

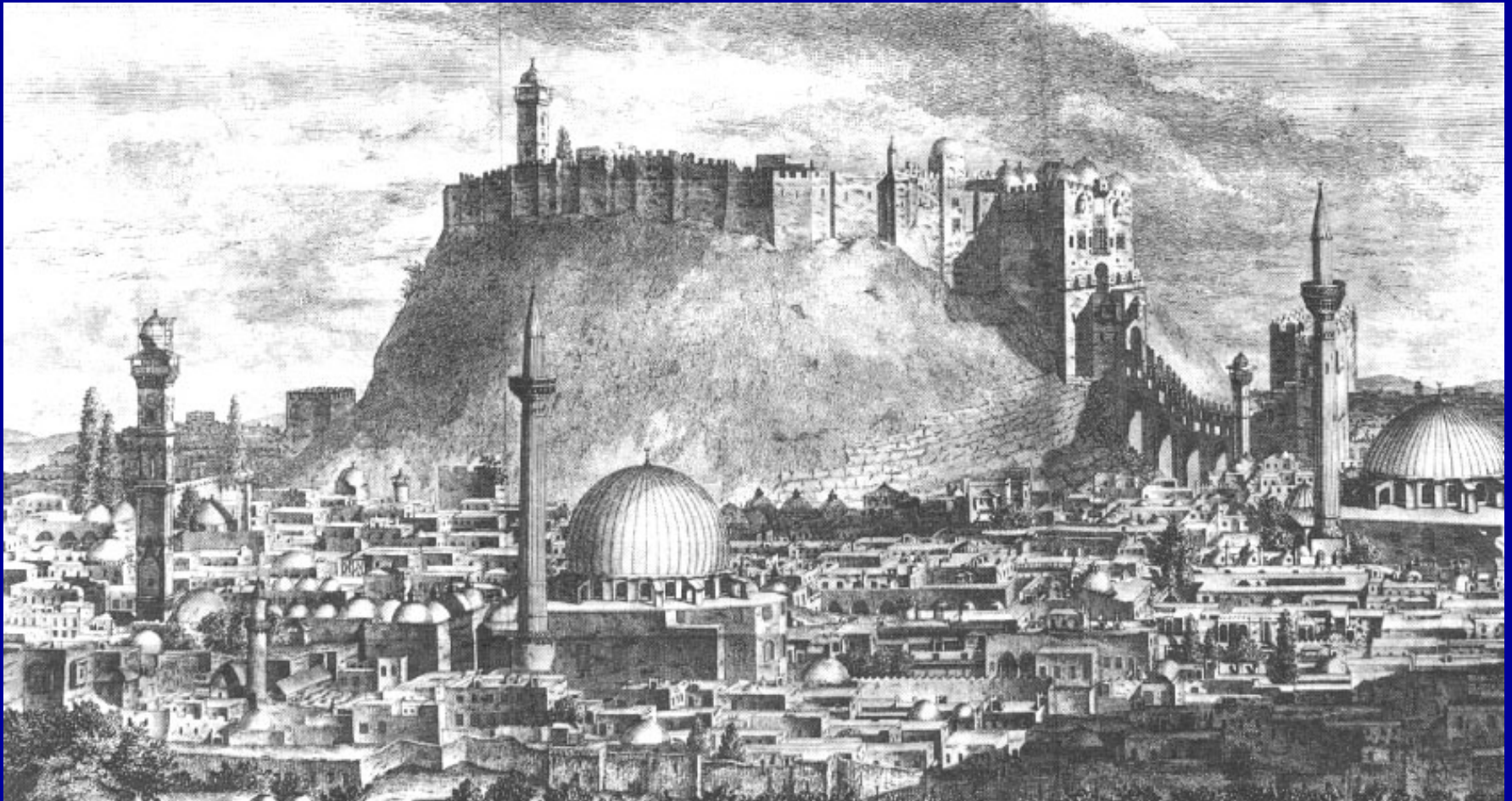
The Secure City

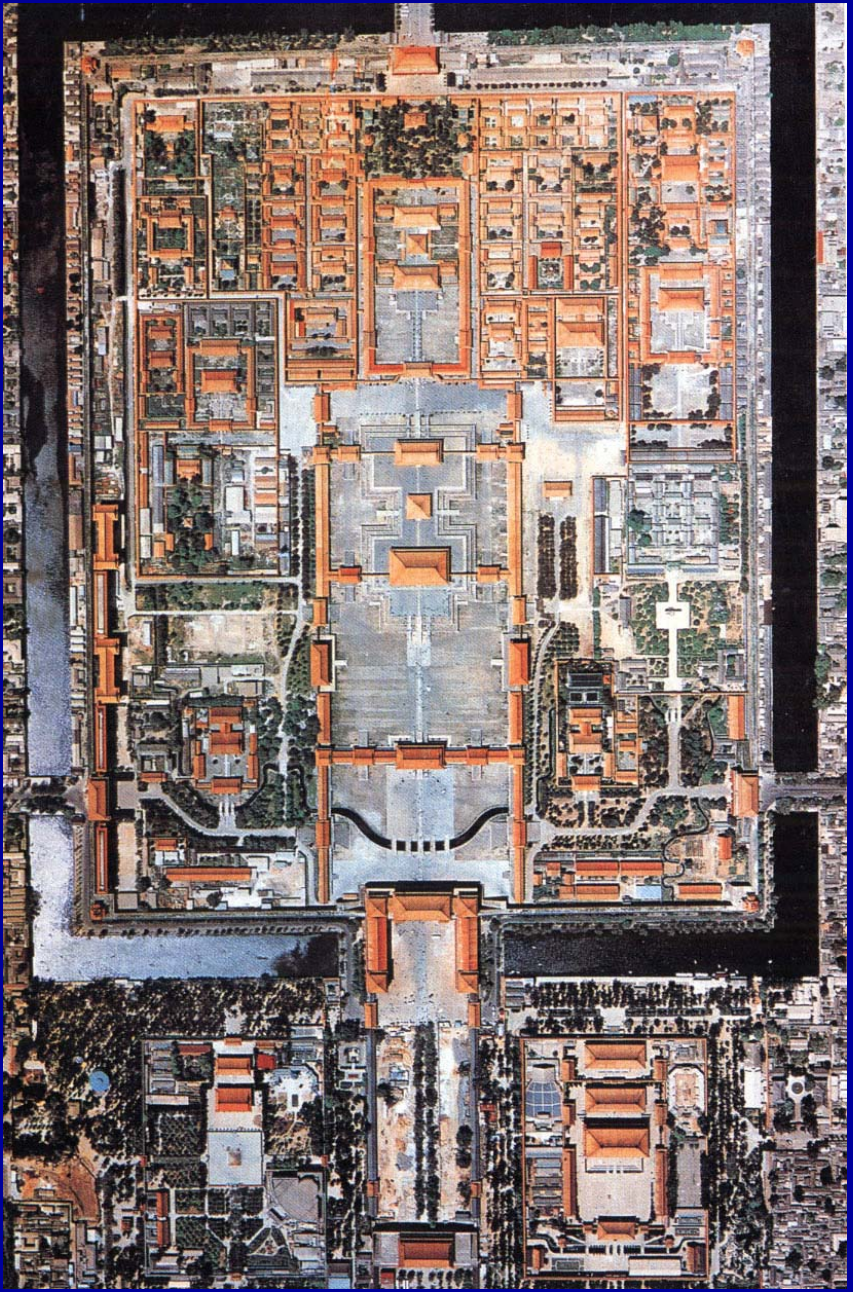
- How have our perceptions of public space changed in the last decade?
- Is privatized space gaining ground at the expense of the public realm?
- Does it matter?

The Secure City

- **The Fortress City**
- **Gated Communities**
- **“Secure” Urban Public Spaces**

The Fortress City













Gated Communities

More than 7 million households — about 6% of the national total — are in developments behind walls and fences. About 4 million of that total are in communities where access is controlled by gates, entry codes, key cards or security guards.

Homeowners in gated communities live in upscale and mostly white developments. But renters, who are more ethnically diverse and less affluent, are nearly 2-1/2 times as likely as homeowners to live behind gates or walls.

Whether they own or rent, Hispanics are more likely to live in such communities than whites or blacks. That may be partly because there is a large Hispanic population in the West and Southwest, areas with the largest concentration of gated communities.

Gated Communities

Affluent African-American homeowners are less likely to live in gated communities than whites and Hispanics, even in metro areas such as Atlanta and Washington, D.C., which have a large black middle class. Experts theorize that after centuries of exclusion, blacks may be reluctant to embrace such a lifestyle or to live in predominantly white developments.

