

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
401 F STREET NW SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX
www.cfa.gov

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

17 July 2003

AM 10:00 CONVENE, Suite 312, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001-2728

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Approval of minutes: 19 June 2003
- B. Dates of next meetings: 18 September 2003
16 October 2003
20 November 2003
- C. Report on the abolishment of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee and the establishment of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.
- D. Report on the Committee on House Administration's hearing on the establishment within the Smithsonian Institution of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (H.R. 2205).

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Department of Defense / Arlington National Cemetery

[CFA 17/JUL/03- 1](#), Memorial to the Crew of the Columbia Orbiter. Arlington National Cemetery. Revised design. (Previous: CFA 19 /JUN/03-2).

B. Federal Highway Administration

CFA 17/JUL/03- 2, Pennsylvania Avenue, between 15th and 17th Streets, NW, and Jackson and Madison Places. Material samples and final details. Final. (Previous: CFA 19/JUN/03- 1). (POSTPONED)

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 17 July 3003

C. National Park Service

[CFA 17/JUL/03- 3](#), Georgetown Waterfront Park. Bounded by the Potomac River and Water Street, from the Francis Scott Key Bridge to the terminus of 31st Street. Concept. (Previous: CFA 31/JUL/85-1).

D. Department of the Treasury / U.S. Mint

[CFA 17/JUL/03- 4](#), Fifty States circulating / commemorative quarter program for 2004. Designs for the Michigan and Wisconsin state quarters. (Previous: CFA 15/MAY/03-2).

E. Smithsonian Institution

[CFA 17/JUL/03- 5](#), National Museum of the American Indian. Independence Avenue and 3rd Street, SW. Perimeter security barriers, bollards, and guard booth. Final. (Previous: CFA 15/MAY/03- 1).

F. Department of Defense

1. [CFA 17/JUL/03- 6](#), Fort McNair. National Defense University. Small Area Plan, including the siting of the Physical Fitness Facility, a new main entrance, a future parking structure and an expansion of the National Defense University. Final. (Previous: CFA 15/JUL/99-4, Master Plan).
2. [CFA 17/JUL/03- 7](#), Fort McNair. 6th Avenue, SE. New Physical fitness facility. Concept.
3. [CFA 17/JUL/03- 8](#), Fort Myer. Steward Road and Fenton Circle, Arlington, Virginia. Replacement vehicle maintenance facility and a temporary facility. Final.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 17 July 3003

G. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

Shipstead-Luce Act

[S.L. 03-116](#), 2025 F Street, NW, (Square 103). George Washington University. New 103 unit residence hall (dormitory). Concept.

H. District of Columbia Public Schools / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

[CFA 17/JUL/03- 9](#), Walker-Jones Elementary School, 1st and L streets, NW. Replacement school building. Revised design. (Previous: CFA 16/MAY/02 -13).

I. General Services Administration

1. [CFA 17/JUL/03- 10](#), D.C. Court of Appeals (Old City Hall) and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Judiciary Square, Southwest corner at Indiana Avenue and 5th Street, NW. New shared underground parking facility. Revised concept-Phase I. (Previous: CFA 18/JUL/02-6).
2. [CFA 17/JUL/03- 11](#), James Forrestal Building, Department of Energy. 1000 Independence Avenue, SW. Perimeter security barriers. Final-Phase I. (Remitted from last month).
3. [CFA 17/JUL/03- 12](#), Frances C. Perkins Building, Department of Labor. 200 Constitution Avenue, NW. Temporary Perimeter security Planters. Design. (POSTPONED).
4. [CFA 17/JUL/03- 13](#), Frances C. Perkins Building, Department of Labor. 200 Constitution Avenue, NW. Northeast Fountain. Stabilization, moth-balling and installation of new landscaping. Design.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 17 July 3003

5. [CFA 17/JUL/03- 14](#), Homeowner Loan Corporation Building. 320 First Street, NW. Installation of the 16 street lights for security lighting. Design.

J. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act

- a. Appendix I.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. [S.L. 03-118](#), 5362 and 5364 27th Street, NW. Two new, single-family dwellings with detached garages. Concept. (Previous: S.L. 02-043, seen 21 March 2002)
- b. Appendix II.

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24 July 2003

Dear Mr. Metzler:

During its meeting of 17 July, the Commission approved the proposal for a memorial to the crew of the Columbia Orbiter. The revisions create a simple and straightforward design that is respectful to the memory of the crew.

Please submit an example of the photographic etching technique for staff review. If you have future questions, the staff is available to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Childs", with a flourish at the end.

