

MEMORIAL FOR HUMANITY

NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR THE RESILIENCE OF HUMAN NATURE

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In
Architecture

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Memorial Design, Future Of Memorials,
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Memorial For Humanity: National Memorial For The Resilience
Of Human Nature

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ABSTRACT

In today's climate of division, how can urban landscapes reflect unity? How can they remind us of what we have in common?

In a city like Washington, D.C. that welcomes millions of visitors from all corners of the globe every year mainly for its many memorials, what would a memorial that invites reflection on issues that concern humanity at large look like? What would it be about? What is the best location for it?

This thesis, based on the above questions, explores the memorialization of the resilience of human nature using site, water, different materials, and past & future events. The memorial will be located on Hains point, which is already a designated site for future memorials by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC).

Memorial For Humanity: National Memorial For The Resilience
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GENERAL AUDIENCE ABSTRACT

This project investigates how to design a memorial with a universal theme that every visitor can relate to. The Memorial aims at providing a space that unites, uplifts and invites to reflect on the Resilience of Human Nature in the face of tragedies around the world. It is a reminder that as humans we are more similar than we are different, a reminder that is needed today.

To survivors of tragedies everywhere, especially survivors of the Genocide Against Tutsi: your strength inspires me every day, and I dedicate this project to you all.

To my committee: Susan, Paul and Scott, thank you for guiding me, sharing your expertise and creativity, and always inviting me to go deeper in developing this project. I appreciated your flexibility and patience throughout this whole journey.

To my family and longtime friends: thank you for supporting me from near and far, praying for me and continuously reminding me to believe in myself.

To my WAAC friends and all the friends I made since I got in the U.S: thank you for making my graduate school journey more than that, by adding some fun to it. It made it more fulfilling.

To the Fulbright program: thank you for making all this possible, for broadening my horizons, and making my career path richer.

To my Heavenly Father, thank you for always sustaining me, giving me the strength and skill to do what I need to do.

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MEMORIALS

MEMORIALS

Memorials are sites of urban tourism, and particularly memory tourism.¹ They are open museums, social and political institutions. Memorials are a way to tell a story of a place. Very political, their establishments revolve around governments. Through long processes, decisions about who, what, and how to commemorate are carefully pondered on. Some memorials acknowledge recognized losses a nation suffered, and others commemorate events or individuals that communicate information about the heritage of a nation.

Memorials can be spaces, objects (memorial monuments), and different infrastructures such as bridges, roads, schools, etc. can be dedicated to an event or an individual as a memorial.

Memorials can be permanent, as well as temporary. An example of a temporary memorial is a site where an event just took place, and flowers and other objects to commemorate the event or honor the individuals are deposited at the site.

Throughout history we see the relationship of man with memory through physical space. Places where important events happened are preserved as a reminder. We can say that the events are thus immortalized. In my country for instance there are several places in the landscape preserved that relate to kings and events that happened centuries ago.

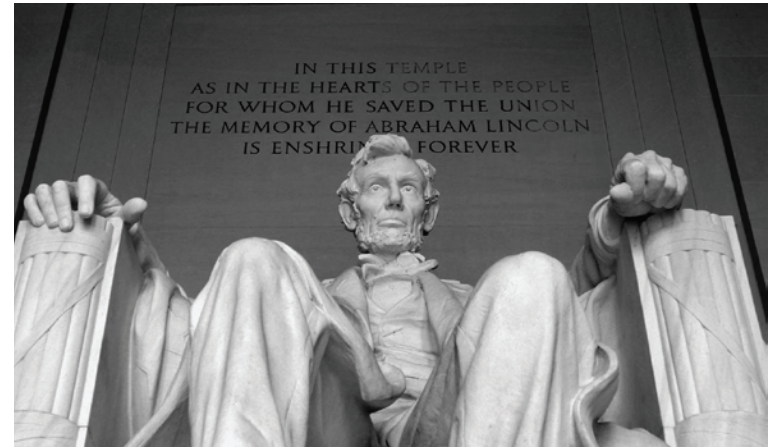


Fig 1: Heritage

Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. dedicated to Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States as a symbol of Unity, Strength, and Wisdom



Fig 2: Loss

The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C. paying tribute to visible and invisible disabilities from military service

Among events 'immortalized' death is a common one. By building monuments and memorials, man tries to immortalize death/loss on the outside, as well as on the inside by keeping the memories alive. Reminders on our physical spaces are an important aspect to ensure memories do not fade. Examples are tombs of Kings in different places built as monuments.

War monuments started to be erected in the late 19th century. This was done so future generations can learn from them and avoid making the same mistakes. These monuments would be self-explanatory in the way they were built. After World War II, more abstract designs started increasing. These memorials would have names of casualties on abstract structures.²

As traveling to other countries became easier, the need to tell stories thoroughly through physical spaces became more important. Memorials started incorporating testimonies from individuals who experienced the events. This also is a profound way to teach people, so mistakes do not happen again. This is important because wars can be avoided in most cases.

Humans, divided in different groups, tend to identify more with events or people among the same groups. Some groups are created from geographic locations, others from races, others from religions, etc. This can influence people that visit a memorial. There are opinions that the theme of a memorial always has a certain targeted visitors' group.

It is in the human nature to aspire for significance. Different groups of people aspiring for their experiences to be acknowledged collaborate with governments to establish memorials that honor their stories.

In this divided climate, our urban landscapes are divided too: where we live, where we work, where we go for leisure activities, where we shop, etc. I believe part of the responsibility of place makers is to create places that bring people together more. Memorials, as physical storytellers, have this opportunity too.

PRECEDENTS

PRECEDENTS

Washington, D.C. and Berlin, Germany attract many visitors every year. Berlin is one of Europe's top travel destinations and attracted 13.5 million people in 2018,⁴ and Washington, D.C. attracted 23.8 million visitors in 2018.⁵

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. as a National Capital and seat of the government, keeps record of the country's history through its many memorials and monuments. They and its many museums, help make Washington, D.C. into the cultural treasure that it is. It is a popular visitors' destination because of this.

25 years must pass before a person's life may be commemorated in Washington, D.C., and 10 years before an event is eligible for a built memorial.⁶

In Washington, D.C. events that marked the country's history can be memorialized even though they did not take place in the country.

Berlin, Germany

Expression of memory in Berlin is part of the rebranding effort of the city, demonstrating that it is facing its dark past (Holocaust or World War II Genocide of the European Jews) and moving forward. Berlin is emerging as a tourist destination because of this.

It was after the reunification of Berlin (the Fall of Berlin Wall) in 1991 that memorials about events that took place between 1941 and 1945 started to be erected. (Not less than 45 years after the end of events).

Majority of memorials in Berlin are authentic to what is being commemorated, meaning they are located on sites where the events commemorated took place, or with strong connections to them.⁷

This project proposes a Memorial about events that happened in this country and elsewhere. In Washington, D.C. some of the built memorials relate to events that happened outside the U.S:

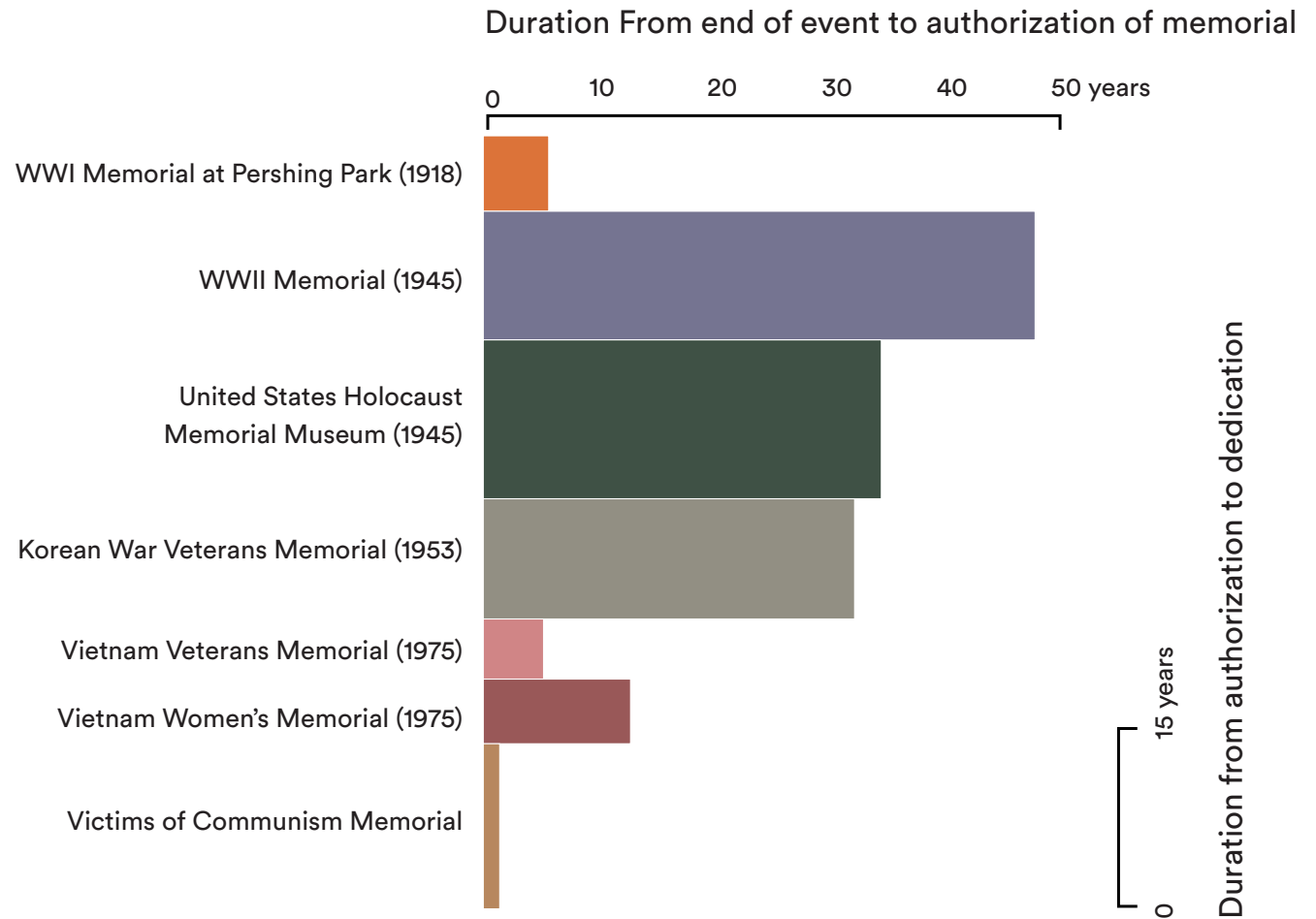


Fig 3: Timeline of Memorials in Washington, D.C.

