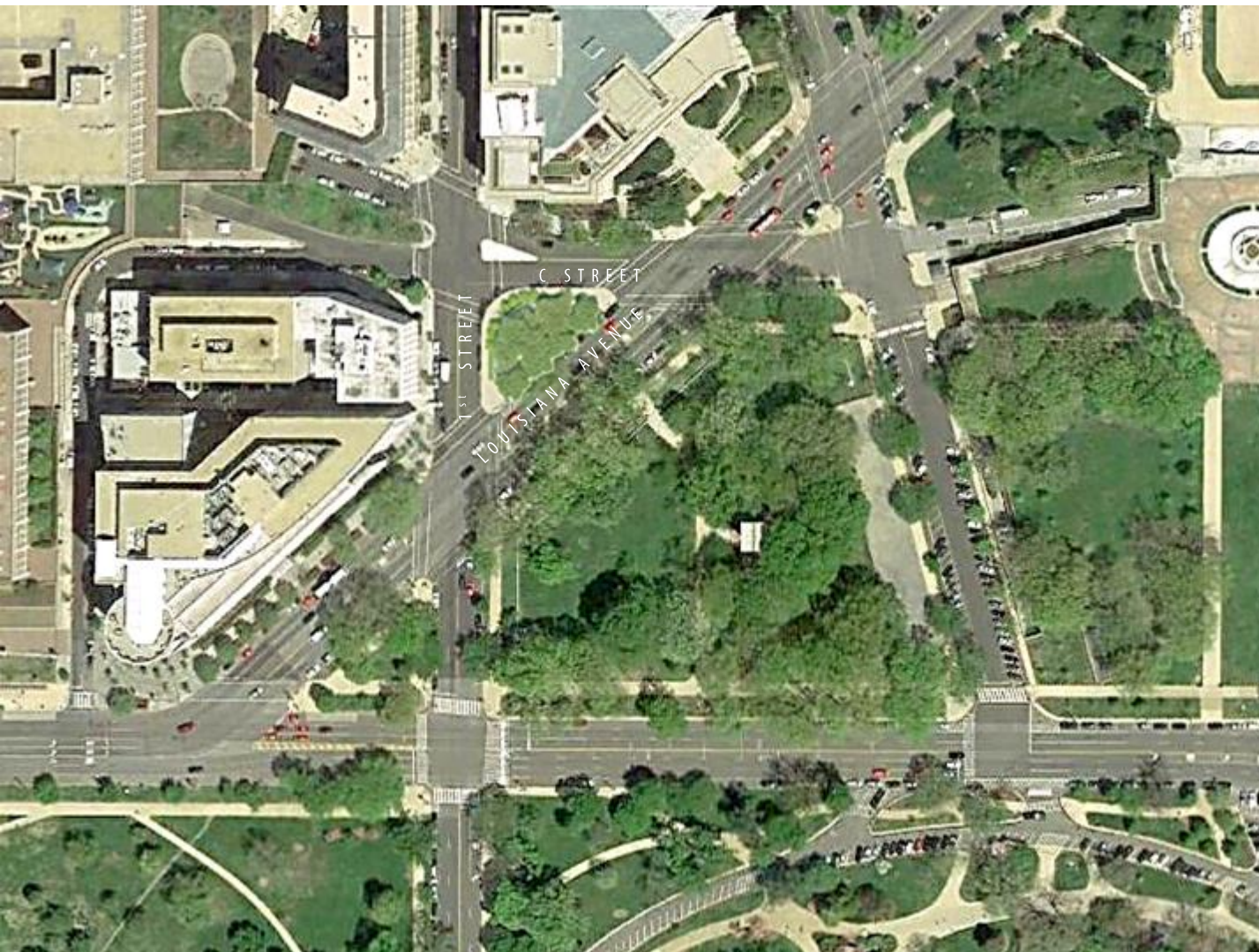




PEACE CORPS COMMEMORATIVE
Peace Corps Park

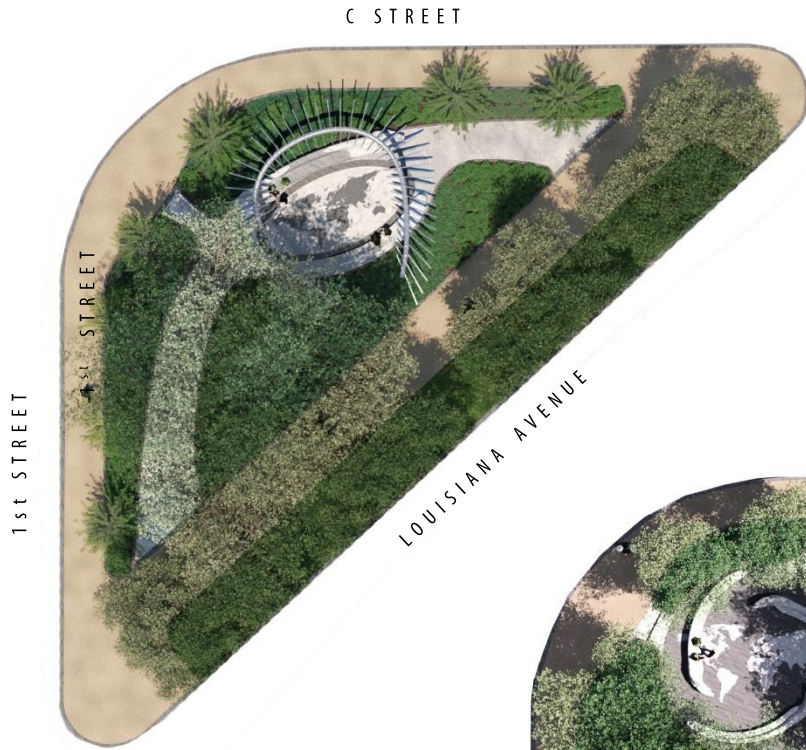
U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020



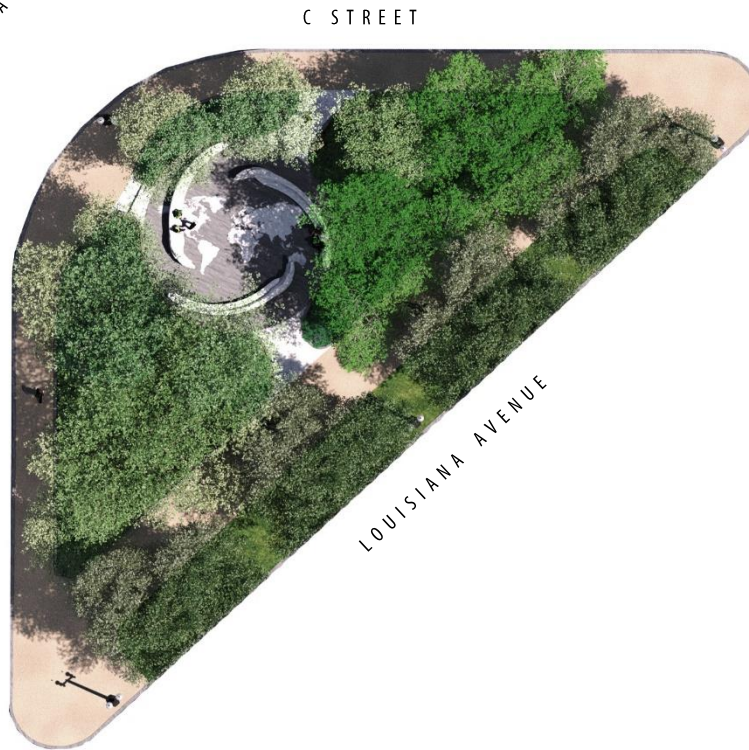
SITE CONTEXT

The mature tree canopy of the Capitol Grounds is an important adjacency for this small site creating a green backdrop to the southeast for visitors at the Commemorative. The site's position in the northwest corner of the original Capitol Grounds configuration offers a way to complete and connect to the robust living canopy of the Capitol Grounds.

Refined Concept Design in Site Context.