David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

John Metzler, Jr.
Superintendent
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA 22211-5003

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24 July 2003

Dear Mr. Parsons:

During its meeting of 17 July, the Commission was pleased to review the proposed concept for the Georgetown Waterfront Park and appreciated the multi-disciplinary collaboration on the design and the quality of the artist's contribution. The project team is to be commended for pursuing a contemporary design approach while considering the important historic attributes of the surrounding neighborhood. The developing design will benefit from some simplification to further emphasize the suggested episodic points of activity throughout the park. Concerns about the translucent canopy material, including heat conductivity and maintenance, necessitate a review of a mock-up on site. Enclosed are additional comments in a letter from Heather Cass, a member of the Old Georgetown Board.

The Commission commends the design approach and looks forward to the further review of this park. The staff is available for questions and to assist in scheduling a site visit during an upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

John Parsons
Associate Regional Director
Lands, Resources and Planning
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

Enclosure

cc: Ignacio F. Bunster-Ossa
Jody Pinto

Cass & Associates

Mr. David Childs, FAIA
Chair
The Commission of Fine Arts

Dear David,

The Park Service made an information presentation on the Georgetown Waterfront Park to the OGB last week. When I looked at the model, with its curving walkways and the abstract sail-like objects that dot the river's edge, I was struck by how out-of-place these features seemed on that stretch of waterfront. On Monday I visited the site and came away convinced that the Park Service's architects are missing the mark on this one. Since I understand that the Commission will be officially reviewing the project next week, I thought I'd pass on to you and the other members a few observations:

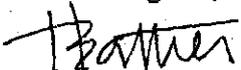
I think this is clearly a case where Simple is Better. This is a beautiful stretch of the river, particularly the views across to Roosevelt Island and up to Key Bridge. John Parsons mentioned that the purpose of the curving sidewalks is to direct peoples' view toward the bridge, but I hardly think that is necessary. In fact, the most important consideration in this regard would be to be sure that the placement of trees in the park obscures neither the views of the bridge from the park, nor the views of the park and the river from the streets which lead down to it.

The proposed walkways across the park imply the connection to the streets above, but what really defines this space are its parallel edges at the river and the Whitehurst Freeway. And the Freeway, in all its splendid ugliness, should remind us that this is historically a rough and tumble part of town. If there is to be an illusion to a bygone era (as I gather is the intention of the sail motif), shouldn't it properly be to Georgetown's roll as a transfer depot below the fall line of the Potomac? I would think that this history might be of interest to visitors to an NPS property.

For my part, I think it would be totally appropriate to have a simple green space with lots of room for throwing frisbees, pick-up soccer, jogging, biking and strolling along the river. (I understand that many of these functions are intended.) I'd like to see the water's edge developed as a variation on the condition which exists near the Kennedy Center, where there is a continuous, relatively low bulkhead (not interrupted by periodic insertions of vegetation which will collect debris and be difficult to maintain). The water's edge should, in most places, be separated by a wide swath of grass from the walkway. (Among other things, it makes for a much more relaxing experience for parents of very young children if you maintain a "buffer" between the path and the water.) And if there is to be a walk-in fountain --- which can certainly be wonderful if done well --- it should be separated from the boat launch; perhaps it becomes a "destination" down towards the bridge for those who enter the park at the foot of Wisconsin. And all the paths should connect to the other paths and trails which take one out into Maryland and down toward Mt. Vernon.

My thoughts . . . I look forward to hearing the Commission's view.

Warm regards,



Heather Willson Cass, FAIA
9 July 2003

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Dear Mrs. Fore:

At its meeting of 17 July, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed proposed designs for the reverse of the 2004 state quarters from Michigan and Wisconsin. The results were as follows:

Michigan: The preference was for design #1, with the request that the lettering for "Great Lakes State" be made slightly smaller.

Wisconsin: There was no enthusiasm for any of the designs, but it was thought that the theme of "cultural interaction", as depicted in designs #3 and #5, could be more fully developed with an eye towards simplicity. The Commission staff would be happy to look at any revisions.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

The Honorable Henrietta Holsman Fore
Director, United States Mint
801 9th Street, NW, Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20220

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24 July 2003

Dear Mr. Rombach:

During its meeting of 17 July, the Commission approved the proposed design for the security perimeter, bollards and guard booth for the National Museum of the American Indian. However, every attempt should be made to reduce the diameter of the stone bollards and to use bronze, rather than bronze-colored metal, for the proposed entry bollards. While the Commission appreciated the design approach of the security booth, the datum created by the solid panels should be continued along the door, obscuring possible under-desk clutter from public view.