Diagram showing timeline of memorials in Washington, D.C. relating to events that happened outside the U.S. From this chart, we see that the average duration from an end of an event to authorization is 20 years, and 9 years from authorization to dedication.⁸

Major memorials in Washington, D.C. and Berlin are located on important sites within proximity to the seat of the government, and in a network with other major memorials. This can be seen in other cities such as London, where newest war memorials are built in the National Memorial Arboratum.⁹

1. WWI Memorial at Pershing Park
2. WWII Memorial
3. Vietnam Veterans Memorial
4. Korean War Veterans Memorial
5. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

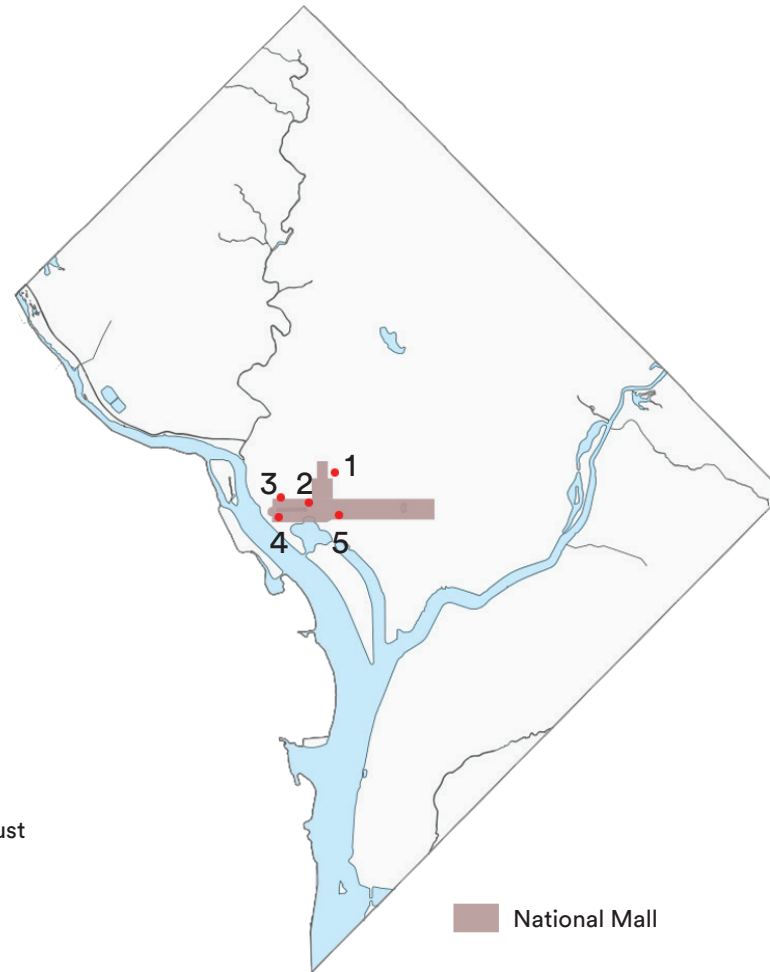


Fig 4: Map of Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C.

Major memorials, monuments, and Museums in Washington, D.C. are on or around the National Mall. The National Mall is a landscape park of great political significance located in a central location between U.S Capitol (East of the National Mall) and the White House (North of the National Mall).



1. Stelenfeld Holocaust Memorial 2. Topography of Terror 3. Jewish Museum

Fig 5: Map of Berlin

Berlin, Germany

Major Holocaust memorials and museums are located in Mitte District, a central location of current German politics and administration and of the Nazi power from 1933 to 1945.¹⁰

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL (WASHINGTON, D.C.) & STELENFELD HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL (BERLIN, GERMANY)



Fig 6: Washington, D.C. & Berlin

Aerial views of Vietnam Veterans Memorial (left) and Stelenfeld Holocaust Memorial (right) in context, showing proximity to parks and open spaces.

Memorials of focus are Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and Stelenfeld Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, also known as the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.



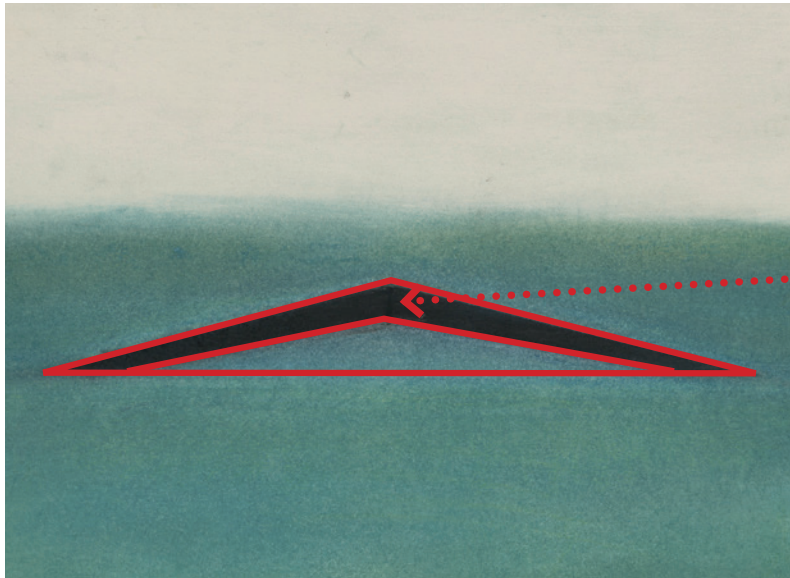
Fig 7: Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Located on the National Mall, this memorial pays tribute to the brave members of the U.S. Armed Forces who fought in the Vietnam War and were killed or declared missing in action. Sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, it was authorized in 1980 and dedicated in 1984, 9 years after the Vietnam war.¹¹ Its reflective stone allows one to have an individual powerful moment even when surrounded by a crowd, because of the material reflecting back the reflection of oneself through the names of the victims, and the terrain allowing one to be completely below ground level (where the stone reaches 10ft high). The memorial design is 2 walls that start as low as low as 1.5 in and become taller as they meet. The walls' projections point to the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial respectively, both iconic places on the National Mall.



Fig 8: Stelenfeld Holocaust Memorial

Originated from a citizens' initiative that was facilitated by journalist Lea Rosh and historian Eberhard Jäckel at the end of the 1980s, this memorial was authorized on June 25th, 1999. Construction began on April 1st, 2003 and the memorial was opened to the public on May 12th, 2005; 60 years after World War II. In the center of Berlin, the site isolates one and invites a visitor to feel lonely and disoriented surrounded by 2711 concrete blocks of varying heights (7.9 in to 15ft), and to feel uncomfortable walking on unlevelled ground surface. Although not built on an 'authentic site', the site is at the administrative center of Nazi, where decisions to persecute, deport and kill Jews were made.¹²



Designer: Landscape Architect and Artist Maya Lin

Architect of record: Cooper-Lecky Architects

Design process: Competition

Approach: Abstract, inviting to reflect on the loss

Design Intention: A Rift in the Earth as an acknowledgement of the loss and individualism of the lives lost through the listing of all their names

Finish: polished & reflective black granite

Human scale factor: high (high ability to connect individually)

Fig 9: Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The design raised a lot of critics. The long Vietnam war itself was controversial. When veterans came back from the war, they were not pleased by an official welcome and recognition of their sacrifice. They took the initiative to build this memorial. This Design was critiqued for being too simplistic, not self-explanatory. Some changes requested by the critics were approved and added later, which are a statue of three soldiers and a flagpole.

The memorial later became one of the most acclaimed memorial designs, and a popular destination for Veterans and their families. As a result, a demountable replica of the wall was built and travels from community to community so that those who are not able to travel to Washington, D.C. can still commemorate their loved ones whose names are on the wall.¹³



Designer: Architect Peter Eisenman

in collaboration with sculptor Richard Serra

Design process: Competition

Approach: Abstract, open to interpretation

Design Intention: solitude, irregular, with the sloping ground to recall the disorientation of the Holocaust victims. Color and aseptic matter create a feeling of emptiness.

Finish: cement, with anti-graffiti coat.

Human scale factor: low (feeling of solitude encouraged)

Fig 10: Stelenfeld Holocaust Memorial

This is perhaps one of the most critiqued memorial designs. Also, before it was designed, Germany was heavily critiqued for the absence of a Holocaust Memorial designed and built in Berlin after half a century since the Holocaust took place (other than authentic sites that were repurposed as memorials, for instance railway platforms where Jews were deported, etc.). Germany was being criticized for not being guilty enough.

This design is often associated with Nazi brutality for its lack of attention to detail, and its dull color. It is also associated with tombstones. The Architect encourages any interpretation visitors can come up with and what they think is appropriate to happen on site. He does not see the site as sacred space, which many insist it should be. His opinion is that the gravity of the Holocaust would cause any design to fail to represent it accurately. The Architect did not want any sign to be put in place that introduces what the space is. Critics asked for an information center that was added later below the memorial.¹⁴



Fig 11, 12, 13: Vietnam Veterans Memorial

≈5.6 million visitors per year for individual/group visits, and events.¹⁵



Fig 14, 15, 16: Stelenfeld Holocaust Memorial

≈2.5 million visitors per year for individual/group visits, and events.¹⁶

HAINS POINT

HAINS POINT

From studying the precedents, I concluded that a site for a memorial design needs to be within a network with other memorials, easily accessible, and within proximity to parks/open spaces. Located Southwest of the National Mall, Hains Point also known as East Potomac Park is a man-made island built in 1917 by the US Army Corps Engineers led by Major Hains. It sits between the mainland of Washington, D.C. and that of Virginia. It is at the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers. It was built from dredges collected at the shore of Washington, as an effort to reclaim the land from the water and reduce floods on the mainland of Washington. Its terrain is fairly flat with only 10 feet difference between highest and lowest point. Hains Point is part of areas considered as landmarks. It is part of National Mall and Memorial Parks unit managed by the National Park Service.¹⁷

Although not far from the always crowded National Mall and the Wharf, the island has less visitors compared to its surroundings. It is quiet and allows a visitor to enjoy a calm moment away from city life. Its access is not pedestrian friendly (a lot of overpasses for cars, yellow Metro line and Amtrak) crossing the site connecting Virginia to Washington, D.C.). These overpasses are the main source of noise on site, together with planes flying to or from the Reagan National Airport across the Potomac River. The park can do a better job at providing visitors with reasons to stay. The children's playground is tiny, and there are a few isolated benches. The park is used mainly for sports (golf, tennis, and soccer), and more people come on weekends to fish and family picnics than on weekdays.