JUNE 2020



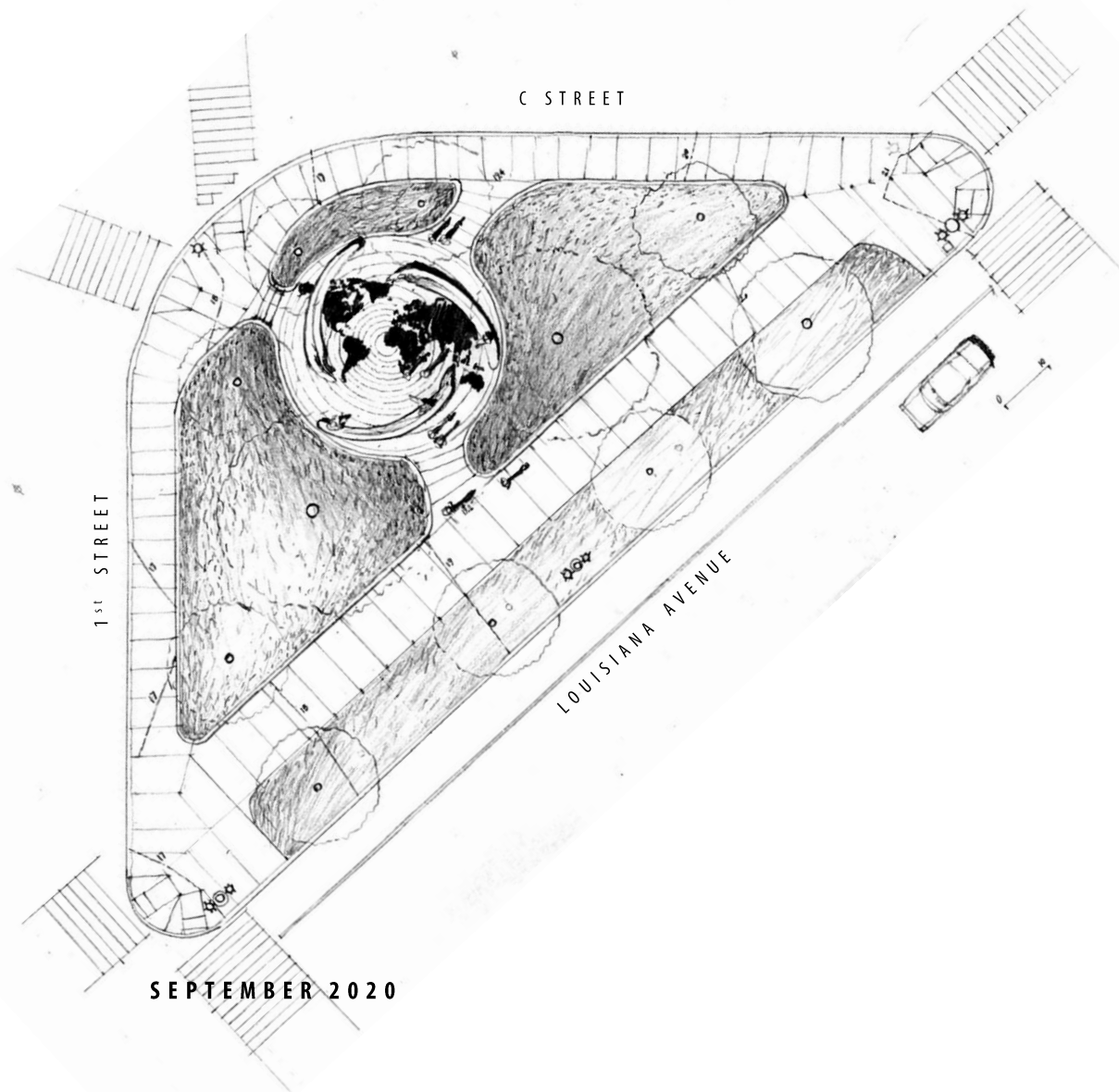
SEPTEMBER 2020

SUMMARY OF COMMISSION COMMENTS, JUNE 2020

The June 18, 2020, U. S. Commission of Fine Arts recognized the design goal of the project is to develop an intimate public space focused on the world map and stone bench-hands and that this could be achieved with or without the glass pergola.

The design presented in June 2020 with the pergola had a series of challenges related to symbology and detailing. The Commission requested an alternative design without the glass pergola, using a 'living canopy', with a grove of trees to define the Commemorative space. And, the CFA also asked that there be more focus on the bench hands to strengthen their anthropomorphic quality.

The revised concept responds to these comments by adjusting the site layout and replacing the glass canopy with a tree canopy for shade and comfort.



DESIGN CONCEPT UPDATE

The revised concept clarifies the Peace Corps message of outreach and engagement with the world by simplifying the number of elements in the design.

Central Space is an inviting place at the center of the triangular site framed by three benches. It is scaled appropriately to the site and is a place that offers more fluid movement and interaction than the previous concept.