Any modifications to the approved design as a result of further review by other agencies must be submitted to the Commission for approval. In addition, please submit the designs for building signs to the Commission for review. As always, the staff is available should you require guidance.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

Harry Rombach
Associate Director, Facilities Master Planning
Smithsonian Institution
750 9th Street NW
P.O. Box 37012
VB 5200 MRC 908
Washington, DC 20013-7012

cc: Hal Davis, Polshek Tobey + Davis
Mike Arnold, EDAW

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Dear Mr. Russo:

During its meeting of 17 July 2003, the Commission reviewed the draft Small Area Plan for the National Defense University-Physical Fitness Complex for Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

Of the two concept plans presented, the members were supportive of the second concept that would expand the grounds of the Fort with the acquisition of Squares 602 and 604, collectively known as the "Tempo C" site. The benefits of purchasing the Tempo C site on the east side of the Fort are numerous: providing additional room for a new main entrance gate with the required standoff distances; buffering the Fort from future private development to its east; and, most importantly, allowing an expansion of the National Defense University without negatively impacting the resources of the original Fort's national historic landmark district.

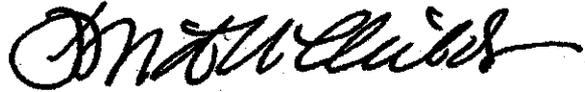
If the Tempo C site is not acquired and the future development of the Fort follows the plans of Concept #1, the members would have concerns with the location and impact of the proposed Phase II parking structure on the end of Greenleaf Point, a highly visible point of land south of the historic National War College building. In addition, the effect of the proposed three large structures on the eastern edge of the Fort's central parade ground would require careful study to be designed to maintain the scale and rhythm of the smaller houses that line both sides of the parade ground.

As for the location of the physical fitness facility, either site would be appropriate; however, the Concept 2 location is preferred. The members encourage the acquisition of the Tempo C site for the Fort's expansion and believe that the future development of the Fort should follow the plans illustrated in Concept 2.

The Commission would like to commend the planning team for the thoroughness of the study for the Small Area Plan, and looks forward to working with the Military District of Washington as future projects are developed for Fort McNair.

To help facilitate our review of new submissions, we would like to request an inspection trip to the fort before our next meeting. The staff is available to coordinate this for the members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Childs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "C".

David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

John T. Russo, Director
Public Works and Logistics, FMCM
Military District of Washington
Headquarters
204 Lee Avenue
Fort Myer, VA 22211-1199

cc: Myrtle Bowen, Engineering Plans and Services Division, FMCM
Leonard Morton, Engineering Plans and Services Division, FMCM

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Dear Mr. Russo:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the concept design for the new Physical Fitness Facility for Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., during its 17 July meeting and approved the concept design as presented. The members found the preliminary design to be harmonious with the character of the Fort's historic structures and compliant with the Fort's Design Guidelines for new structures. Its brick detailing and overall massing was felt to be appropriate in the context of the Fort's landmark district. It is understood that the final selection of the facility's location on the east side of the Fort will be dependent on whether or not the Tempo C site is acquired. If so, the location on the northern portion of the Tempo C site would be the preferred site.

The Commission looks forward to further review of this project as the designs develop. The new facility should prove to be a welcome amenity for the Fort's military community. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team require guidance.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

John T. Russo
Director, Public Works and Logistics, FMCMC
Military District of Washington Headquarters
204 Lee Avenue
Fort Myer, VA 22211-1199

cc: Myrtle Bowen, Engineering Plans and Services Division, FMCMC
Suman Sorg, FAIA, Sorg Architects

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Dear Mr. Russo:

During its meeting of 17 July, the Commission reviewed and approved the final plans for the replacement Vehicle Maintenance and Ceremonial Cannon Storage Facility at Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia. The Commission appreciates the designers' efforts to create a building that is contextual to the Fort's historic structures. It will be an improvement over the existing facility which is structurally in poor condition and should be demolished.

Also, included in our approval were the plans for a temporary facility to be erected in the parking lot north of Building #325 to house the vehicle maintenance operations during the construction of the new building.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

John T. Russo
Director, Public Works and Logistics, FMMC
Military District of Washington Headquarters
204 Lee Avenue
Fort Myer, VA 22211-1199

cc: Myrtle Bowen, Engineering Plans and Services Division, FMMC
Greg Lukmire, AIA, Lukmire Partnership

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Dear Ms. Honey:

During its meeting of 17 July, the Commission reviewed the proposed concept for a George Washington University residence hall to be located at 2025 F Street, NW (S.L. 03-116). The members were not convinced that current design deserves to exceed the height restrictions in this primarily horizontal city. More definitive presentation materials, such as a massing model including neighboring buildings, might strengthen the argument for some additional height. However, the west elevation also requires additional investigation and should include windows where permitted by code. The bays on the lower part of the building provide a good street presence but the design in general appears overwhelming on the block.