Source: Analysis of the Census Bureau's 2001 American Housing Survey, a sampling of 62,000 households that is representative of the nation's 119 million households, Virginia Tech Metropolitan Institute



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- and so on...













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Secure Urban Public Space

- Defensible space
- CCTV Surveillance
- Adhoc security measures
- National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan (10/02)
- “Secure” landscape design and urban design

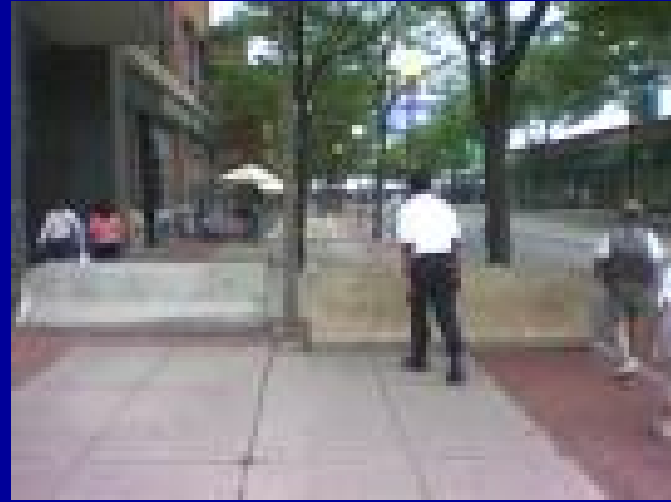
Defensible Space

The Institute for Community Design Analysis

The Institute for Community Design Analysis, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation which, for the past 25 years, has developed and applied a technology that uses the physical restructuring of housing projects and residential communities to reduce crime and improve stability. The basis of this restructuring is the subdivision of previously public areas of projects and streets and their re-assignment to the control of neighboring residents. This reassignment includes both exterior areas (grounds, streets, parking lots, play areas) and the interiors of multi-family buildings (lobbies, stairs, corridors, elevators, laundry rooms, etc.). This technology is called "Defensible Space" and has proven to have long-term effectiveness at low cost.



