

# 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

21 November 2002

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

### I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Approval of minutes: 17 October 2002
- B. Dates of next meetings: 19 December 2002  
16 January 2003  
20 February 2003
- C. Report on the review of additional designs for the First Flight Commemorative Coin series.

### II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

- A. National Park Service / American Battle Monuments Commission  
[CFA 21/NOV/02- 1](#), World War II Memorial. 17th Street at the Rainbow Pool. Inscriptions. Revised designs. (Previous: CFA 17/OCT/02- 1).
- B. United States Institute of Peace  
[CFA 21/NOV/02- 2](#), United States Institute of Peace. 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. New headquarters building. Concept.
- C. General Services Administration  
[CFA 21/NOV/02- 3](#), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Headquarters. New York and Florida Avenues, NE. New building. Final. (Previous: CFA 18 APR 02- 4).

D. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

[CFA 21/NOV/02- 4](#), New York Avenue Metrorail Station. Red Line—between Florida Avenue and M Street on 2nd Street, NE. New station platform, Metropolitan Trail overpass and entrance pavilion. Concept development. (Previous: CFA 19/JUL/01- 1).

E. National Park Service

[CFA 21/NOV/02- 5](#), Jefferson Memorial. East Basin Drive, SW. Perimeter security barriers. Revised concept. (Previous: CFA 16/MAY/02 - 2).

F. Department of Defense

1. [CFA 21/NOV/02- 6](#), The Pentagon. Arlington, Virginia. Pentagon Secure Bypass; realignment of Route 110. Concept.
2. [CFA 21/NOV/02- 7](#), The Pentagon. Arlington, Virginia, Intersection of Route 27 and Columbia Pike. New secure access lane to the Remote Delivery Facility. Concept.

G. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

[S.L. 03- 019](#), 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The Freedom Forum. New mixed use building to house the Newseum. Concept.

H. Department of the Navy

[CFA 21/NOV/02- 8](#), Washington Navy Yard. 10th and N Streets, SE. Building 175—Medical/Dental Clinic. Additions and alterations. Concept.

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

1. [CFA 21/NOV/02- 9](#), Woodson High School. 55th and Eads Streets, NE. Rehabilitation and alterations. Concept.
2. [CFA 21/NOV/02- 10](#), Hardy Middle School. 1819 35th Street, NW. Additions and alterations. Concept. (Note: see case #O.G. 02-335).
3. [CFA 21/NOV/02- 11](#), McKinley Technical Senior High School. 2nd and T streets, NE. Phase III, Egress stair and elevated walkway addition. Concept-new scheme. (Previous: CFA 17/JAN/02-12).

4. [CFA 21/NOV/02- 12](#), Birney Elementary School. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and Sumner Road, SE. New school building. Design development. (Previous: CFA 19/SEP/02- 10).

J. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act
  - a. Appendix I.
2. Shipstead-Luce Act, continued
  - a. S.L.03-018, 500 12th Street, SW. Potomac Center. Phase II. Alterations and additions. Concept. (Previous: S.L. 01-049, Phase I).
  - b. Appendix II.

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6 December 2002

Dear General Kelley:

During its 21 November meeting, the Commission of Fine Arts was pleased to review the revised proposed inscriptions for the National World War II Memorial. The members were most appreciative of the American Battle Monuments Commission's efforts to develop the various suggested schemes for adding supplemental information to the quotation attribution lines. After considering the effect of the extended attributions on the graphical layout of the text, the members agreed that the ABMC's preferred scheme, keeping the attributions limited to the individual's name and professional title, was the best strategy. For the Walter Lord attribution, it was requested that it be modified with the addition of a comma and the title "Author" after his name to make it consistent with the others. The only other suggestions made for the rest of the quotations was to modify the spacing of letters in the title lines for the Midway and D-Day panels to achieve a balanced composition.

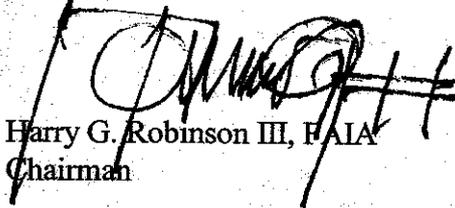
The replacement of the Winston Churchill quote with that of President Truman's acknowledging the armed forces of our allies was thought to be appropriate and was approved.

For the inscription on the Announcement Stone, the members were concerned, as stated last month, that the text was too lengthy and encumbered with unnecessary descriptive qualifiers. Please give consideration to our discussion and revise the text accordingly. Again the desire is to keep the wording as concise as possible so that the meaning is clearly and easily understood.

The one inscription that has not been finalized for the memorial is the one intended for the coping in front of the Freedom Wall of Stars. Though not formally submitted for review at this meeting, the members did comment that they are looking forward to seeing several variations of the previous submission including extracts of various lengths and one with the full text of Archibald MacLeish's poem, *The Young Dead Soldiers*.