Sculptural benches reach into the world map of the central space. The three granite benches start as an 18" high seat and over their 40' lengths resolve as outstretched hands. Increasing the number of hands from two to three expands the meaning of shared understanding around the world.

Planting immerses the gathering place in a green park setting that echoes the adjacent Capitol Grounds. A mix of shade trees forms a living canopy over most of the triangular site with a clearing at the center. The new layout reduces the paving and increases trees in a more robust canopy.

Paths extend the spiral pattern of the sculptural benches and shape three entry points from each of the sidewalks on Louisiana Avenue, First and C Streets. Path lengths are reduced from the June submission.



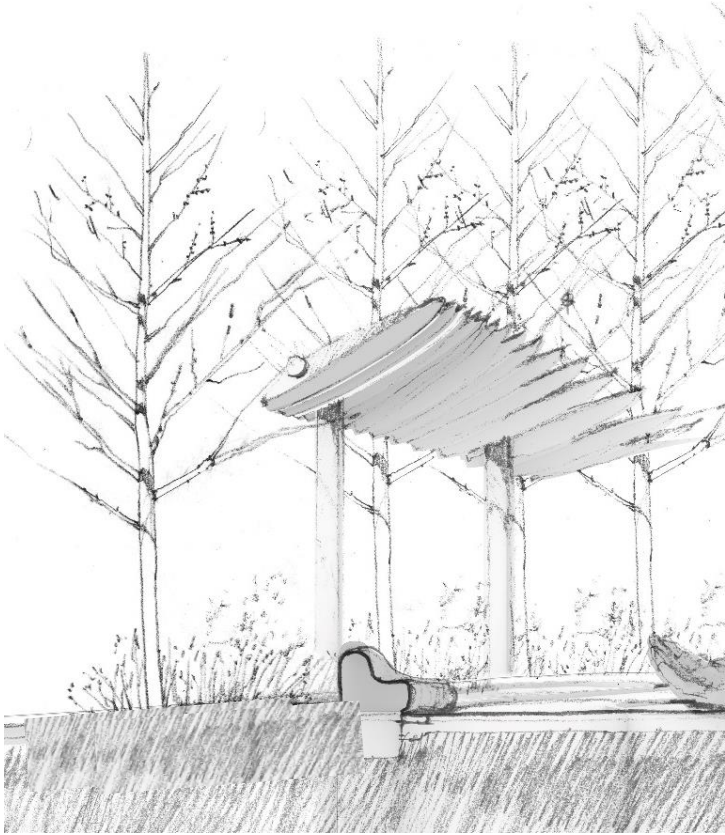
Birds-eye view of central space.

CENTRAL SPACE

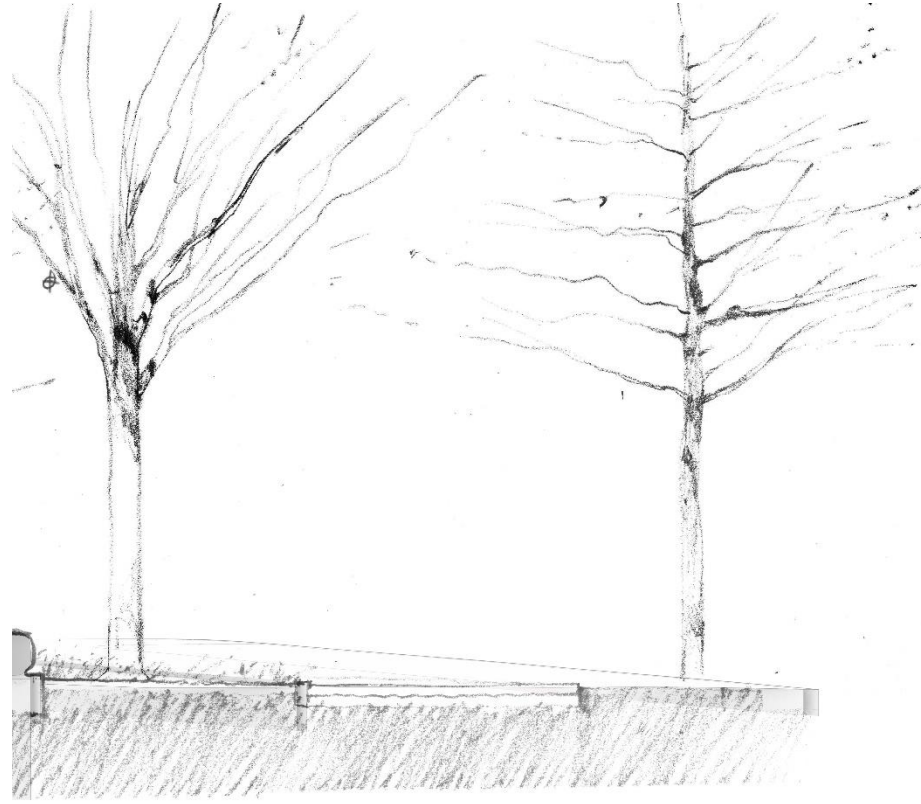
The site is developed as a park with open and filtered views to the surrounding streets. At the interior of the triangular site is a contemplative gathering space that invites people to visit individually or in groups, to gather, talk, relax, contemplate or just have lunch.