The Commission looks forward to the further review of this project. As always, the staff is available should you require guidance.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

Michelle Honey, AIA
Director, Architecture, Engineering & Construction
George Washington University
2025 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20052

cc: Richard A. Ayers, AIA, Ayers Saint Gross Architects

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Dear Mr. Block:

During its meeting of 17 July, the Commission reviewed the revised design for the replacement school building for the Walker-Jones Elementary School at 1st and L streets, NW.

The members approved the design with the recommendation that the bright yellow accent color used to highlight certain areas of the facades be toned down to have a more golden quality. Otherwise, the members found the building's massing to be pleasing and thought the elevations well-articulated and lively. The new school building will be a welcome amenity for the community. We look forward to the review of a material samples panel built on site prior to the ordering and installation of exterior materials. The staff is available to assist you in the coordination of this review.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

Stanley N. Block, P.E.
Chief, Design Management Branch
Engineering Division
Department of the Army, Baltimore District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

cc: Sarah Woodhead, DC Public Schools
Dan Wright, USACP
Dawne David, HSMM

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24 July 2003

Dear Mr. McGill:

During its 17 July meeting, the Commission reviewed a new concept design for the underground parking garage to be located in the southwest corner of Judiciary Square and approved Concept Scheme #2. This garage, with its entrance on 5th Street, is the first phase of a multi-phase project to rehabilitate the Old City Hall as the new home of the D.C. Court of Appeals. The garage will be a shared facility for the D.C. Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

There were two items that the members recommended for additional study: It was felt that the configuration of the egress stair and ventilation structure in the northeast corner of the site could be simplified, and that to relocate and incorporate the historic brick vent stack into this structure was perhaps unnecessary. The other item was the trellis. It, perhaps, could be designed in the same vocabulary as the trellises in the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, and should, in some way, acknowledge the south building entrance to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

We look forward to the review of the project as the design develops. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team require guidance.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

Michael McGill
Special Assistant for Regional Coordination
U.S. General Services Administration
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20407-0001

cc: Len Weiser, GSA
John Belle, BBB
Hany Hassan, BBB
Eliot Rhodeside, Rhodeside & Harwell

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24 July 2003

Dear Mr. McGill:

During its meeting of 17 July, the Commission approved the proposed security perimeter barriers for the James Forrestal Building located at 1000 Independence Avenue, SW. Any modifications to the approved design as a result of further review by other agencies must be submitted to the Commission for approval. As always, the staff is available should you require guidance.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

Michael McGill
Special Assistant for Regional Coordination
U.S. General Services Administration
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20407-0001

cc: Marty Bates, DNC Architects, Inc.

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Dear Mr. McGill:

During its meeting of 17 July, the Commission reviewed a proposal to alter the northeast fountain at the Department of Labor's Frances C. Perkins Building at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, including plans to stabilize and mothball the fountain for a future rehabilitation and to install new landscaping around it. The members did not approve the scheme. It is unfortunate the fountain will not or cannot be repaired at this time. If it is to be preserved for a future restoration, the installation of such a complicated landscape as proposed is unwarranted. The members understand that within the next ten years the Perkins Building is scheduled to be rehabilitated and refurbished. At such time, we hope the fountain and its surrounding landscape will be restored to the original configuration. In the meanwhile, the members recommend the fountain be capped off, stabilized and filled in so that a simple lawn can be established over the fountain, preserving the informality of the existing landscaping.

With the appropriate modifications, please resubmit the proposal for review. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team require guidance.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

Michael McGill
Special Assistant for Regional Coordination
U.S. General Services Administration
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20407-0001

cc: Cyrus Balan, GSA
Benbassat & Sporidis Co.

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Dear Mr. McGill:

During its meeting of 17 July, the Commission approved the proposed installation of street lights for the Homeowners Loan Corporation building located at 320 First Street, NW. However, the lights should be spaced a minimum of thirty (30) feet apart, possibly necessitating a reduction in the overall number installed, to be done without an increase in wattage.

As always, the staff is available should you require guidance.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

Michael McGill
Special Assistant for Regional Coordination
U.S. General Services Administration
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20407-0001

cc: David W. Morrow, PE, EBL Engineers, LLC

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24 July 2003

Dear Mr. Zuckerman:

During its meeting of 17 July, the Commission approved the proposed concept for two single-family dwellings with detached garages located at 5362 and 5364 27th Street, NW. As the view from and integration with Rock Creek Park is important, please submit material samples for building exterior and hardscape elements, in addition to the locations of any external mechanical equipment.

File a new submission of requested information and working drawings, with permit applications, for review by the Commission when ready. As always, the staff is available should you require guidance.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs, FAIA
Chairman

Stuart A. Zuckerman
27th Street, LLC
2 Wisconsin Circle, Suite 560
Chevy Chase, MD 20815