The Commission looks forward to further consideration of this last inscription and the bas-relief panels as soon as they are ready. The staff is available to coordinate site visits and to assist you and the design team should questions arise.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

General Paul X. Kelley, USMC (Ret.)  
Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission  
Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 501  
2300 Clarendon Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22201

cc: Terry Carlstrom, National Park Service  
John Parsons, National Park Service  
Michael G. Conley, ABMC  
William B. Owenby, ABMC  
General John Herrling, ABMC

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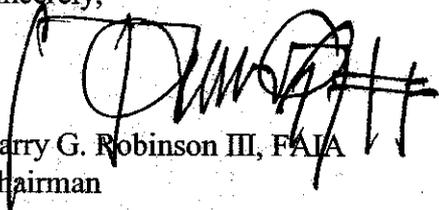
Dear Mr. Solomon:

At it's 21 November meeting, the Commission reviewed the concept proposal by Moshe Safdie for a new headquarters building for the United States Institute of Peace, to be located at the corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, NW. The members unanimously approved the submission and were pleased with the bold and dynamic configuration of the building. However, there were several issues raised during the discussion that warrant additional study.

The first was a concern with the overall scale of the structure. In this location the building will function not only as a gateway and the terminal point for the procession of buildings on the north side of Constitution Avenue, but will also act as a fulcrum at the end of the National Mall as one turns the corner into the precinct of the John F. Kennedy Center. It may be a matter of revising the scale only a few degrees, but it will be valuable revisiting this issue to achieve perfection in the form/site/context relationship. In this special place the building should be large enough to anchor the corner, but not so large that it competes with the Lincoln Memorial. The same can be said about the building's lighting. With its translucent roofs, the levels of light, in and around the building, should be carefully considered and studied so that, again, it does not compete with the Lincoln Memorial as the western terminus of the National Mall.

We look forward to the review of the revised concept design, including provisions for perimeter security, and the preliminary selection of materials. The staff is available to assist as needed.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Mr. Richard H. Solomon  
President  
United States Institute of Peace  
1200 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-3011

cc: Charles E. Nelson, VP, USIP  
Moshe Safdie, FAIA, Moshe Safdie & Associates Inc.

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Dear Mr. McGill:

During its meeting of 21 November, the Commission reviewed and approved the revisions to the design for the new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Headquarters building to be located at the intersection of New York and Florida avenues, NE. The new building will be an elegant gateway to the city at this heavily-trafficked entry point.

The revisions, which retain the general character of the approved concept design, are for the most part an improvement over the previous scheme. Additional retail space at one corner will benefit the area as it welcomes development and change. The relocation of the boundary fence at the opposite corner creates a welcoming landscaped respite for the pedestrian without reducing security measures. One feature we are sad to see eliminated is the "green" roof, although we understand the difficulties of upkeep and maintenance.

We look forward to the review of material samples at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Michael McGill  
Special Assistant for Regional Coordination  
US General Services Administration  
301 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20407-0001

cc: Moshe Safdie

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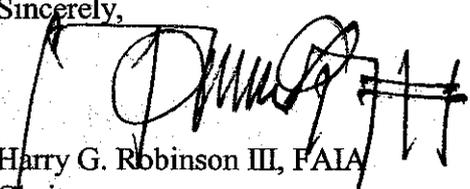
Dear Mr. White:

During its meeting of 21 November, the Commission reviewed the concept design for a new Metrorail Station located between Florida Avenue and M Street on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, NE. Although the Commission supported the overall design of the station, further investigation of the fence was requested in which the design should be simplified, and/or designated as a site for public art. Design of the barrier separating passengers and the general public is an excellent opportunity to involve the local art community and you are encouraged to discuss this matter with the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Possibly, a partnership could be formed to accomplish a signal art-in-public-places installation.

Additionally, the abrupt ending of the entrance canopy structure requires additional study, as does adding provisions for the inclusion of street furniture, such as newspaper boxes, near the entrance. A more gracious front edge of the canopy should be the ambition of further study.

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

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Richard A. White  
Chief Executive Officer  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
600 5th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

cc: John D. Thomas, Project Manager, WMATA  
John A. Ferguson, Jacobs Civil Inc.  
Ed Riley, Manager of Architecture, WMATA

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Dear Mr. Carlstrom:

During its meeting on 21 November, the Commission reviewed the development of the concept designs for the perimeter security improvements around the Jefferson Memorial. We are pleased with your response to our previous comments, particularly the relocation of the bus stop and handicapped parking away from the central axis and vista of the Memorial. However, concerns were raised in relation to the use of bollards and the finish of the seating walls.