The buildings on site are occupied by the U.S. Park Police Headquarters, the National Park Service East Potomac Maintenance Yard and National Park Service Headquarters. The edge of the island is in a bad condition due to river water that rises when it rains and causes the concrete of the pathways to crack.

This site was a good fit for a memorial about events that do not happen only in this country because it does not share physical characteristics of significance that pertain to Washington, D.C.: not the street pattern from L' Enfant original plan of the city, not arranged in a grid, and not walkable. The proximity to the Jefferson Memorial whose monument faces North to the White House is another reason. It is as though the monument faces where matters of the country revolve, leaving Hains Point excluded.

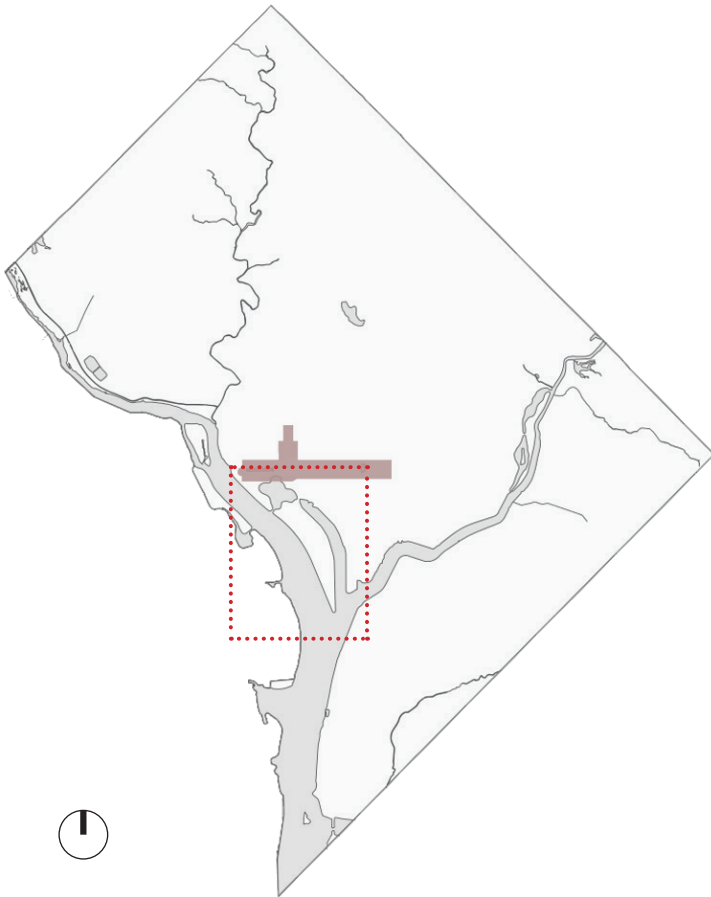


Fig 17: Hains Point location map

Hains Point has views on The Wharf, military facilities, and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport:

1. The Wharf
2. Fort Lesley J. McNair (Army post)
3. National War College
4. Joint Base Anacostia - Bolling (Air Force & Naval base)
5. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport



Fig 18: Aerial view of Hains Point

CONSTRAINTS:

Floods: Hains Point is in a high-risk flood zone for the projected 100 & 500 years floods. The island also floods during high tide due to its terrain that slopes down towards the edge of the island. The road along the edge of the island makes it impervious, which causes more damage.

Accessibility: The island is not easily accessible for pedestrians. Popular mean of access is by car and bike. It is a 40 minute walk from Jefferson Memorial, and 55 minute walk from Smithsonian metro station. The island has one dock for water taxis from The Wharf.