In the paving at the center of the paved plaza is the world map, distinguished without political boundaries. This map connotes our shared humanity, transcending barriers between people to achieve mutual understanding and peace.

The three outstretched sculpted hand benches in granite reach out to each other to connote giving and receiving, teaching and learning from others.

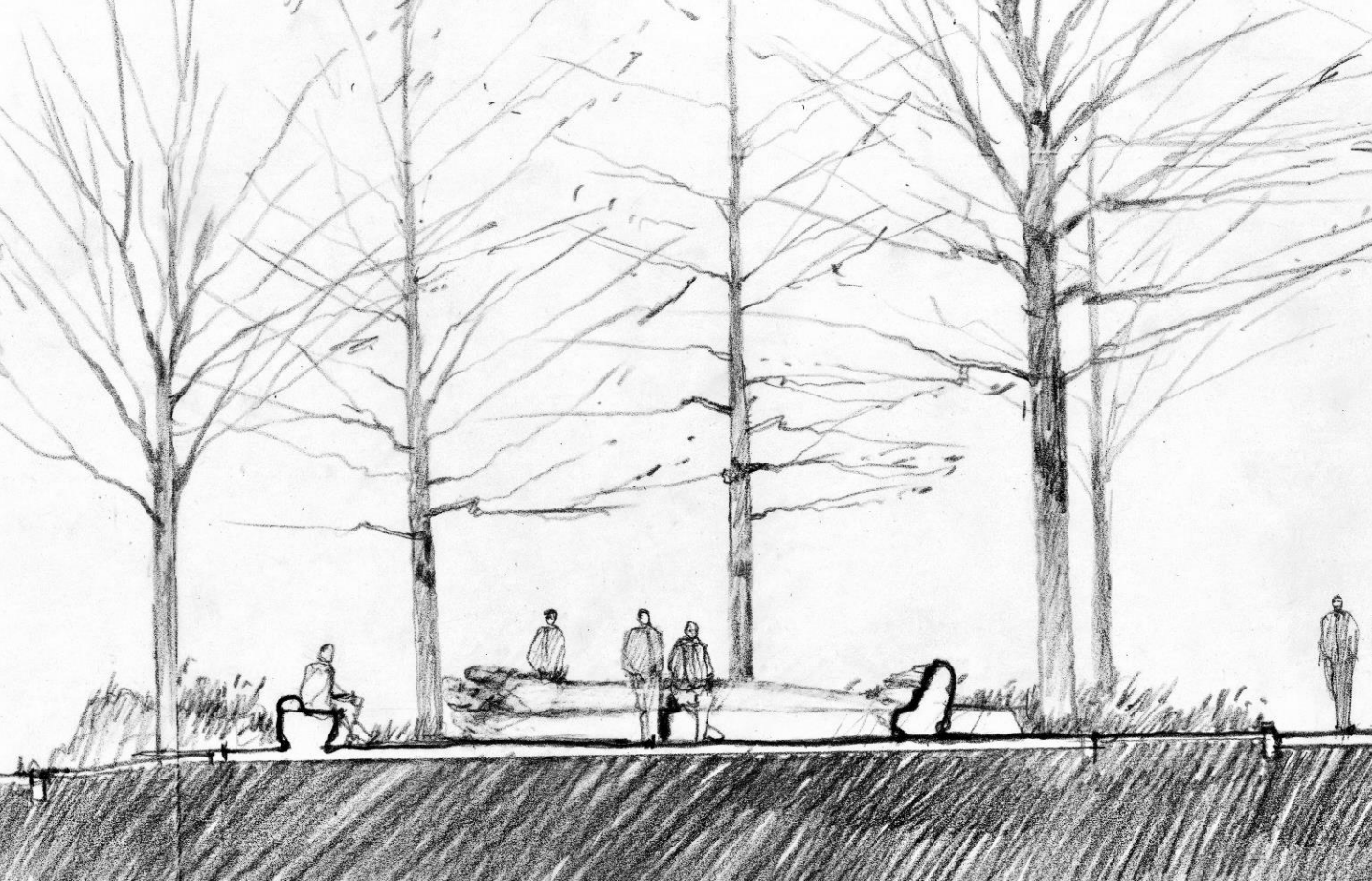


GLASS CANOPY
June 2020



TREE CANOPY
September 2020





LIVING TREE CANOPY

A mixed grove of shade trees replaces the architectural glass canopy creating a strong sense of place under the living tree canopy. The grove offers a variety of textures, light, and color for shade and interest throughout the seasons.

The planting strategy reinforces the park setting of the site context. Along Louisiana Avenue, shade trees match the existing Red Oak street trees and create a strong urban edge. Within the block, Overcup Oak, Nyssa, and American Elm give a majestic presence to this small site tying it to the broader planting of the Capitol Grounds.

The ground plane planting strategy includes a matrix of riparian perennial plants to ensure that the project presents a strong park- frontage for pedestrians and those passing by in vehicles.