It is very important to make sure that the proposed new walls fit within the site's context without appearing to be an afterthought or a contemporary intervention. The smooth flame finish of the granite seating walls at the nodes is out-of-character with the historic landscape and the proposed ashlar stone walls. The detailing of these walls need further study and other options must be considered.

The members expressed caution on the extent and use of bollards, particularly in front of the south lawn. This may be an opportunity to use elements of the proposed design seen elsewhere on the site to make the area part of the whole, rather than let it speak in a different design vocabulary.

We look forward to reviewing the development and study of new design options at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry G. Robinson III". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large initial "H" and "R".

Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Terry R. Carlstrom  
Regional Director  
National Capital Region  
National Park Service  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20242

cc: John Parsons, NPS  
Jeff Lee, Lee + Liu Landscape Architects  
Michael Broderick, McKissack & McKissack

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Dear Mr. Every:

At its meeting of 21 November, the Commission reviewed two concept submissions for the Pentagon; the Pentagon Secure Bypass (the realignment of Route 110) and the new secure access lane to the Remote Delivery Facility paralleling Route 27. As preliminary concepts, both were approved.

However, it is recommended that the design of the blast wall along the northern portion of the secure access lane be given additional study to determine if its apparent visual height could be reduced. Two suggestions were made to achieve this goal. One was to insert a series of step-backs or miniature terraces in the face of the wall that would relieve its verticality and allow additional plantings to soften its face. The second suggestion was to batter the wall's west face at a slight angle to help alleviate its bulk and to allow more sunlight to fall on the pedestrian walkway. Both design ideas would maintain the required protection for the Pentagon Building.

Before the next submission is made, we would appreciate it if you or your staff would coordinate a site inspection for us with our staff. As for the next submission in the development of these two projects, please develop addition details, particularly for the secure access lane's blast wall, and any changes that would be made to the historic fabric of the Pentagon's east terrace and the new pedestrian and vehicular bridges that would be required when Route 110 is realigned. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team require guidance.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Mr. Walker Lee Every  
Program Manager  
Pentagon Renovation Office  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
100 Boundary Channel Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202-3712

cc: Ms. Stancie Candrell, Architectural Program, Pentagon Renovation Office  
Mr. Michael Yopp, Project Coordinator, Pentagon Renovation Office  
Mr. Tim Wells, Project Coordinator, Pentagon Renovation Office

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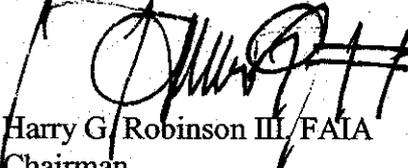
Dear Mr. Page:

During its meeting of 17 November 2002, the Commission was pleased to review, and strongly supports, the concept for a new mixed-use building designed for the Newseum to be located at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (Lot 826, Square 491/S.L. 03-019). The Commission is encouraged by the dramatic statement of this building in the context of a critical juncture in the facade/edge of our nation's most prominent avenue.

Although the Commission appreciates the overall facade layering and the relationships established with the existing structures and street grid, there are important issues which should be investigated as the design progresses. While the expression of the building's interior activities provides life to the streetscape, moderation and deference to the landmark and visually quieter surrounding buildings must be observed. The glass exterior provides an interesting and welcome counterpoint to the surrounding structures. However, the quality and quantity of light emitted from the building needs to be studied under a variety of environmental conditions, particularly the emissions from a plasma screen. Additionally, the First Amendment inscription provides an important grounding element for the otherwise transparent facade. However, the graphic design of the stone tablet will be extremely important as the primary decorative element. Finally, the Commission recommends the study of the third "bar" or layer to evaluate the degree of transparency desired at that height.

The Commission looks forward to continued review of this project. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team have questions or need guidance.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Max Page  
Deputy Director and Vice President  
Newseum  
The Freedom Forum World Center  
1101 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22209

cc: James Polshek, Polshek Partnership Architects  
Edward M. Rogers, Nixon Peabody LLP  
Judith H. Renfrew, CarrAmerica  
Stephen J. Kuhn, CarrAmerica

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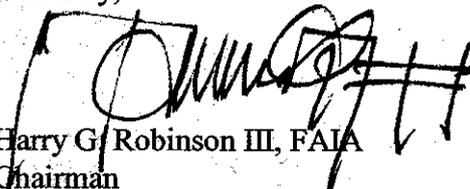
6 December 2002

Dear Mr. Earle:

During its meeting 21 November, the Commission reviewed the proposed alterations for the adaptive re-use of Building 175 for a new Medical/Dental Clinic at the Washington Navy Yard. The addition to the north facade for the main entrance responds appropriately to the architectural style of the original 1920s building.