Adhoc Security Measures



"Americans will overreact to the destruction of the twin towers by barricading public spaces that form centers of community and symbolize American openness and optimism."

- Chicago Tribune architecture critic Blair Kamin



How to visit

Since September 2001, the interior of the building, including the 60th floor observatory, has been closed to the public.



Danger
Security spikes
Do not climb
you risk injury

National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan

The *Plan* was motivated by:

providing appropriate levels of perimeter security;

providing a seamless system of components that enhance the public realm and provide security;

expanding the palette of elements that can provide perimeter security;

and giving priority to achieving aesthetic continuity along streets.

The *Plan* includes:

A summary of the building perimeter security considerations that influence the conceptual streetscape designs proposed in the *Plan*.

Streetscape design concepts that incorporate security components. These conceptual designs illustrate how an array of landscape treatments and street furniture may be applied within various areas of the *Plan* and are not intended as final designs.

A proposal to initiate the Circulator transportation system; develop a comprehensive parking program, including possible secure, centralized facilities; and undertake a set of comprehensive traffic and parking studies to evaluate impacts and develop strategies for mitigating and improving the overall condition.

An implementation strategy for design, construction, funding, maintenance, and operations. The implementation program will ensure that work is completed according to the design intent and that improvements are maintained.

The National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan



Illustration: Michael McCann

Washington, DC is admired throughout the world for the sweep and grace of its historic streetscapes and open public spaces. Today, however, guard huts define the National Mall, rows of concrete planters encircle our public buildings and temporary barriers block Pennsylvania Avenue. These and other fortifications have become familiar features in the Washington landscape, and since September 11, 2001 their number has increased alarmingly. They communicate fear and retrenchment and undermine the basic premises of an open and democratic society.

The National Capital Planning Commission has prepared *The National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan* that proposes solutions to seamlessly integrate building perimeter security into the historic urban fabric of Washington's Monumental Core. While enhancing security installations, the Plan creates a more welcoming and beautiful public realm. The Plan demonstrates that good urban design and good security can go hand in hand.

West End

Originally planned, although never fully executed as an enclave of federal buildings, the area west of the White House contains monumental and historic buildings such as the Department of the Interior and the Department of State. The architecture projects the image of an established federal presence, and impressive institutional buildings, such as the Federal Reserve and the American Red Cross, further contribute to the precinct's historic character. The streetscape designs proposed for the West End reinforce the green, campus-like setting of the area.

Security designs include low retaining walls and decorative fences composed of a variety of elements such as granite pillars, seats and benches, as well as bollards and shrubbery.

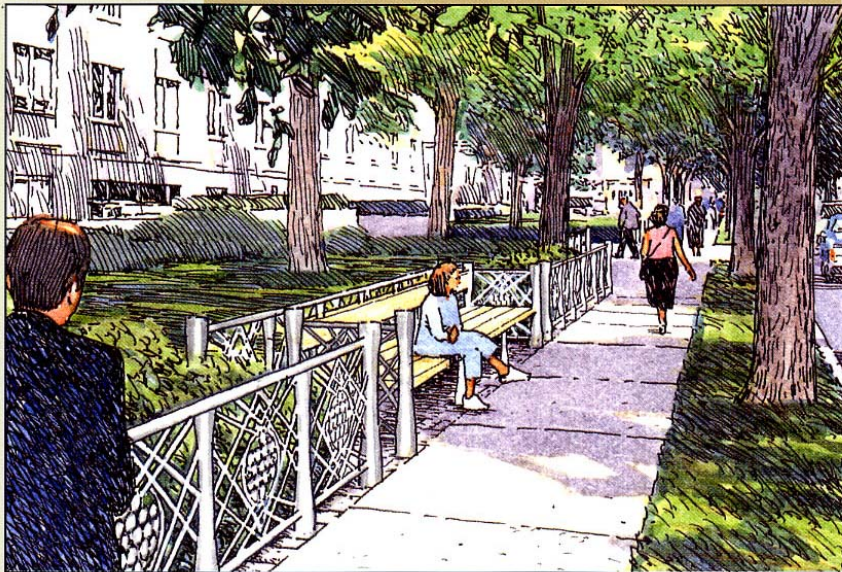
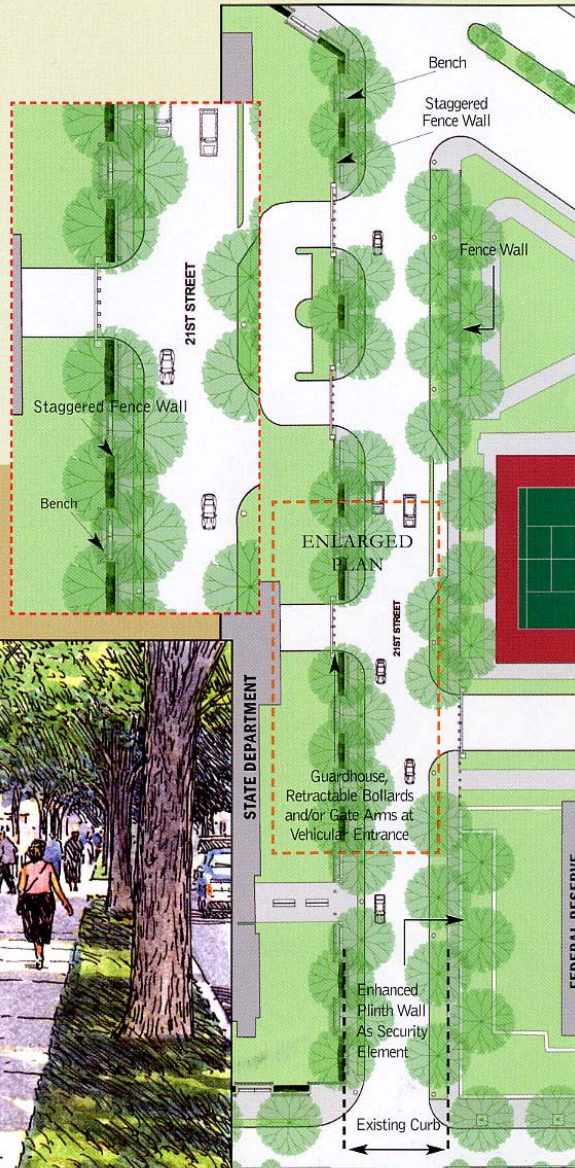
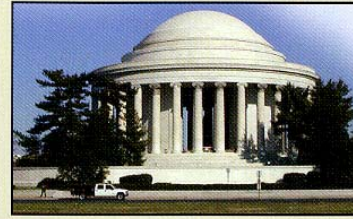