DOEE stormwater regulations require 1.2" rainfall to be retained from the pervious areas of the project. (This project does not fall within the Anacostia River Watershed jurisdiction). Planting areas within the site will be required for stormwater management.

Section through the canopy and central space.

CANOPY STRATEGY- MIXED SHADE TREES



RED/SCARLET OAK



OVERCUP OAK



NYSSA



AMERICAN ELM

GROUND COVER STRATEGY



DWARF SWEET FLAG



BLUE SEDGE



BEARDED IRIS



Bench hand references and studies.

HAND BENCHES

Granite hand benches reach into the center of the gathering space, across the world map. These sculptural benches frame the space and give reason to sit, meet, and gather at the Commemorative.

The gesture and form for the hands is still under study but will offer a welcoming and generous presence on the site. The details for the anthropomorphic form will also depend upon the final granite choice. Their size creates a whimsical form for all ages to engage.

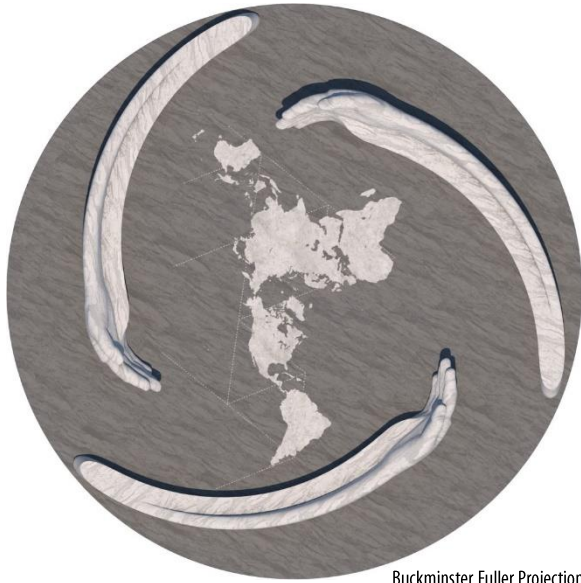
The comfortable seat height is 18" and transitions to a sloped, raised back. The end of the bench is backless.



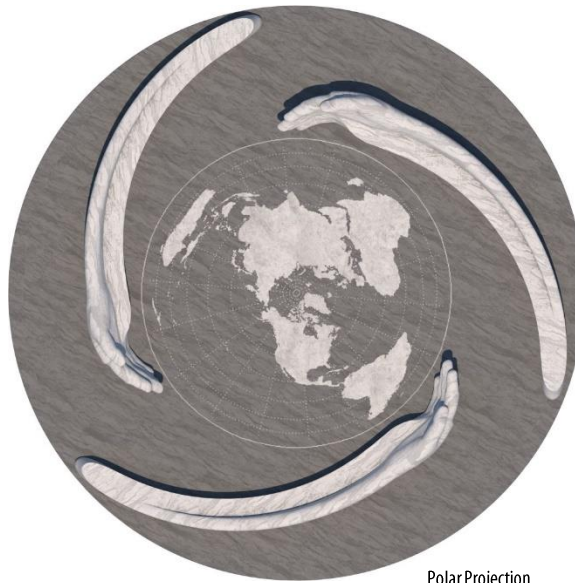
Bench hand sketch.