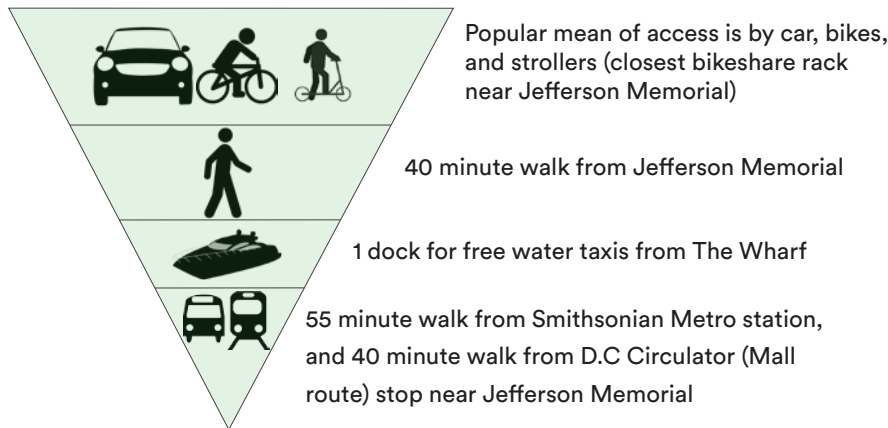


Fig 19: Means of transport to Hains Point

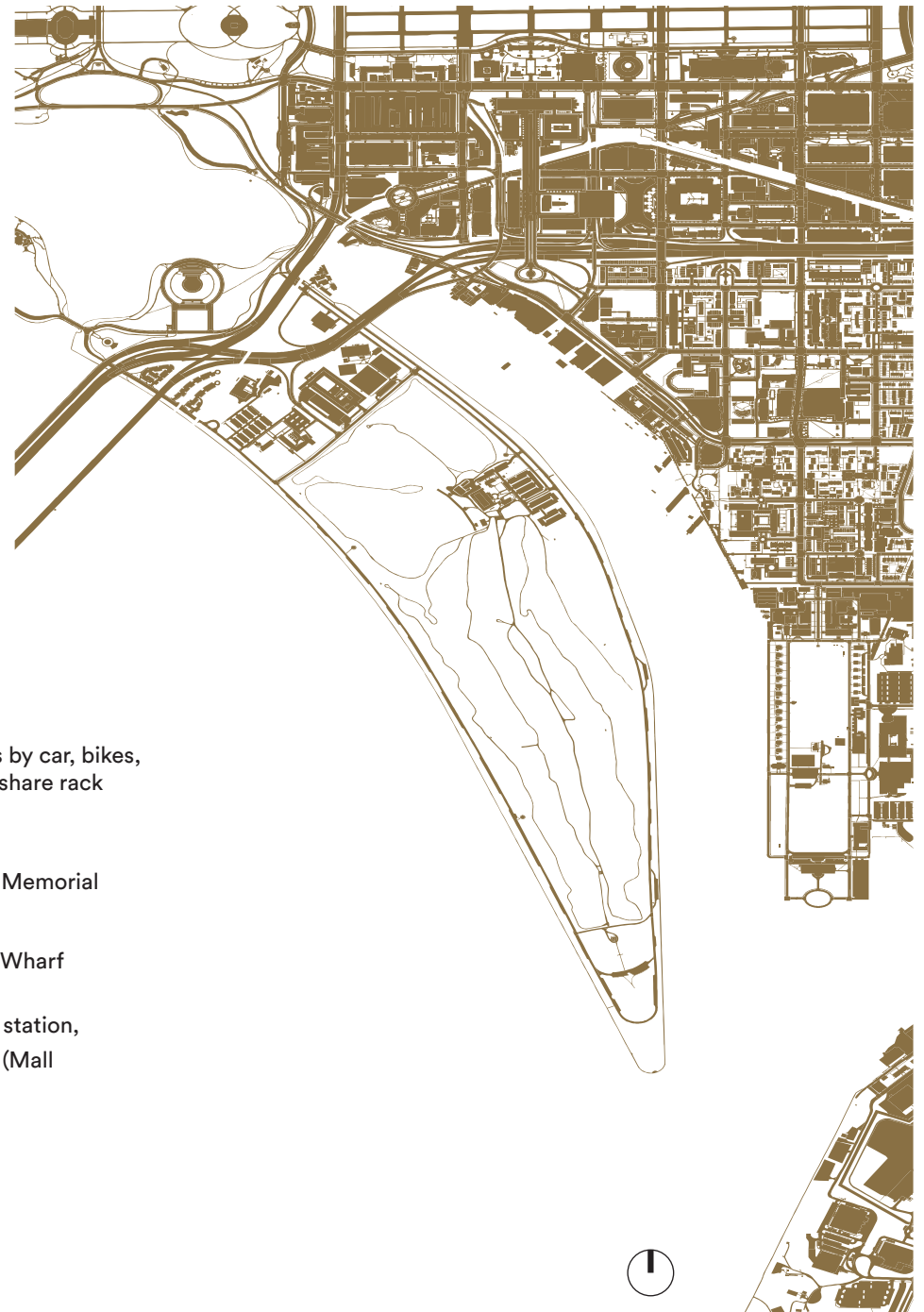


Fig 20: Washington, D.C. impervious surfaces

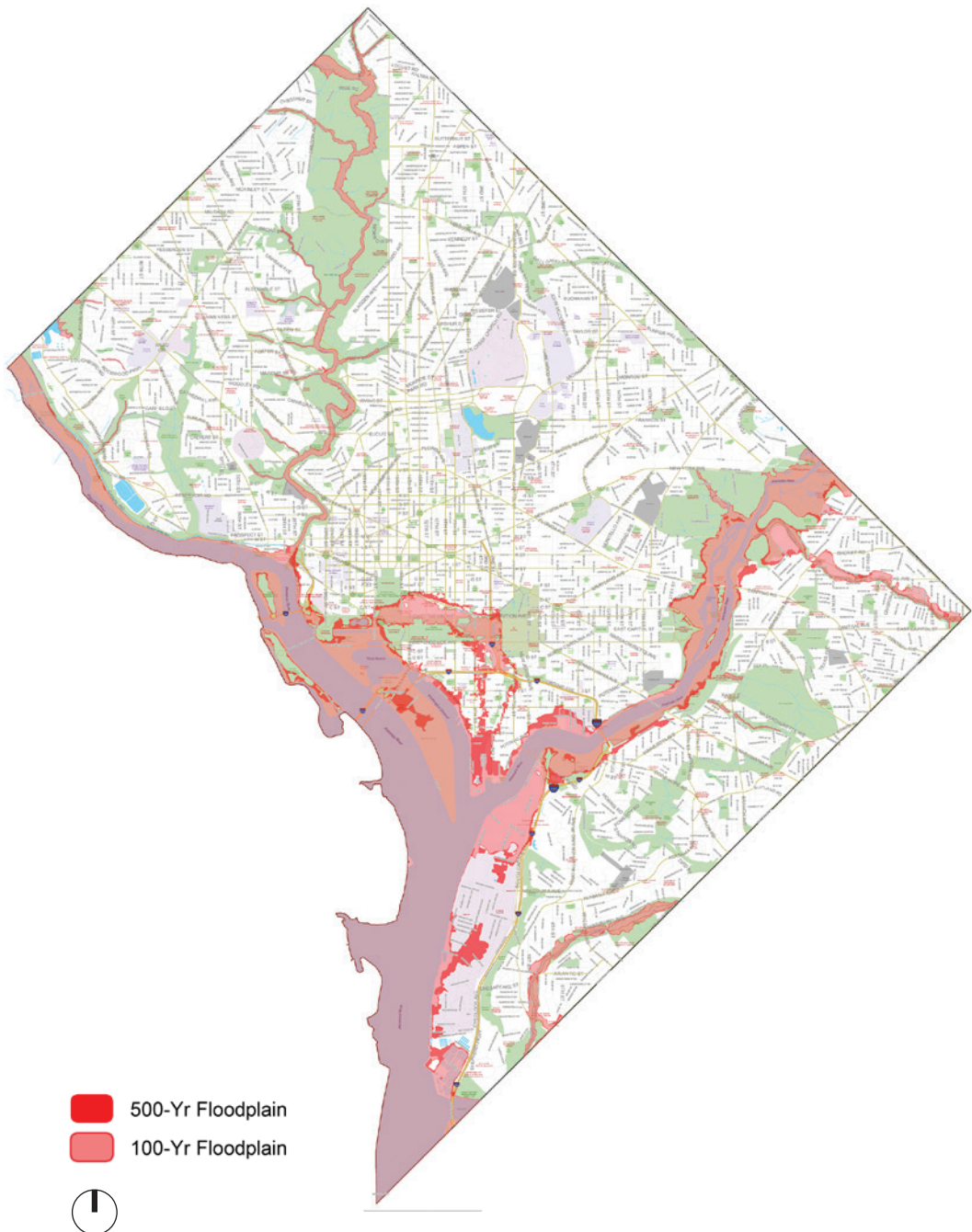


Fig 21: Washington, D.C. floodplain map



Fig 22-23: Pictures of Hains Point deteriorating edge

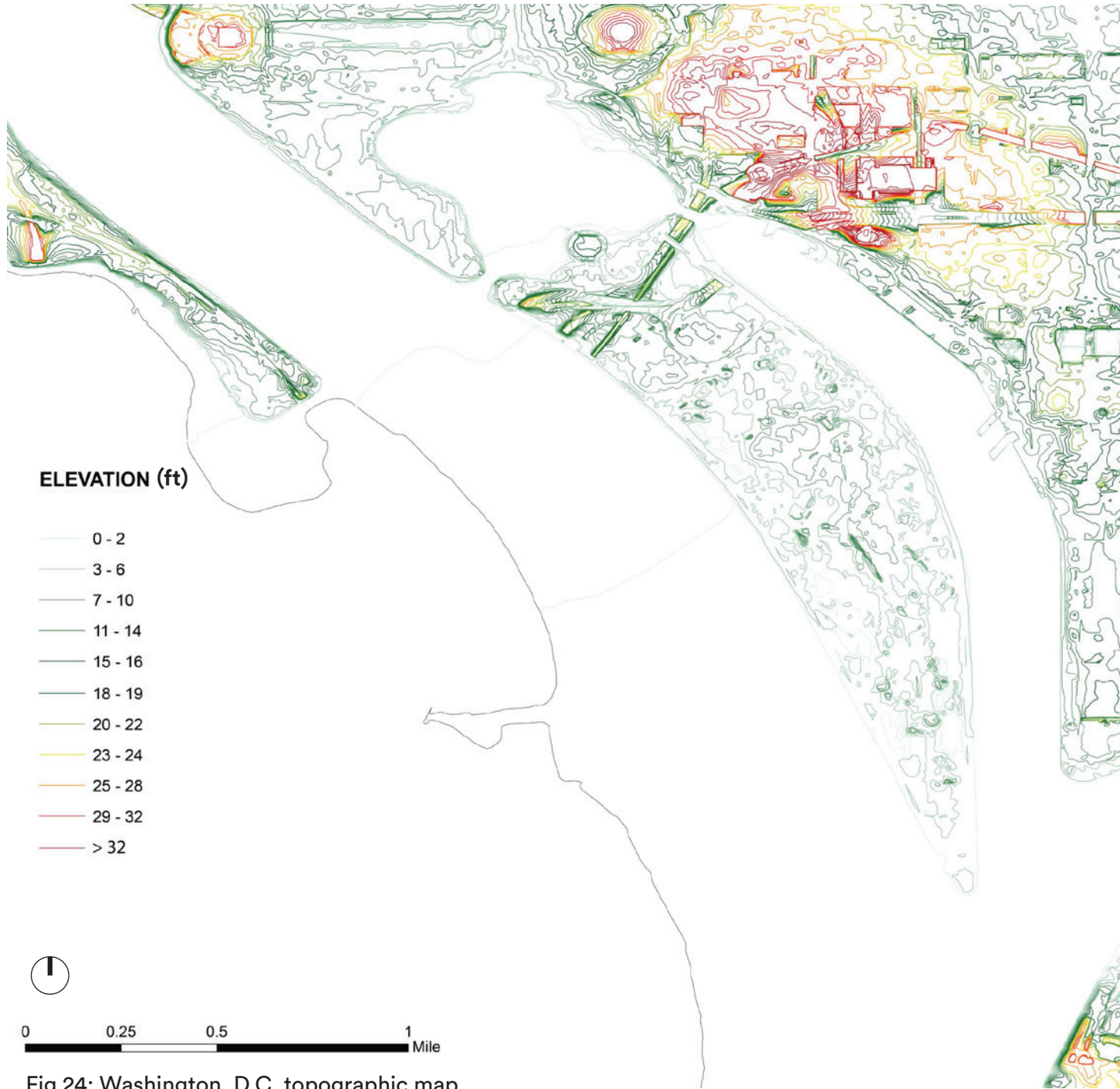


Fig 24: Washington, D.C. topographic map



Fig 25: Key map



Fig 26-28: Hains Point photographs



Fig 29: Key map



Fig 30-32: Hains Point photographs

COMMEMORATIVE WORKS AT HAINS POINT:

Hains Point is among areas designated by The National Capital Planning Commission as sites for future memorials in Washington, D.C. It was also site for other memorial designs in the past, the National Peace Garden and Climate Chronograph, which both have themes that are about the future. One is the ideal future we aspire to (Peace), and another one is about an inevitable threatening future (climate change). Both memorials are unbuilt.