As such, the proposed alterations were approved.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Lawrence P. Earle  
Department of the Navy  
Engineering Field Activity Chesapeake  
1314 Harwood Street, SE  
Washington Navy Yard DC 20374-5018

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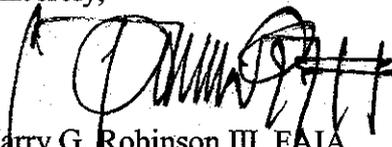
6 December 2002

Dear Mr. Eichler:

During its meeting of 21 November, the Commission reviewed the concept design for the rehabilitation and alterations of the H. D. Woodson High School located at 55<sup>th</sup> and Eads Streets, NE. The Commission understands the intent of a "corporate" look for the school based on its business education programs, but believes all schools should create an inviting and encouraging atmosphere for inquiry and learning. The design of the elevations should be revisited to create more opportunities for natural light within the public spaces and classrooms, and a more academic, neighborhood friendly design attitude. In addition, the entrance should be enhanced to be a more lively school house portal, while the open space around the facility should be studied to allow for a greater range of informal activities.

Please submit this project for further review when ready. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team require guidance.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Herbert Eichler, P.E.  
Chief, Military/SFO Section  
Engineering Division  
Military/SFO Management Branch  
Department of the Army  
Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1715  
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

cc: J. Patrick Higgins, KCI Technologies/SHW Group, Inc.  
Justina Nesbitt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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6 December 2002

Dear Ms. Woodhead:

During its meeting 21 November, the Commission reviewed and approved the concept design for the proposed alterations to Hardy Middle School located at 1819 35<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. As the 1928 building is within the Georgetown Historic District, the designs were previously reviewed by our Old Georgetown Board at their meetings of 3 October and 7 November. After some revisions, the Board recommended approval of the concept design.

We agree that the introduction of windows on the 35<sup>th</sup> Street facade of the gymnasium addition is responsive to the residential neighborhood across the street, an improvement over the first proposal. The two lighted pylons will highlight and provide an important identification of the main entrance.

We look forward to the review of the final working drawings, with details, material samples and landscape plan, at your earliest convenience. As always, the staff is available to assist you in preparing the final presentation in front of the Old Georgetown Board and the Commission of Fine Arts.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

Sarah J. Woodhead, AIA  
Deputy Director of Facilities  
District of Columbia Public Schools  
Planning, Design and Construction  
Penn Center  
1709 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NE, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

cc: Walter Herson, DC PS  
Stephen Smith, EYP

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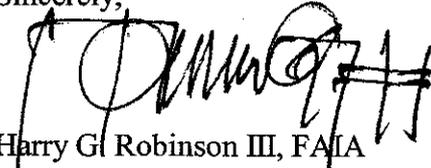
6 December 2002

Dear Mr. Block:

During its 21 November meeting, the Commission reviewed a new concept for the addition of an egress stair and elevated walkway to the McKinley Senior High School at 2nd and T Streets, NE. The members preferred the brick-faced egress stair, Option #3, as shown in the presentation. The suggestion was made that additional study be given to the configuration of the walkway bridge. With the size of the egress stair addition reduced, the bridge has grown in length and appears to need more visible structural support. This could be accomplished with either a supplemental center pier or a walkway that has stronger bridge-like structural elements. In addition, to supplement the new construction, the members suggested that landscaping be placed in front of or under the bridge to screen the parking lot on the other side from the neighborhood to the east.

The members look forward to the review of the final design and construction documents. Please submit them when ready. Should questions arise, the staff is available to provide guidance.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

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

cc: Sarah Woodhead, DC PS  
Walter Hernson, DC PS  
Antoine Plessy, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Michael Brodrick, McKissack and McKissack

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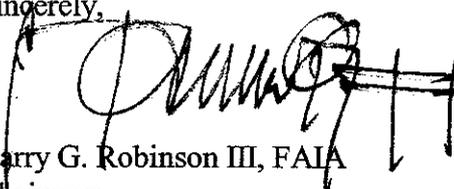
Dear Mr. Morrow:

During its meeting of 21 November, the Commission reviewed the concept design for the modernization and replacement of the Birney Elementary School located at 2501 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE. Although the site and building plans were previously approved, the Commission requested continued study on the elevations. The rear elevations are more successful due to the addition of color and pattern. However, the east elevation's uniform glazing requires more study and perhaps the integration of color, pattern or a vertical rhythm as a way to relieve the horizontal monotony. Finally, the brickwork of the stair tower is over-articulated in comparison to the rest of the detailing and requires additional investigation.

We understand that the existing entry facade is being considered for demolition, rather than preservation. This decision will allow for a new design that can be adaptable to contemporary education concepts and practices. Please give the demolition alternative a full measure of consideration.

Please submit this project for further review when ready. As always, the staff is available should you or the design team require guidance.

Sincerely,



Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA  
Chairman

David Morrow  
Design Manager, 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: Geoffrey Lewis, Gauthier, Alvarado & Associates  
Justina Nesbitt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers