The National Star **Guiding America's Brilliance into the Future**

A collection of murals and quotes in a public gathering space that represent the United States in the 21st century displayed on the exterior walls of five monumental pillars. The triangular pillars form the five points of a bird's eye view star with internal elevator access to a rooftop glass-enclosed observation deck at the top of the tallest pillar. The angled pillar roofs allow the star motif to be seen at ground level from a distance.





The star is oriented so that the observation deck points directly East away from D.C. This allows for a scenic panorama of the Nation's Capital, looking out over the rest of the site grounds and down East Capitol Street NE towards the U.S. Capitol building. Doing so grants a view over Kingman Lake and the Anacostia River, as well as a view up East Capitol St. SE.

Located at the top of the tallest pillar, elevator access allows the deck to be reached by all.

Design Process

As fall developed, we transitioned from club recruitment to working on our response to this year's design challenge, meeting at least every other week to work and learn from project-relevant guest speakers.

Phase 1: Prompt Selection

- Brainstorm session to conceptualize ideas for all prompts
- Weighed pros and cons of each idea
- Used a group vote to select prompt
- Overcame challenges when trying to agree on ideas to come to a successful compromise

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Exterior Murals

Murals encompass the ideas of SPICE analysis when examining a nation during a desired period of time. Social, political, interactions between humans and the environment, cultural, and economic themes are considered the key components to a nation's whole.

The artwork is large and simplistic in style, in order to be easily seen and interpreted from ground level.

Phase 2: Site Selection

RFK Stadium is a large venue in the DC area not being used



- Not near any other major monuments that would take away from the impact of the National Star
- In an area of DC that does not have many major establishments creating revenue, it would boost the economy, and lead to further developments.
- In line with the Washington Monument and the US Capitol making the site significant for a monument

Phase 3: Focus

- Although other ideas were considered, the ultimate focus chosen was for an open-air destination that symbolically represented the values of the prompt
- Finalized star shape as a major part of the focus of the design
- Improved collaboration skills while developing the project's focus

Site Location

The lot selected previously housed the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium in Washington, D.C. While once home to many of DC's sports teams, the Stadium is now defunct and unused. Located 2 miles east of the U.S. Capitol building, the stadium's property encompasses a number of lots along the Anacostia River. The portion of these lots developed for the purposes of this project are between C St NE, Independence Ave SE, and 22nd St NE where the stadium previously stood (pictured right). This allows for physical connection between the Nation's Capital, a critical part of America during recent centuries, and scenic views of the city from The National Star.

Symbolism in Design

Location/Orientation: The selected location allows the orientation of The National Star to be aligned with the National Mall and the U.S. Capitol; the linear alignment with these important parts of our Nation's Capital and its past symbolize that although we are continuing to move along our perceived linear path in time, we can still choose to move in new directions throughout the rest of the 21st century, represented by the 5 points of the star.

General Design: The use of a star as the landmark's main icon represents two aspects of the United States: Stars are considered a symbol of the success of the United States and their use is meant not only to represent this American essence but their recognition as a symbol of what is strived for as well. The latter meaning applies to American excellence and its influences in the past (such as various democratic countries' constitutions being based after its own) and our own desire to move towards greater things in the upcoming century.

Murals: The symbolism of the past, present, and future of the United States is incorporated in the organization of the pillar's murals. The base of each pillar is painted by local artists with scenes from the beginning of the 21st century; the further up the sides of the pillars, the closer the mural subjects are to the present.

Lincoln Memorial



Each pillar represents a different category of SPICE (social, political, interactions with the environment, cultural, and economic), with corresponding images in the murals. Only the lowermost 20% of the pillars will be completed at the time of the pavilion's construction, emphasizing the fact that the present is always developing as America progresses through time. As the 21st century develops, additional murals will be commissioned.

Observation Deck: The observation deck at the top of the tallest pillar represents the future in the vertical progression of time; the images from the past decades in the murals transition to the blank canvas that is the present, to the transparent observation deck. The people standing on the observation deck are people who will be part of the future; they serve to represent it as a diverse, living and ever-changing part of the pavilion's symbolism.



Phase 4: Further Development

- Focused on other prompt requirements
- Developed the mural concept as Social, Political, Interactions with the Environment, Cultural, and Economic themes
- Mini-groups were formed to tackle different aspects of the project with check-ins and group discussions leading to final decisions. Summative data and visual elements were developed
- Guest speakers were invited to speak on specialized topics related to the design - cost estimation, security, landscape design, etc.







Materials



Construction Techniques

This monument will be a design-build project built with traditional and modern building methods using a wide variety of subcontractors. This will also be a DC First project, creating more local jobs rather than outsourcing.

Structure & Architecture

The star-shaped monument comprises a decagon with each side being 75 feet long. Each point of the star is a reinforced concrete tower sloping 28 degrees at the top, with steel framing at the observation deck. The sloped pillars allow the star design to be visible and easily recognizable from a distance.

Strategy for Sustainability

The monument will be constructed out of sustainable and long lasting materials, such as low-carbon emission concrete and recycled steel reinforcement. The development of the surrounding area will expand DC's green space and promote an environmentally sustainable culture.



Size and Scale of the Project

The pavilion will be a welcome addition to the Washington, DC skyline with the tallest pillar towering 300 feet in height. The two western pillars are 200 feet while the middle pillars stand 250 feet tall. These heights are similar to many other buildings in DC as limited by the city building code. By comparison the Washington Monument is twice the height as the tallest tower of the National Star.

Security

To protect the people visiting the monument, basic security features such as cameras, security guards and proper lighting will be implemented throughout the site. To secure the observation deck, the monument entrance will contain a screening vestibule containing x-ray machines and metal detectors. A capacity limit will additionally be provided to prevent overcrowding. To protect both pedestrians and the structure from vehicular threats, anti-ram bollards and planters will be placed around the designated parking areas.

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During the feasibility study, access and location were strongly considered when determining the project site. Selling points for this site included existing parking lots and public transportation to ease the barrier of access for visitors. We considered built in retail space and contrasted it with pop-up shops. The cost estimate aligns with pre-existing memorials in D.C.

The National Sta

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Stadium-Armory Station

Lincoln Park

Metro Access 5 minute walk from Stadium-Armory Station

Bike Path

Kingman Is

Access 2 minute walk from the Anacostia River Trail

Elevated Platform The monument sits on

a concrete ring that will be raised three feet to serve as a security barrier

> **Visitor Center** Placed on lawn, including gift shop and restrooms

Observation Deck

Tallest (East) tower has glass observation deck with views of other DC monuments

Security Vestibule Screening

procedure for all visitors prior to entering monument

Five Sections of Green Area Two picnic (tables, grill, shady trees), two recreational (open grassy area for games like frisbee. cornhole, kite flying), and one garden (green walkways and lots of flora)

Cost Estimate / Feasibility Study

ories	Cost Total
o of RFK Stadium	\$ 9,425,000
Development	\$ 4,010,000
ture	\$ 17,304,200
ior	\$ 12,625,000
ing Systems	\$ 5,416,500
nes	\$ 2,019,780
scaping	\$ 10,867,200
Construction Cost	\$61,667,680
Construction Cost Per	• • • •
re Foot of Site* Developed	\$140
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