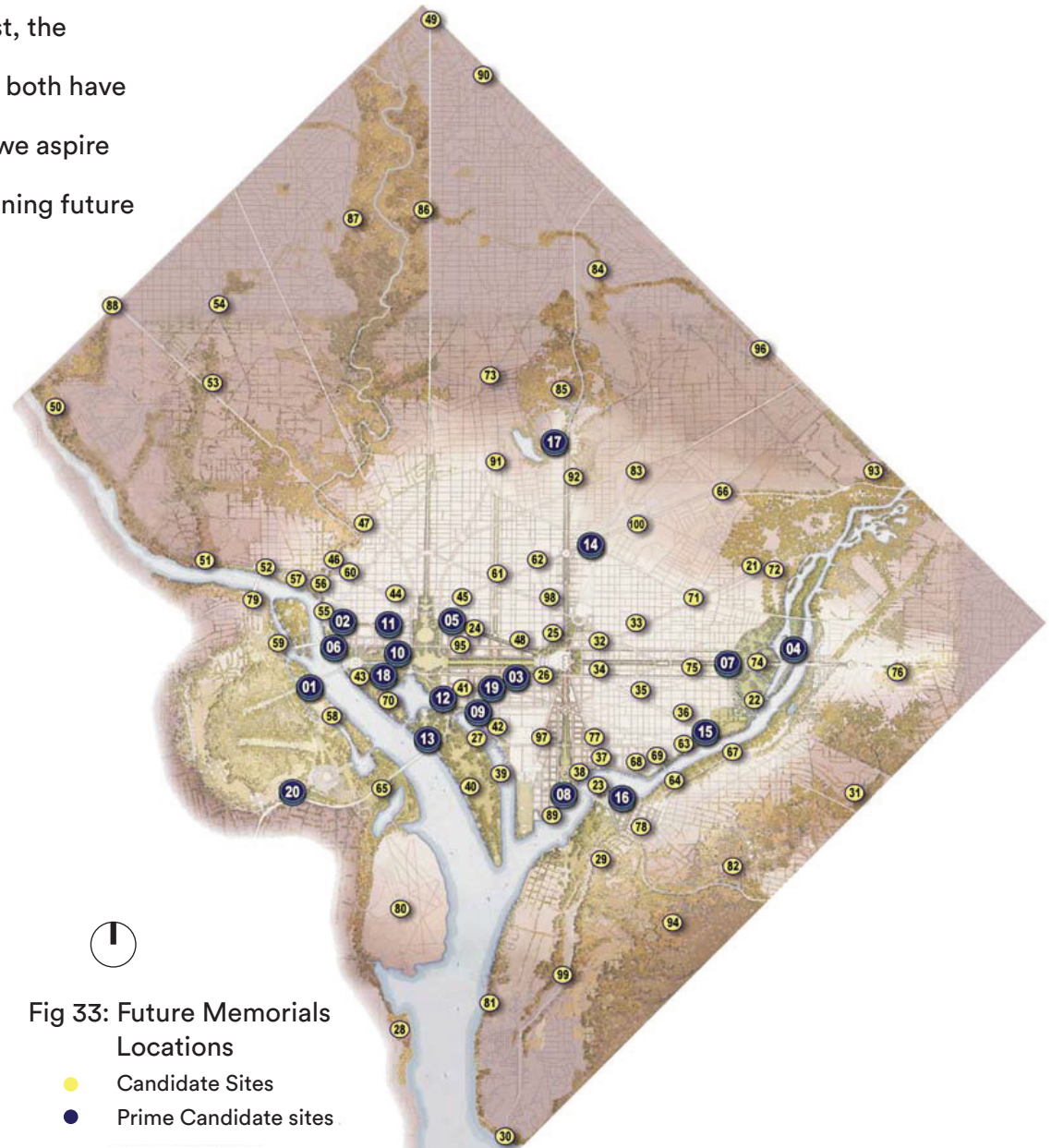


Fig 33: Future Memorials Locations

- Candidate Sites
- Prime Candidate sites

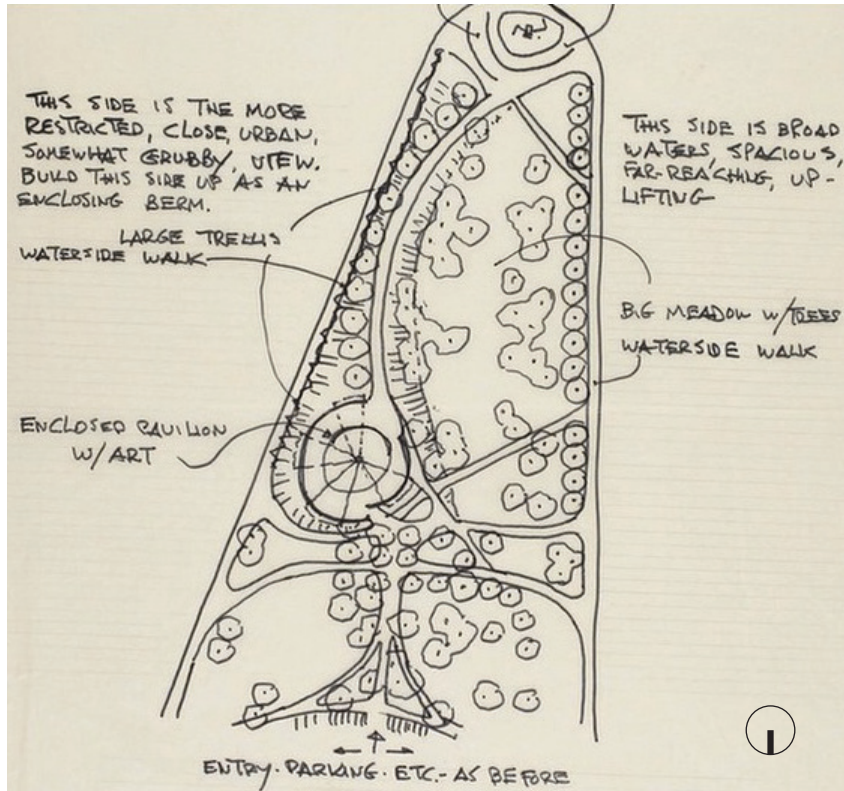


Fig 34-35: National Peace Garden

competition winning entry by Architect Eduardo Catalano (1989).
 "A garden has to be tended, just as peace does". -Elizabeth Ratcliff.
 She thought something that reflects the hopeful future was missing in Washington, D.C. among its many memorials about different wars from the past.¹⁸

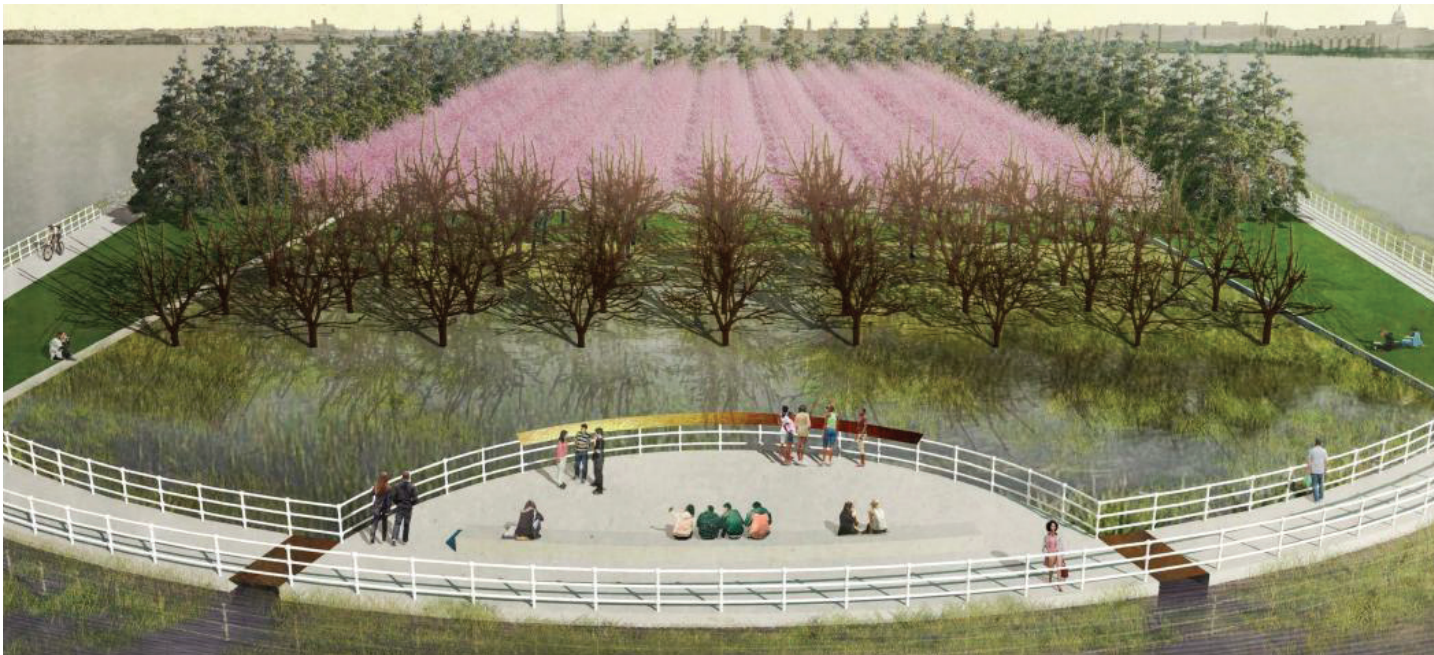


Fig 36-37: Climate Chronograph
A 'Memorials for the Future'
competition winning entry by Erik
Jensen and Rebecca Sunter (2016). The
evolving memorial commemorates a
subject of the future, climate change.
It proposed cherry trees at the tip
of Hains Point that will gradually
submerged in water as sea level rises,
thus inspiring visitors to take action
against climate change.¹⁹

SITE PLAN

SITE PLAN

The National Mall is always crowded, whether on rainy, gloomy or sunny days. Almost none of the tourists get to Hains Point. It is rarely occupied during the week. It is popular among locals on weekends for family picnics, fishing or playing golf & tennis. The proposed site plan has activities that attract both visitors and locals. To achieve this, memorials that are proposed on Hains Point will be about universal themes that both locals and visitors can relate to. Washington, D.C. mainland, being the National capital, can remain the site of memorials that relate to the American heritage and history.

Just like precedents studied were close or part of open spaces, the proposed sites for future memorials on Hains Point will be surrounded by recreational areas towards the edge of the island. This is done so that memorial sites are on the elevated part of the island and will not be affected by floods. The recreational areas will act as sponges for high tide water, absorbing the water slowly until dry. The deteriorating island's seawall is also strengthened by gabion walls with stainless steel mesh that are non-corrosive.

Circulation was moved from the edges of the island and brought in on the more elevated part of the site following 8 feet contour. This area is then raised by 2 ft to make it safe against 2100 projected floods. By removing impervious surfaces on areas affected by high tide floods the island is made more resilient against floods.

A stop of yellow Metro line that passes through the site was added to make the site more accessible. One more water taxi dock was added on site as well. Main streets are made of pervious asphalt and are shared by cars, bikes, strollers and pedestrians. Secondary roads are for pedestrians, bikes and strollers.