Illustration: Christopher Grubbs

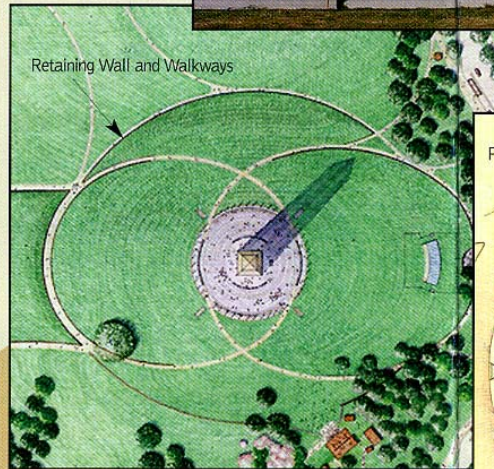


Washington, Lincoln & Jefferson

As three of the most widely recognized icons in American civic life, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials have special security needs. All three are surrounded by sweeping expanses of lawn that provide ample space for low stone walls, planters, and landscape elements that respect their setting.

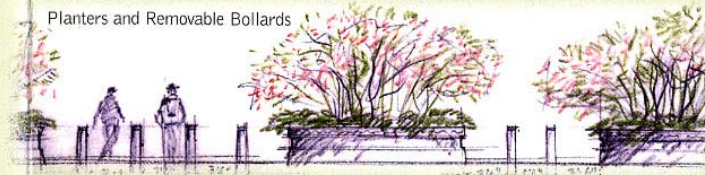
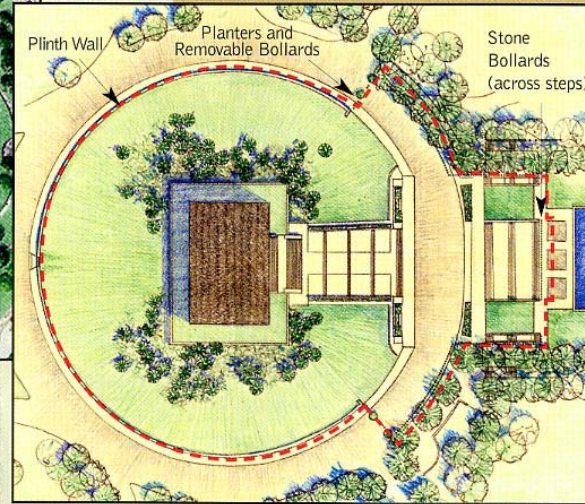


Existing temporary security measures



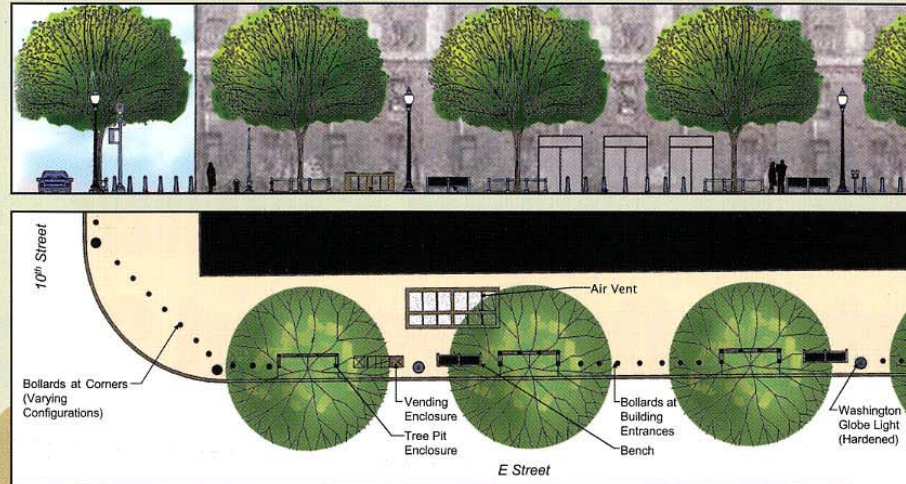
The National Park Service has developed a concept plan for perimeter security improvements for the Washington Monument. The existing walkways around the monument would be reconfigured as a series of partial ovals incorporating retaining walls extending east and west from the monument plaza.

