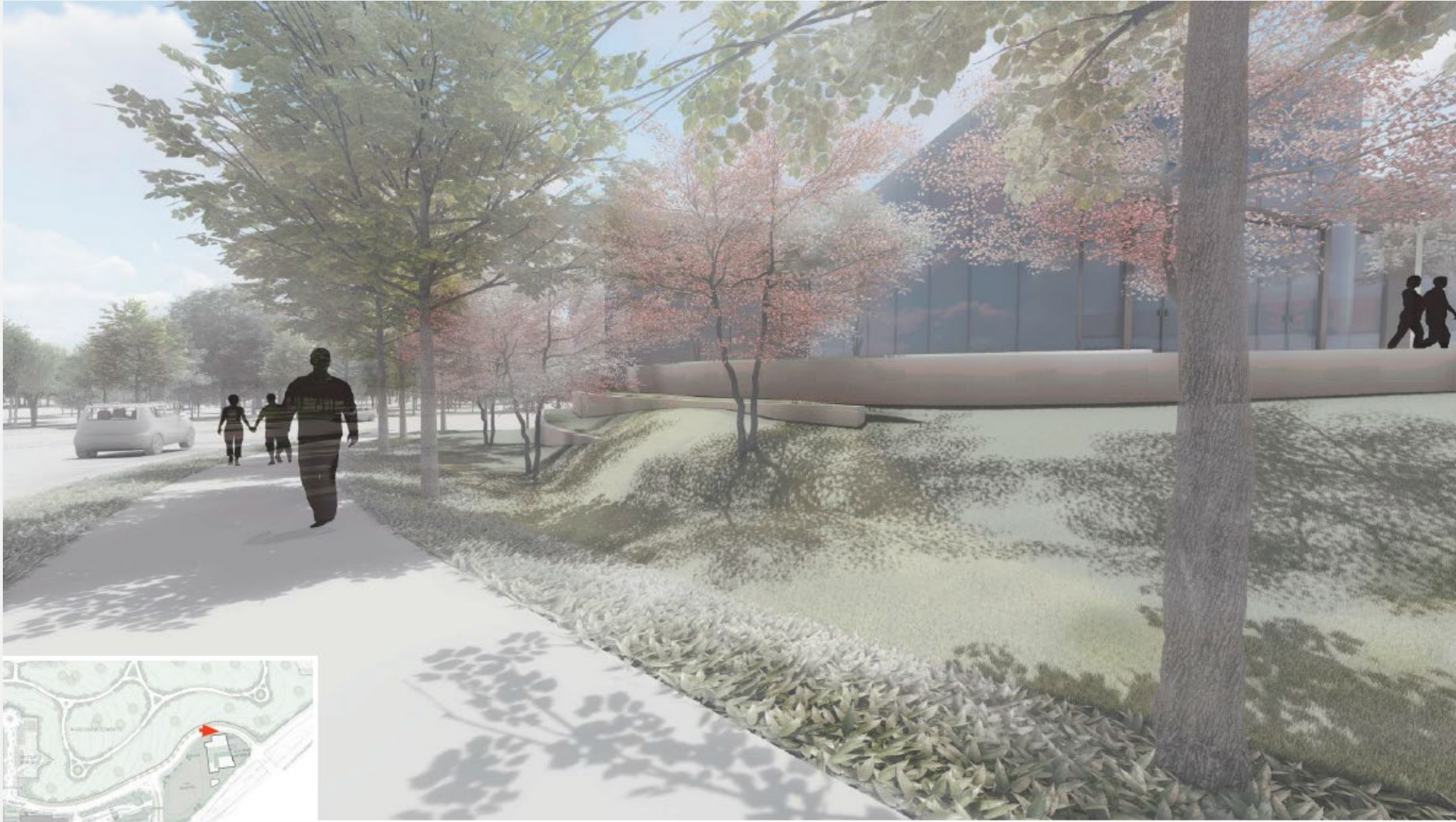
# Proposed Vehicular Entry Rendering



# Proposed Vehicular Entry Rendering



# Proposed Site Rendering



# Proposed Entry Plaza Rendering

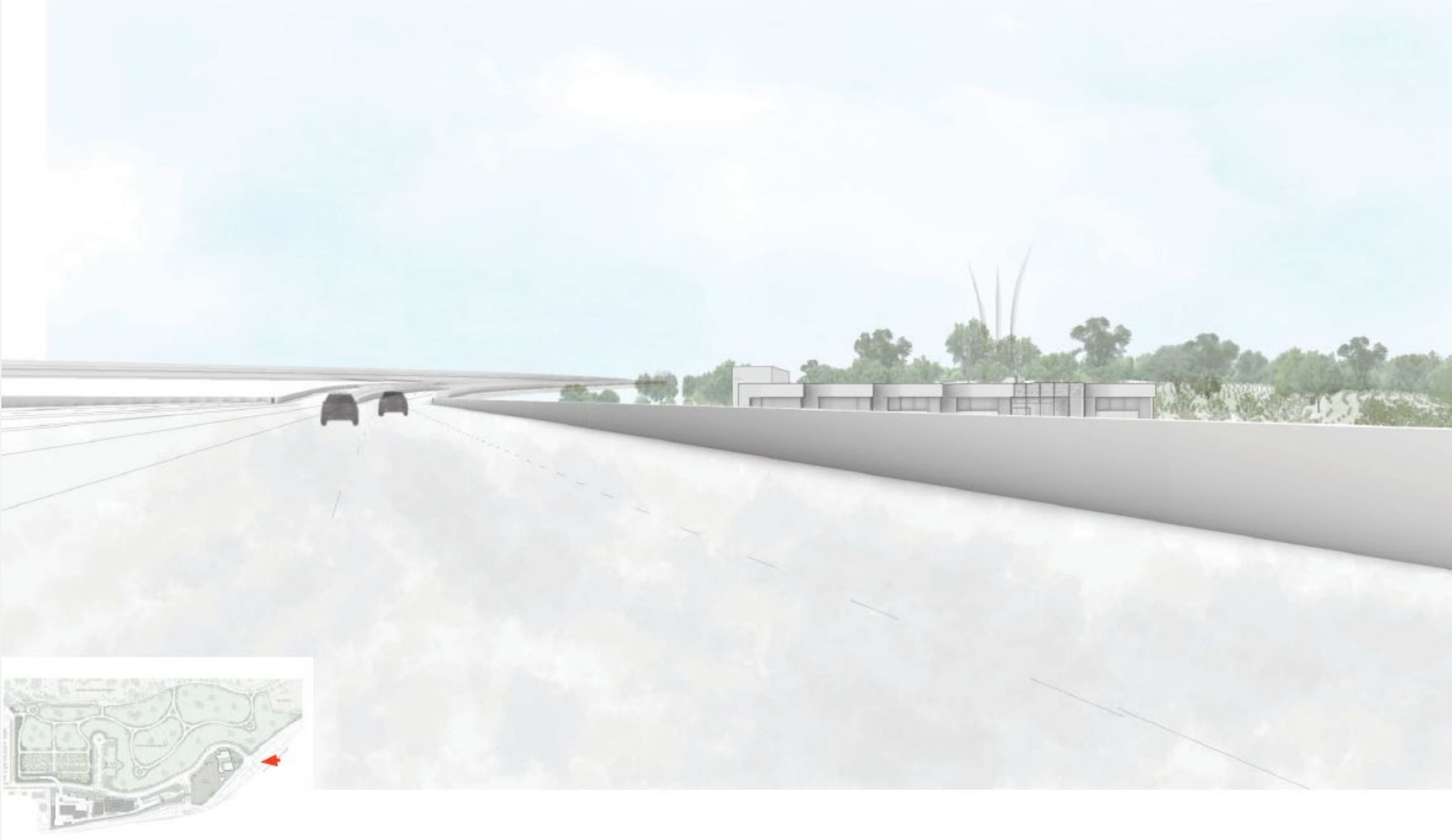


# Proposed Entry Plaza Rendering





# Proposed Building View from Washington Blvd



# Letter

29 April 2022

Dear Col. Austin:

In its public meeting of 21 April conducted by videoconference, the Commission of Fine Arts was pleased to hear an information presentation on the proposed 9/11 Pentagon Memorial Visitor Education Center, to be located along a reconfigured segment of Columbia Pike at South Joyce Street in Arlington, Virginia, on a parcel within the jurisdiction of Arlington National Cemetery. The Commission appreciated the early opportunity to advise on the development of this prominent site and provided the following comments to assist in the development of the project's design.

The Commission members observed that Arlington National Cemetery is one of the nation's most significant and hallowed landscapes, and they were unanimous in raising serious concerns about the impact of the proposed visitor center on the cemetery's character and dignity. They observed that the proposed building would be an expressive object calling attention to itself, which is not appropriate for its context and purpose; they advised that the facility should be a quiet, background building that honors and extends the design language of the cemetery. Citing the precedent images showing the cemetery's beautiful architecture, both traditional and contemporary, they found that the proposed design does not convey the same sense of quality and permanence.