Fig 38-40: Earlier site cross section sketches

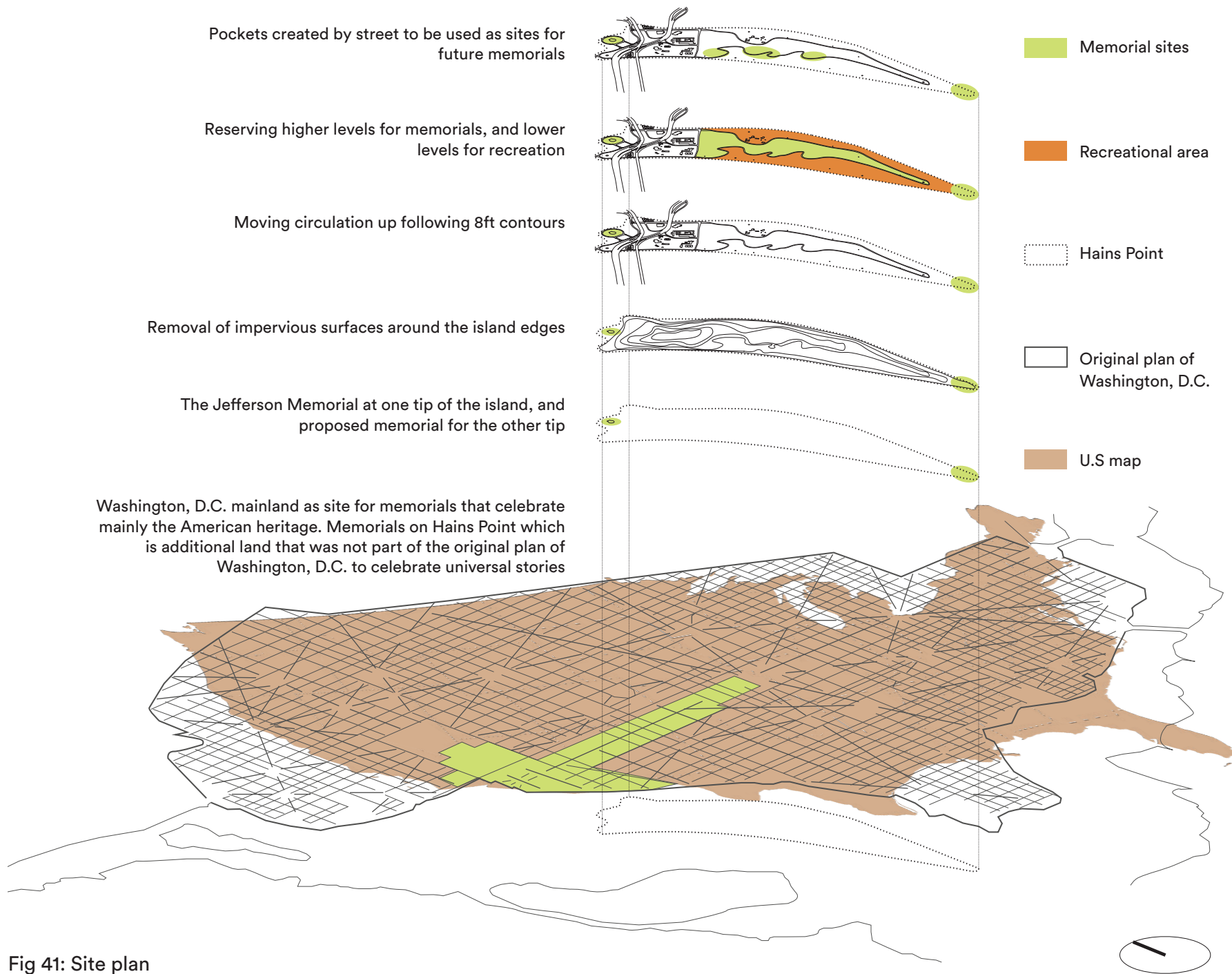


Fig 41: Site plan

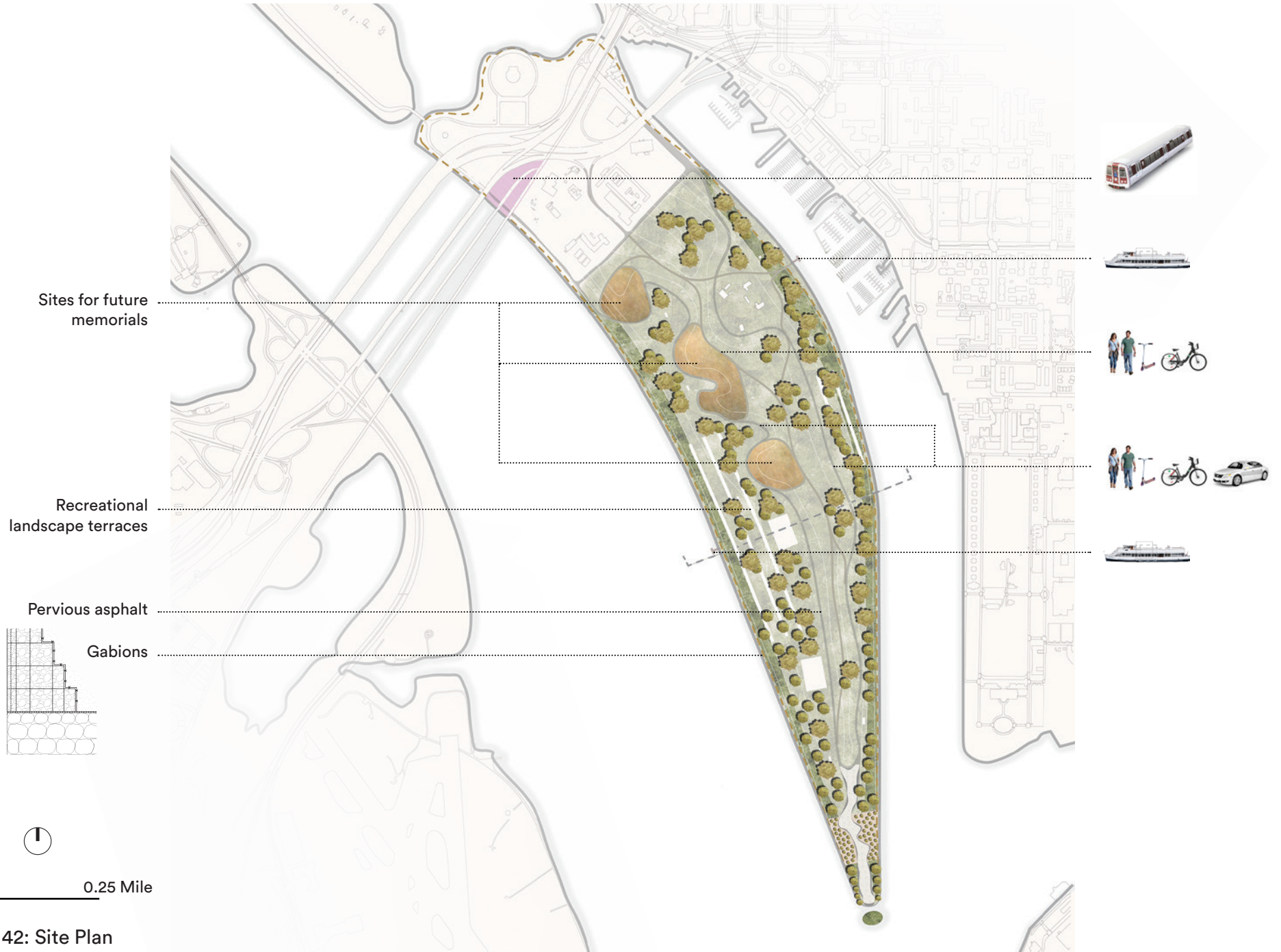


Fig 42: Site Plan

Proposed Site plan showing location of different facilities



0 0.1 Mile

Sites for future memorials

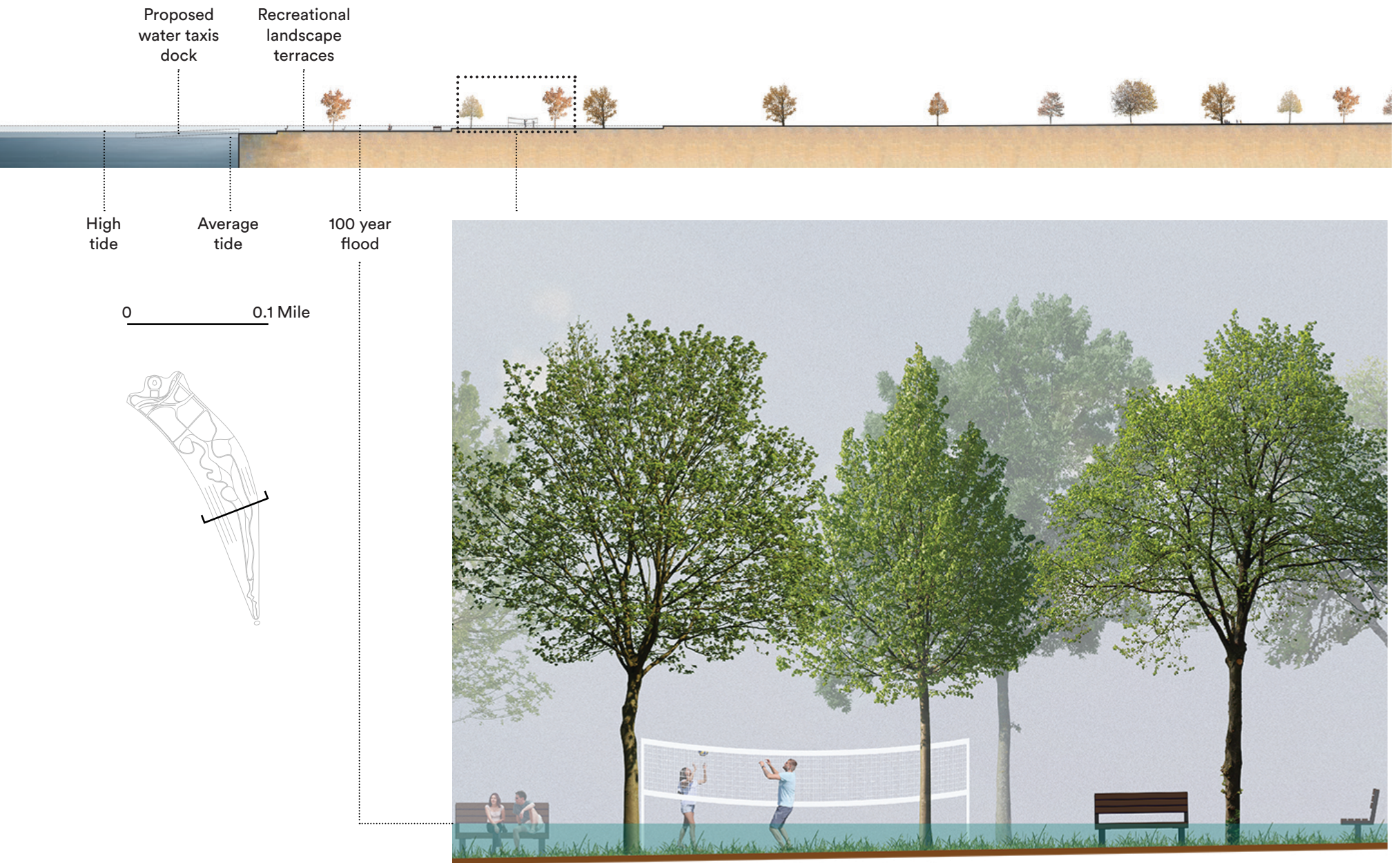
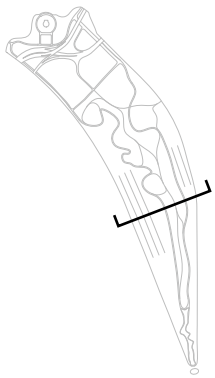


Fig 43: Site Section

Site section with recreational and picnic areas highlighted



0 0.1 Mile



NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR THE RESILIENCE OF HUMAN NATURE

NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR THE RESILIENCE OF HUMAN NATURE

I got to Washington, D.C. for the very first time in August, 2018 and was fascinated by the number of memorials in the city. The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPCC) counts 289 memorials and monuments. The list is still increasing. The richness of information is remarkable. It made me interested in the impact the memory landscape has on the social landscape. I started asking myself if it is making better individuals and societies. I started asking myself what ways memory landscape can be used to deal with current issues our societies face.