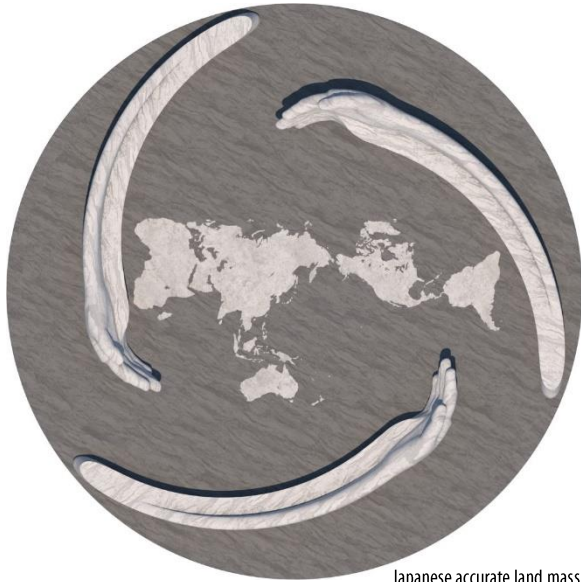
View of central space from entry at Louisiana Avenue showing the world map framed by the hand benches.



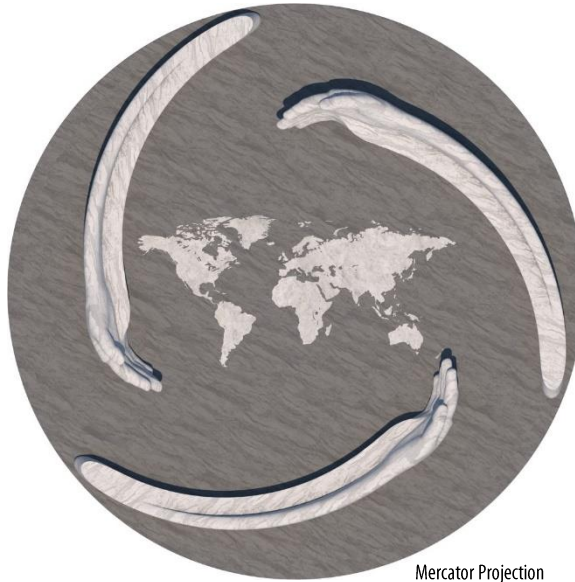
Buckminster Fuller Projection



Polar Projection



Japanese accurate land mass projection



Mercator Projection

WORLD MAP

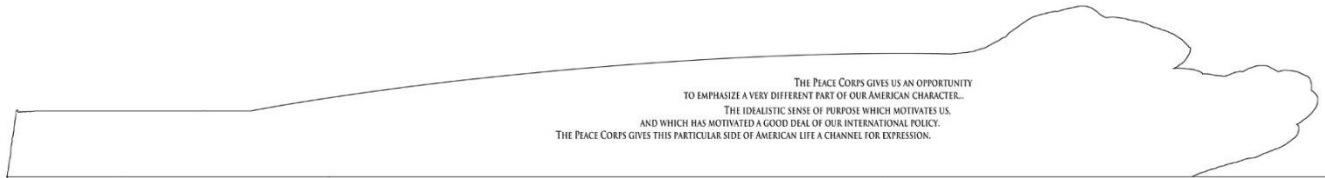
The world map is an important part of the messaging and communication for the Peace Corps mission and exposure to its presence worldwide.

There are many map projections that offer advantages and options for how the land masses are communicated in the surface of the paving. Options will continue to be studied to determine the preferable layout.

Materials under review include a light-colored granite for the land masses and a darker granite for the water.