At the Lincoln Memorial a low wall will enclose the mound on which the memorial sits. Retractable bollards allow limited access to the circular roadway and benches and bollards permit easy pedestrian movement between the memorial and the Mall.



Downtown

Downtown Washington is one area where federal facilities coexist with private buildings. Since only a few of the federal buildings are likely to require perimeter security, such components may be needed on only a few blocks or a portion of a block. The design maintains a unified streetscape appearance around both public and private buildings and conforms to the existing standards established by the City and the Downtown Business Improvement District. It also hardens streetscape elements only where required and avoids unnecessary clutter of security elements.



A hierarchy of streetscape security design relates to Downtown diagonal avenues and grid streets. In general, security elements can be incorporated into the landscaping along the broad diagonal avenues. Security along grid streets, with their narrower sidewalks, would include hardened street lighting, benches, bicycle racks, and tree fence enclosures.

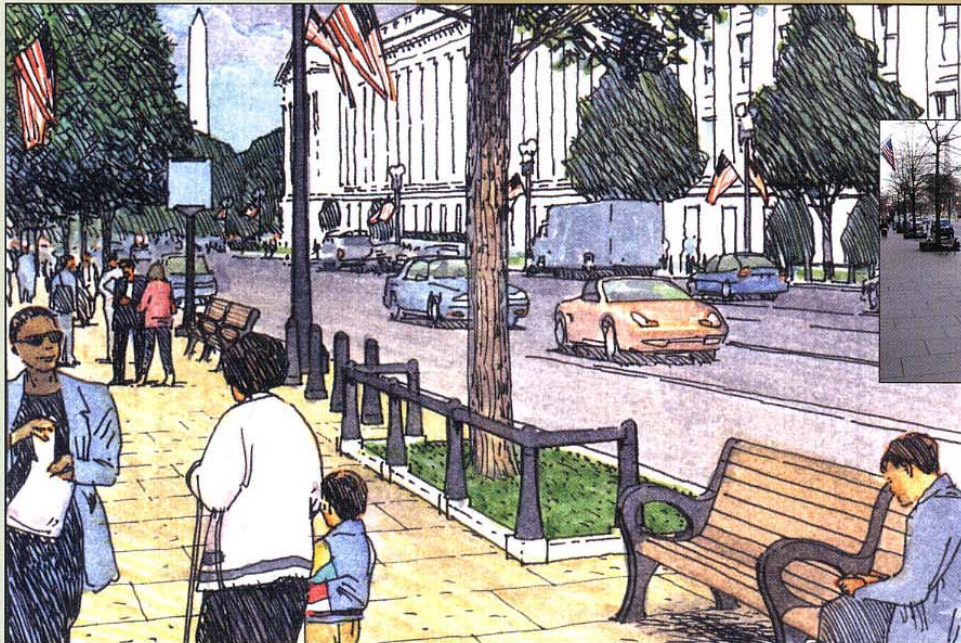
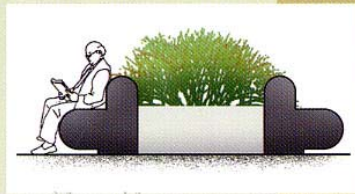


Illustration: Christopher Grambs



Southwest Federal Center

Transformed in the 1960s by federal and private office development, the Southwest Federal Center lacks the urban design coherence and integrity of other parts of Washington's Monumental Core. Many of the precinct's large modern buildings are set back from the street on plazas, and raised roadways and parking ramps detract from the overall pedestrian experience. Well-designed security installations can help bring visual continuity and enhance the urban character of this precinct.



Along the 10th Street Promenade would be large round and linear planters that incorporate seating and provide curbside security. The extensive use of plantings and landscaping helps to soften the appearance of the precinct.

Security design incorporates a combination of seat planters and hardened benches at the curb of a widened sidewalk. Street trees are maintained and the overall design helps reduce the scale of the street, slows traffic, and improves the pedestrian environment.