In their discussion, the Commission members identified several factors that are contributing to their concerns with the proposal. They commented that the architecture seems to be generated by site constraints, such as security setbacks and traffic management, rather than emerging from a conceptual idea. They observed that the linear path of Flight 77 is being used to organize the building, as it does the actual Pentagon Memorial; they found that this design strategy has resulted in a tall element intruding upon the flight path—which is central to the understanding and experience of the memorial—and is in conflict with the program's inward focus of exhibit, auditorium, and educational spaces. They also identified an uneasy relationship between the building and the sacred landscape of the active cemetery, which would serve as the viewshed for the proposed building's retail, food service, and event spaces. Instead, they recommended that the building be lowered, with significant portions below grade, reducing the project's visual impact and better accommodating extensive program areas where daylighting is problematic; they suggested that skylights and sunken courts could be used to punctuate interior spaces.

For the design of the site, the Commission members commented that the planning is overly focused on private vehicles; they observed that many visitors will be schoolchildren arriving by bus, but the added program of a conference center exaggerates the necessity for an extensive parking lot, which may be vacant much of the time. In addition, they raised concern regarding the comfort of the outdoor pedestrian experience, recommending more shade and spatial definition with trees in areas of pedestrian arrival and passage through the site. Noting the thirty-foot drop of topography across the site, they suggested using this to inform the landscape design consistent with the fluid spirit of the adjacent cemetery, facilitating barrier-free access and lowering the building to reduce its presence in the landscape.

The Commission looks forward to further consultation on this project to provide interpretation for the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial within the extraordinary symbolic context of Arlington National Cemetery. Please continue to coordinate with the staff in the preparation of future submissions and throughout the planning and design process.

Sincerely,

/s/Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA  
Secretary

Col. Thomas E. Austin, Director of Engineering  
Arlington National Cemetery  
Arlington, VA 22211

cc: Brian Chaffee, Fentress Architects  
Chris Sutterfield, Confluence  
Jim Laychak, Pentagon Memorial Fund

# U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

401 F STREET NW SUITE 312 WASHINGTON DC 20001-2728 202-504-2200 FAX 202-504-2195 WWW.CFA.GOV

23 June 2023

Dear Col. Austin:

In its public meeting of 15 June conducted by videoconference, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a concept submission for the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial Visitor Education Center, to be located along a reconfigured segment of Columbia Pike at South Joyce Street in Arlington, Virginia, on a parcel within the jurisdiction of Arlington National Cemetery. The Commission expressed appreciation for the thoroughness of the presentation and the responsiveness to its previous advice but did not take an action, raising concerns about the proposed building design and providing the following comments.

The Commission members endorsed the revision of the site plan to locate the new visitor education center toward the eastern side of the parcel, which lowers its elevation and places it significantly closer to the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, allowing for the progression of visitors from their vehicles through the building and to the memorial itself. They observed that the lower elevation and reduced height will significantly lessen the visual impact of this visitor and conference facility on the honorific landscape of Arlington National Cemetery.

Regarding the architectural design, the Commission members expressed concern that the hierarchy, proportions, and materials of the proposed building convey a commercial or industrial character inappropriate for the dignified context of the cemetery, the memorial, and the Pentagon. They questioned the use of the profile of the memorial's benches as a primary rationale for the facade design, which has resulted in unnecessary complexity; they also discouraged the graphic expression of the digits of Flight 77 as a generating motif for the elevations and roof. In addition, they raised concerns about the articulation of the entrances, which they said are ambiguous in their relation to the other bays and awkward in their design. In conclusion, they recommended elevating the building's architectural character by simplifying the design generally, with less reliance on graphic motifs; using higher-quality, more durable materials; strengthening the progression of pedestrian passage through the building and its architectural articulation; and refining the site design, including the integration of security and parking into the landscape design, in order to contribute to the visitor experience.

The Commission members look forward to further review of this important project within the commemorative landscape of the national capital. For the development of the design, please continue to consult with the staff which, as always, is available to assist you.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA  
Secretary

Col. Thomas E. Austin, Director of Engineering  
Arlington National Cemetery  
Arlington, VA 22211

cc: Steve White, Fentress Architects  
Chris Sutterfield, Confluence  
Jim Laychak, Pentagon Memorial Fund