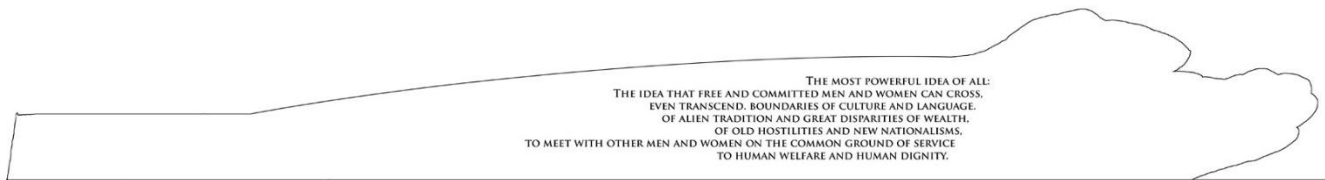
Entry path at Louisiana Avenue with name of the Commemorative.



C Street Entry



Louisiana Avenue Entry



1st Street Entry

INSCRIPTIONS

The revised site layout offers new opportunities for inscriptions at each entry point along the path as visitors enter the central space.

The inscriptions include quotes that describe the meaning and importance of the Peace Corps in the American ethos. They offer another way to communicate the role of the Peace Corps in enhancing mutual understanding and promoting peace around the world.

Three inscriptions are carved into the backsides of the benches. In addition to the name of the Commemorative, several quotes are under consideration and will require further review. The font, letter size, and layout are to be developed.



View looking southwest from Louisiana Avenue and C Street corner shows how shade trees help to transition the scale from the buildings of the surrounding urban context to the more shaded comfort at the center of the Commemorative Park.



View looking northwest from Louisiana Avenue and 1st Street corner shows how the planted ground plane offers a soft textured floor for the site perimeter around the central gathering place.



View from a vehicle looking northwest from Louisiana Avenue across the Commemorative site.



THE MOST POWERFUL IDEA OF ALL
THE IDEA THAT FREE AND COMMITTED MEN AND WOMEN CAN CROSS
EVEN TRANSCEND BOUNDARIES OF CULTURE AND LANGUAGE
OF ALIEN TRADITION AND GREAT DISPARITIES OF WEALTH
OF OLD HOSTILITIES AND NEW NATIONALISMS
TO MEET WITH OTHER MEN AND WOMEN ON THE COMMON GROUND OF SERVICE
TO HUMAN WELFARE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

View from entry at 1st and C Streets showing inscription and views across to the Capitol Grounds.



THE PEACE CORPS... THIS IS AN OPPOSITE
TO EACH OTHER'S VERY DIFFERENT PART OF OUR AMERICAN CHARACTER
THE IDIOMATIC SENSE OF PURPOSE AND OF MOTIVATION
AND WHICH HAS MOTIVATED A GOOD DEAL OF OUR BEST NATIONAL ACTION
THE PEACE CORPS GOES THIS PARTICULAR SIDE OF AMERICAN LIFE A CHANGING POINT OF VIEW

View from C Street entry showing an inscription and the path that slips around the outstretched hand bench.



View of typical 6'-4" threshold between benches at points of entry to the central space.



View from C Street looking southeast across site to the Capitol Grounds and the Taft Memorial shows a high headed tree canopy with a clearing for the central gathering place at the center.

AGENCY

National Park Service

CLIENT

Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation

Roger K. Lewis, FAIA, President (Tunisia 1964-66): Architect; Professor Emeritus of Architecture, University of Maryland

Bonnie Gottlieb, Vice President & Secretary/Treasurer (Ivory Coast 1972-74): Senior Vice President of Nareit; Attorney

Tony Barclay, PhD (Kenya 1968-70): Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University; former Chairman, National Peace Corps Association

Carrie Hessler-Radelet (Western Samoa 1981-84): President & CEO, PCI Global; former Director of the Peace Corps

Aaron Williams (Dominican Republic 1967-70): Senior Advisor Emeritus, RTI International, former Director of the Peace Corps

Scott Nichols (Morocco 1970-71): Vice President for Development & Alumni Relations, Boston University; Former Associate Dean for Advancement, Harvard University Law School

Jefferey M. Zell, CRE, President and CEO, JM Zell Partners, LTD, Advisory Board & Council Member, Kuhn Real Estate Center & Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University

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Michael Vergason Landscape Architects. Ltd.

Mowry Studio

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Granite Graphics

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Martin and Martin, Structural Engineers

AECOM, Environmental Analysis & Section 106 Historic Preservation Consultant