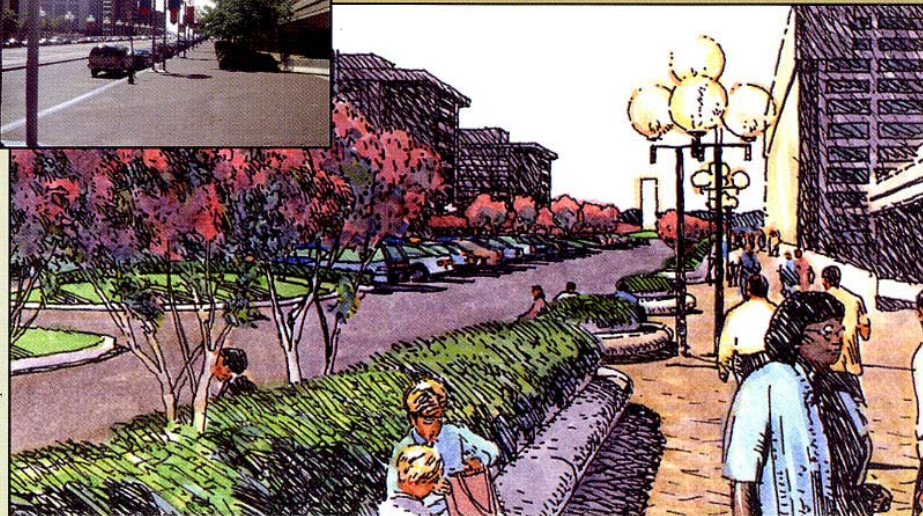
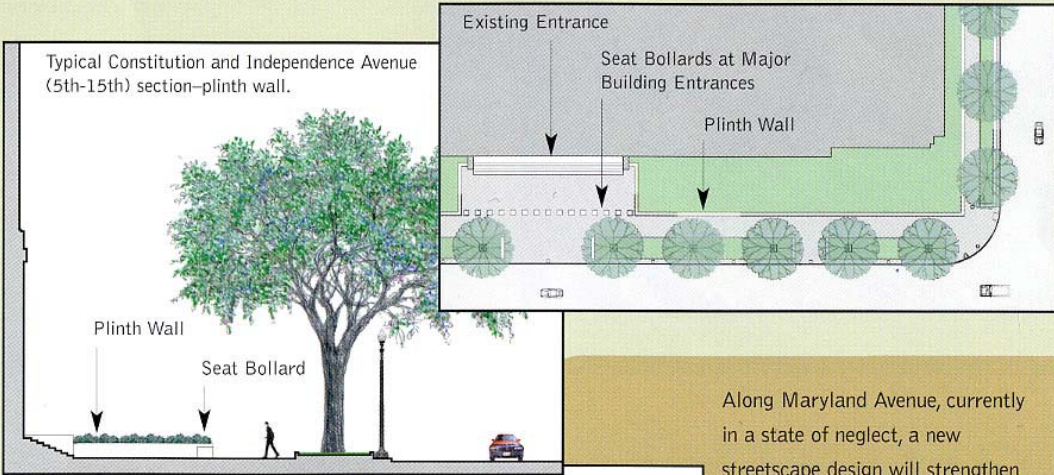


Illustration: Christopher Grubbs

Constitution, Independence, and Maryland Avenues

Along with Pennsylvania Avenue, Constitution, Independence and Maryland Avenues are the most significant ceremonial streets in Washington's Monumental Core. Constitution and Independence frame the National Mall and are key arteries for cross-town traffic. Landscaped stone plinth walls, part of the existing streetscape along portions of these two avenues, can be extended to improve security, offer shady seating areas, and unify the appearance of these two significant but very different thoroughfares.



Along Maryland Avenue, currently in a state of neglect, a new streetscape design will strengthen the prominence of this historic L'Enfant street. In the design solution here, the appearance of bollards placed between a double alley of street trees will be softened by significant plantings within the tree beds.

Illustration: Christopher Grubbs



Pennsylvania Avenue

Built in the 1970s, the existing streetscape along Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the U.S. Capitol has withstood the test of time. Today, the mature trees, abundant landscaping, and street furniture are worthy of the Avenue's role as "America's Main Street." *The National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan* proposes to install custom-designed hardened street furniture in the spirit of the existing elements and add new components as necessary, all aligned within the row of willow oaks along the street. Meeting new security requirements offers the opportunity to refurbish the Avenue and bring consistency to its entire length.