NCPCC was trying to raise the same questions during their design competition entitled ‘Memorials for the future’ in 2016:

*“It is not just the past that warrants reflection. Events that unfold around us every day can be as compelling and culturally important. The tools of memorialization can help people learn about and appreciate recent events, important issues, and on-going trends and experiences that impact their lives directly. New memorial approaches could be useful vehicles for sharing information, collective reflection, and even serve as a call to action”.*²⁰

“No tree has branches so foolish as to fight amongst themselves” - Native American proverb. we all are branches of the same tree: ‘humanity’. But nowadays we tend to focus more on the ‘branches’, and not on the tree. Perhaps it has always been that way. But also, we are in a time where we need to come together more than before to deal with common issues our world is facing, the biggest of them all being global warming. This will not be achieved if we do not understand that we are similar more than we are different. This is the reason why the proposed Memorial has a universal theme relating to humanity as a whole. The theme of resilience of human nature is also what we have in common. It is experienced in every society that is recovering from a tragedy. It is experienced as nations try to rebuild themselves, communities coming together to support the affected individuals, in survivors of tragedies such as genocides not overwhelmed with trauma but keeping going, etc. This is a powerful aspect to remind ourselves.

The Memorial is built as a journey, to symbolize the journey of life with its ups and downs. Downs in this case are different tragedies experienced in different parts of the world. The memorial has a North and South end, as a reminder that there is hope, and tragedies end.

The Memorial is experienced through a walk. The walk is a ramp that goes down and up again. At the lowest point, the ramp is below island's seawall and the average tide level. Seawall in this case is considered as what protects the island and its visitors against the water by absorbing its pressure. This area symbolizes the peak of tragedies. Retaining walls are treated differently. They are massive walls slanted towards the visitor in a threatening way. Along areas where the ramp is still above the island's seawall and average tide level, the retaining walls are treated differently because in this area it is how the visitor comes out of tragedy. The retaining walls are slanted away from the visitor and start to accommodate life by hosting benches and planters. This is reflected on the rest of the site, through what material covers the ground and what type of trees are planted. Along area below seawall level, trees with lower canopy are planted that do not provide shade, and the ground is covered with pebbles. This emphasizes the fact that it is not a comfortable place to dwell in. Along the rest of the path taller trees are planted to provide shade, and the ground is covered by lawn.

MATERIALS:

Retaining walls are built with reinforced concrete. Concrete is not a natural material. Natural aggregates, fine and coarse, are mixed to create it. The process of different materials coming together to create is similar to the theme of the Memorial where different branches make humanity. The finish of the concrete changes in different areas of the Memorial. In areas below seawall, the retaining walls have a rough finish, to accentuate the discomfort to reflect pain experienced during tragedies. The rest of the area, the concrete has a smooth finish.

The finish of the ramp is pervious clay pavers. These pavers are made from clay in all its natural 11 shades collected from different parts of the world. Visitors will relate not only to an event in their country or region, but also to the shade of clay that is similar to the clay color found where they are from. Each of these shades will be associated to one tragedy. The pattern of the colors will change with time, in case more tragedies happen in the world. Pavers with the corresponding tragedy will increase. The Memorial in this case changes with time. Walking on these pavers is a metaphor because, although walking on pavers that are associated with tragedies, the visitor will still be above/on top of them.

The Memorial will have concrete on the ground where it meets its surroundings, as a way to say that tragedies do end. At the North end, the threshold is a concrete curb that also will stop cars and bikes. At the South end, the Memorial ends with concrete infinite stairs that disappear into the river. These steps will have big steps as seats where people can contemplate the floating island in the Potomac River. This part of the Memorial is not accessible to visitors. It is a light structure accommodating low plants and that rises and drops as water level changes. During high tide and 100 years projected flood the Memorial will not flood, but for 500 years projected flood, the floating island could be the only remaining part of the memorial. This is at the South end of the Memorial as a reminder that there is hope always.

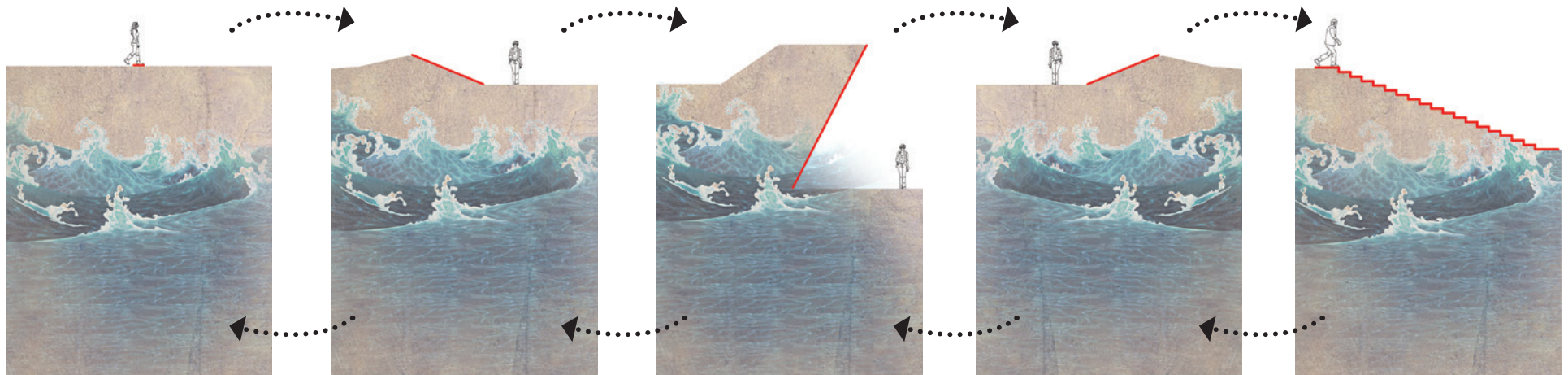


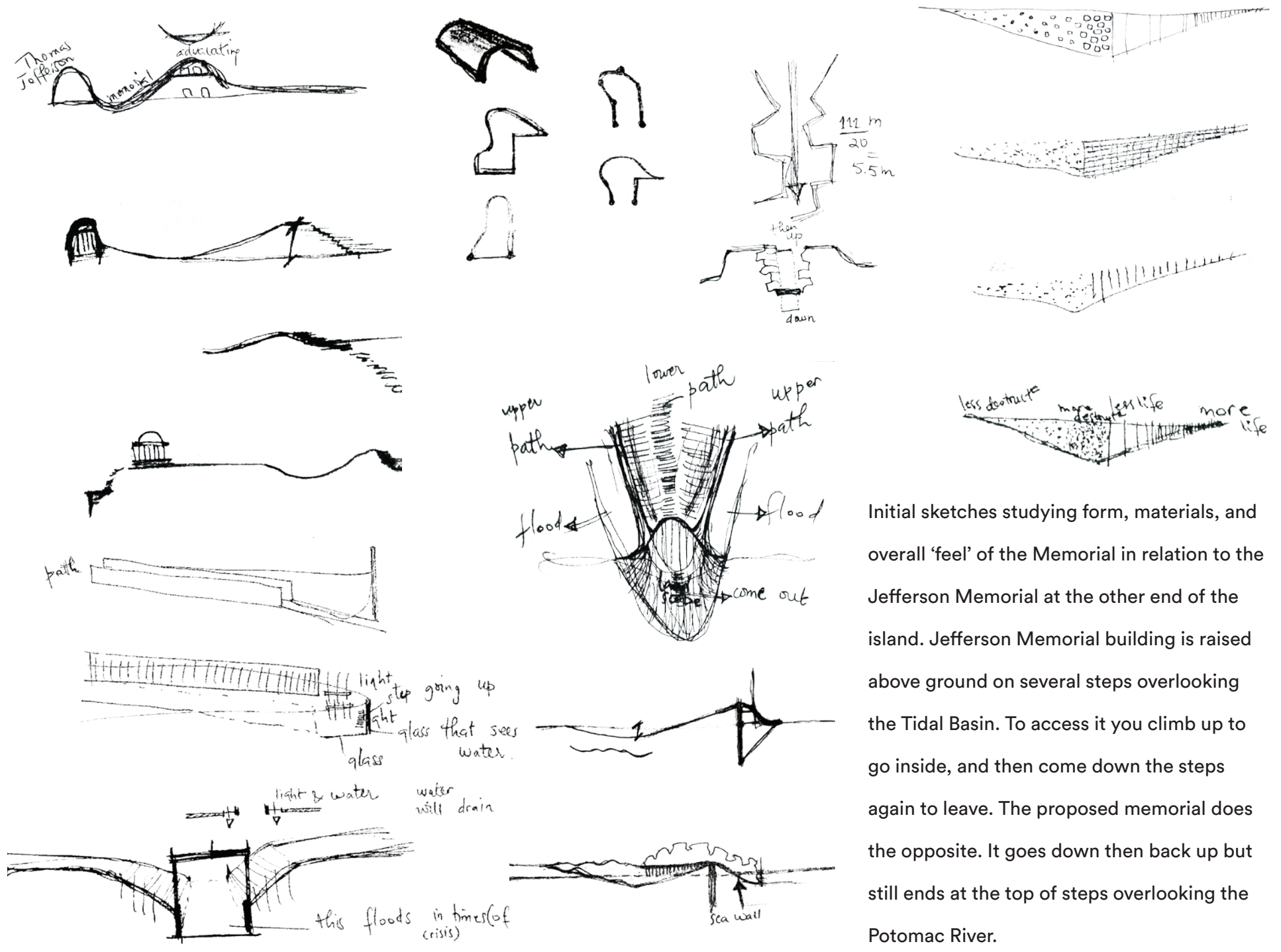
Fig 44: Concept diagram

The memorial is a path designed as a cycle. It moves from a moment above pressure from ground and water (symbolizing the moment before tragedy), to a moment with minimal pressure (at the beginning and towards the end of tragedy, and a moment with high pressure (symbolizing the peak of tragedy).