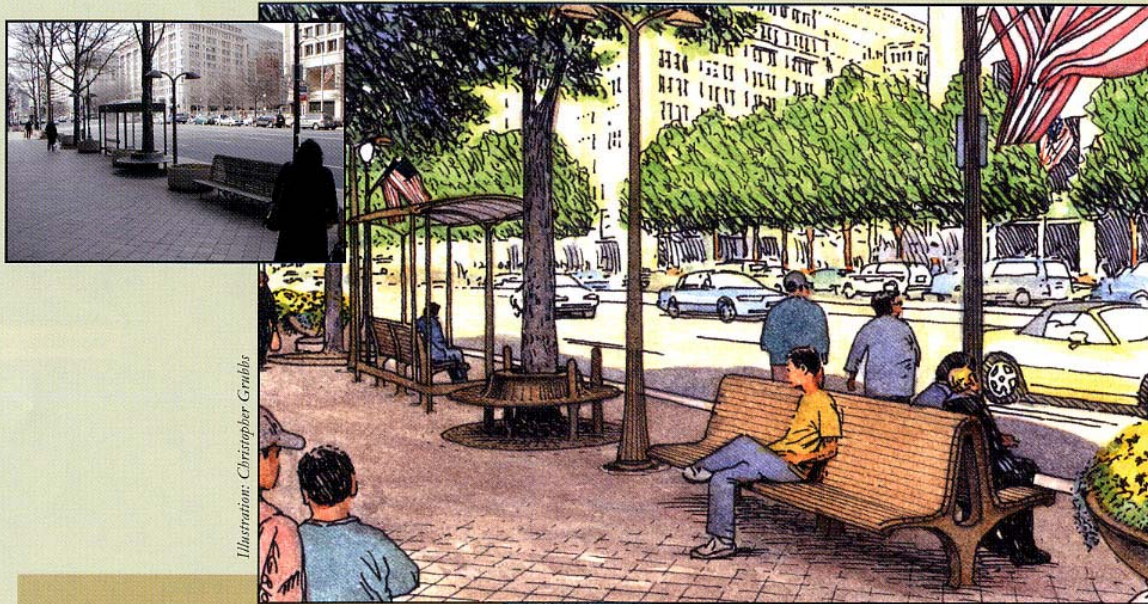


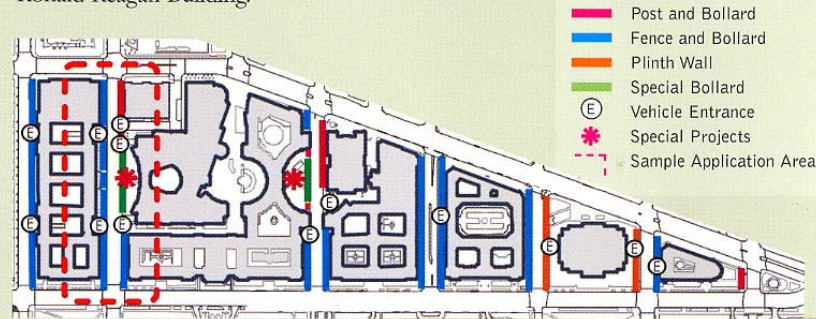
Illustration: Christopher Grubbs

Mature street trees and hardened benches, drinking fountains, trash containers, and light fixtures combine with bollards, planters, and bus shelters to create rhythm and visual continuity along the length of the Avenue.

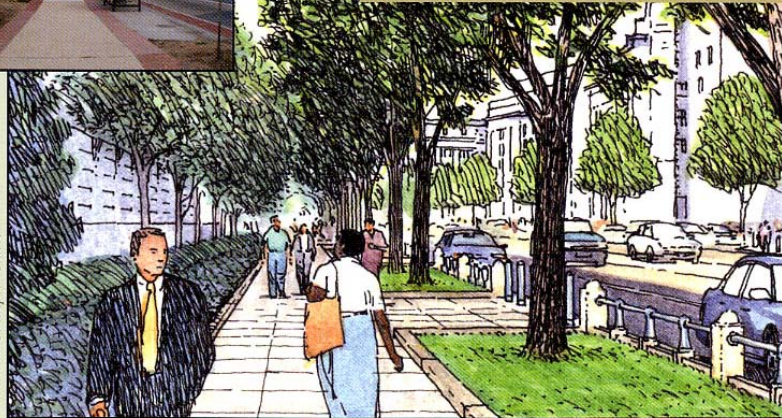


Federal Triangle

The Federal Triangle, the enclave of federal buildings bounded by Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues, is a leading example of Washington's monumental civic architecture and urban planning. The proposed design reinforces the historic character of this precinct and responds to the hierarchy of ceremonial avenues and north-south streets. Designs for the north-south streetscapes include fence walls along existing tree boxes and custom-designed solutions for the 12th Street hemicycle and 14th Street plaza in front of the Ronald Reagan Building.



Within the Federal Triangle, the Department of Justice is currently designing security for its headquarters building that is compatible with the solutions proposed for the rest of the precinct.



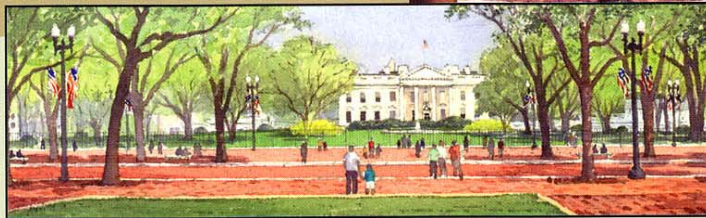
Illustrations: Christopher Grubbs

Pennsylvania Avenue *at the White House*

Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House is one of the most symbolic and visible places in the nation, and its closure in 1995 has significantly affected Downtown Washington. Because overriding security concerns require the continued closure of this portion of the Avenue to normal city traffic for the foreseeable future, the Commission has called for its redesign as a beautiful, pedestrian-oriented public space. NCPC invited four of the nation's leading landscape architecture firms to submit design proposals and the Commission selected Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates as the team to develop a final design.



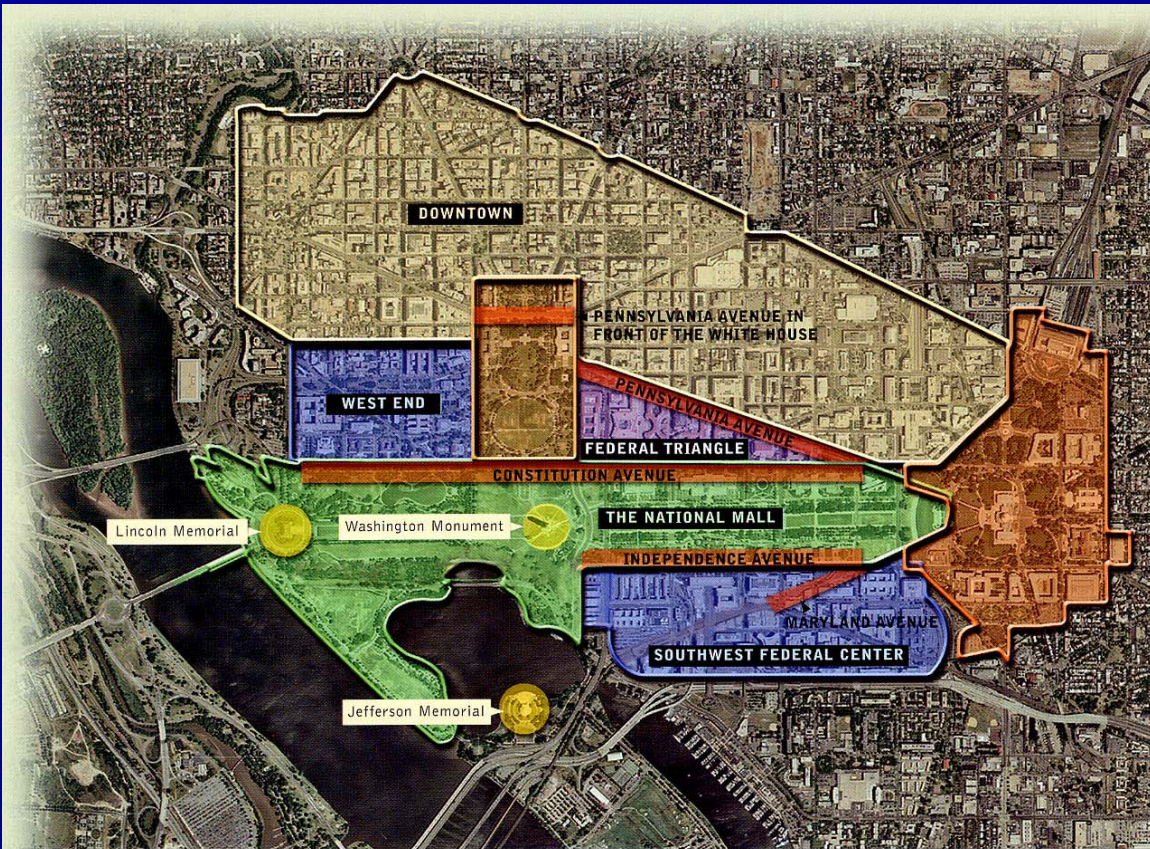
The Van Valkenburgh concept envisions a pedestrian-welcoming precinct in front of the White House with mature trees, shaded seating areas, and security checkpoints at 15th and 17th Streets.



Illustrations: Michael McCann

The design includes a simple array of historic Washington light fixtures, stone benches, and discreet bollards. It preserves the existing street pattern while creating an environment that is welcoming and dignified.

The proposal accommodates inaugural parades and the Circulator, a new transit system planned for Downtown Washington, and permits the possible future reopening of the Avenue.

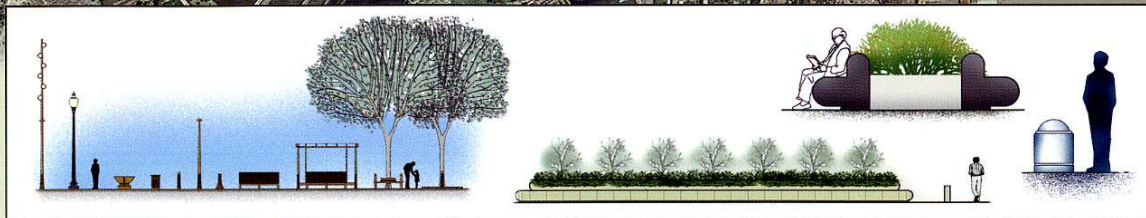


The Urban Design and Security Plan:

- Provides perimeter security against the threat of bomb-laden vehicles.
- Offers a citywide program that provides both security and urban beautification.
- Expands the palette of attractive street furnishings and landscape treatments that can provide curbside security.

The Plan is built on an urban design framework that identifies key areas and streets within the Monumental Core and recommends solutions that respond to the unique conditions and special character of each precinct. One size does not fit all and while the Plan proposes several design approaches, all share a compatible aesthetic vocabulary that helps knit together the fabric of Downtown Washington.

The Plan evolved when in March 2000, Congress authorized the Commission to establish the Interagency Security Task Force to evaluate the impact of security measures on the historic urban design of Washington's Monumental Core. In November 2001, the Commission adopted the task force's recommendations contained in a report entitled *Designing for Security in the Nation's Capital*. Among its recommendations, the report called for the preparation of an urban design and security plan to identify permanent security and streetscape improvements for federal facilities in the Nation's Capital. The Plan is the result of a collaborative effort by the National Capital Planning Commission, the federal and District of Columbia governments, security agencies, and civic and business organizations.



The Plan proposes concepts for special streets and areas within the city's Monumental Core and offers a variety of security solutions such as hardened street furniture, low plinth walls, planters, bollards, and green curbside hedges with embedded security measures. These elements can be applied in a variety of ways to meet the security and design needs of particular downtown areas.

Secure Landscape Design and Urban Design

...legitimate questions need to be addressed about the nature of the security response and the process for determining it. The manner in which this nation approaches its security has tremendous implications for how our nation functions and how our people perceive their society and their place in it for years to come. Done well, security will protect us all and all that we hold dear, while making clear that this nation continues to rest on a close relationship between its people and its government. Done poorly, security will make us fearful and literally erect barriers to how people interact with the government it has established. Design professions, preservationists, communities, and security professionals need to work together to develop solutions that achieve this balance.