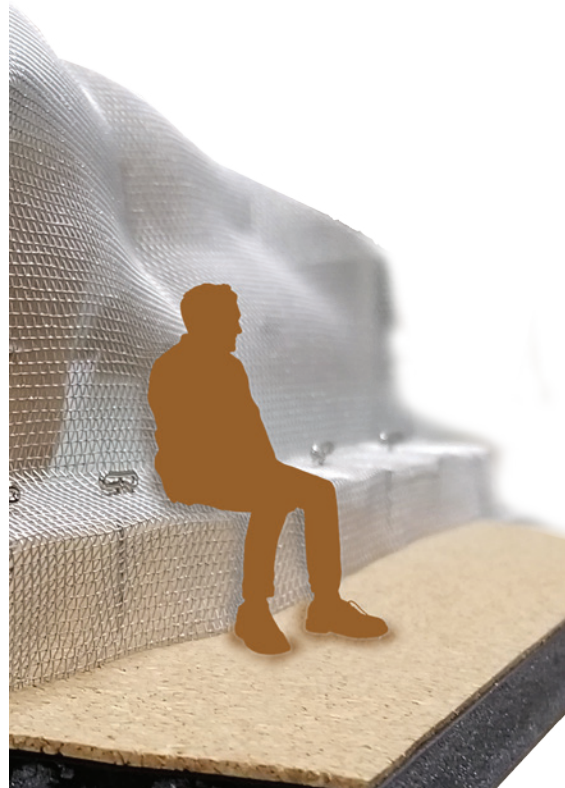


Fig 45: Clay colors

Different shades that clay around the world is found in



Initial sketches studying form, materials, and overall 'feel' of the Memorial in relation to the Jefferson Memorial at the other end of the island. Jefferson Memorial building is raised above ground on several steps overlooking the Tidal Basin. To access it you climb up to go inside, and then come down the steps again to leave. The proposed memorial does the opposite. It goes down then back up but still ends at the top of steps overlooking the Potomac River.



Study models trying out different materials for retaining wall external finishes along the Memorial path. Steel was among the materials considered because it is used in making weapons used in wars (tragedies). A sculptured material was considered to study how the Memorial could be an interactive space that people shape and transform as they visit.

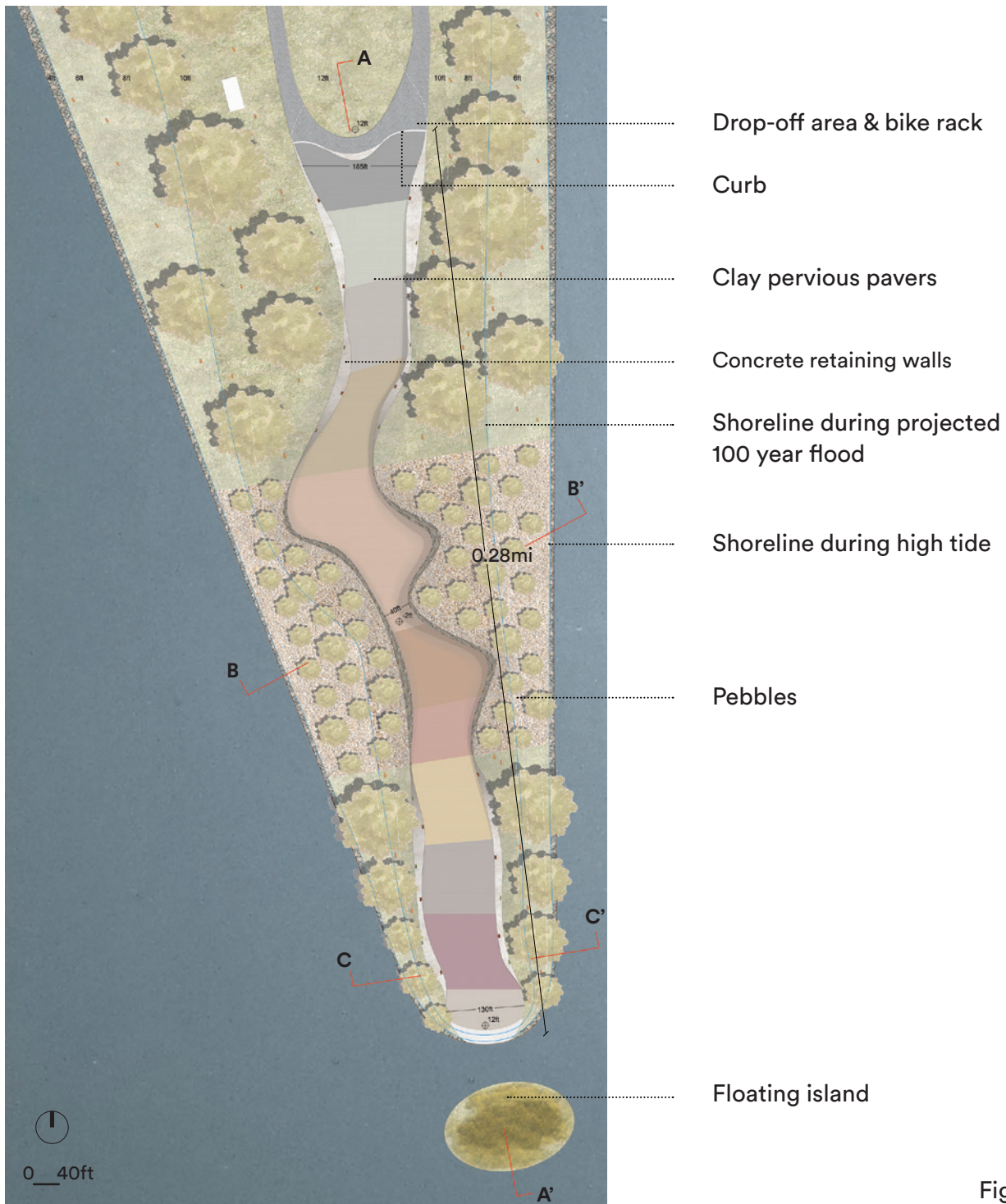


Fig 46: Memorial Plan



Fig 47: Memorial Plan in 2100

Tip of Hains Point during projected 100 year flood also showing a different pattern of clay pavers that evolved with time as events commemorated changed

Cut and fill is part of achieving the desired levels of the memorial path. The part where the ground is excavated will be below water level. This called for a water drainage strategy that will deal with groundwater rising to the surface as well as runoff. Along the path there are water channels connected to manholes taking water to a treatment chamber at the end of the path. Water will be treated before it is released back into the river.

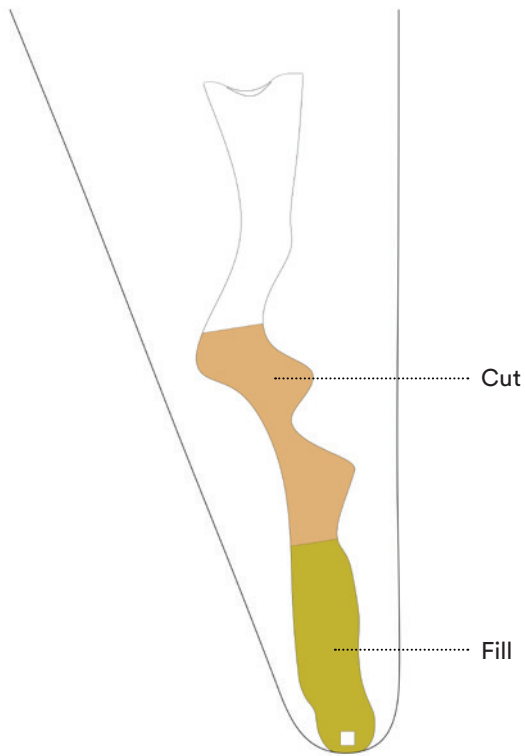


Fig 48: Cut & Fill diagram

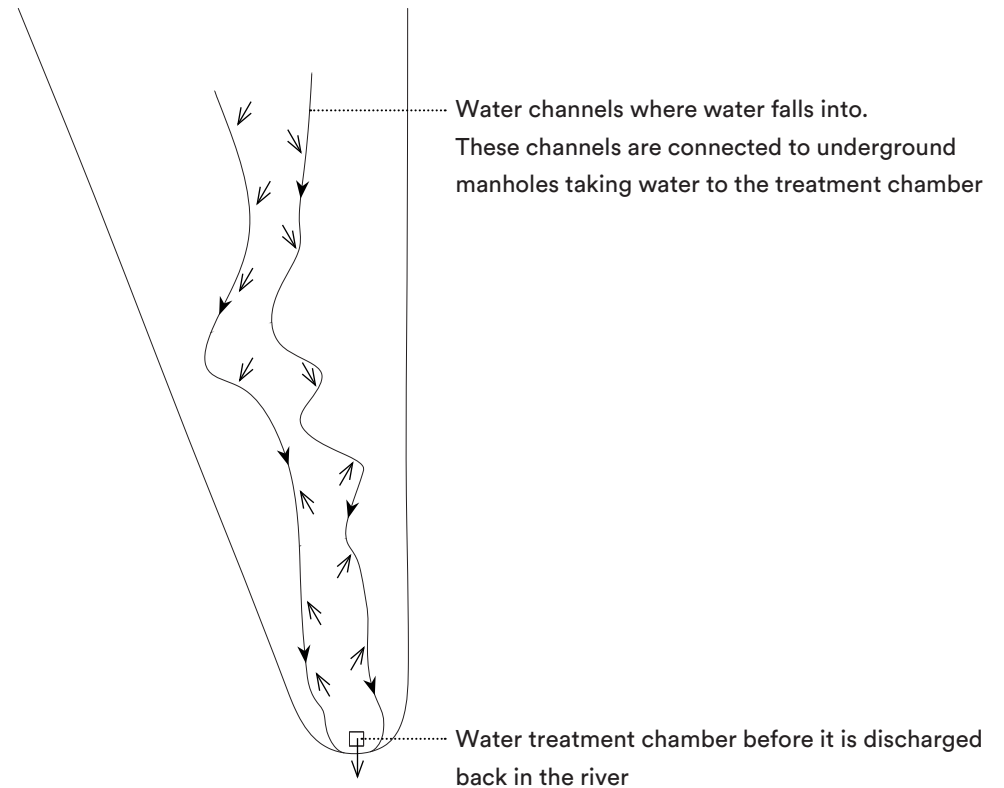


Fig 49: Water drainage diagram

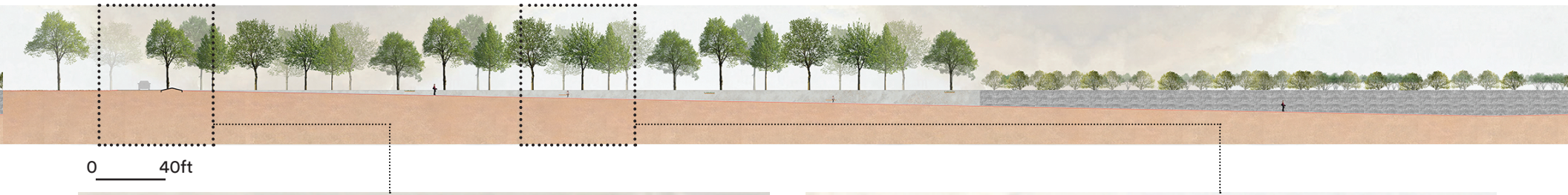
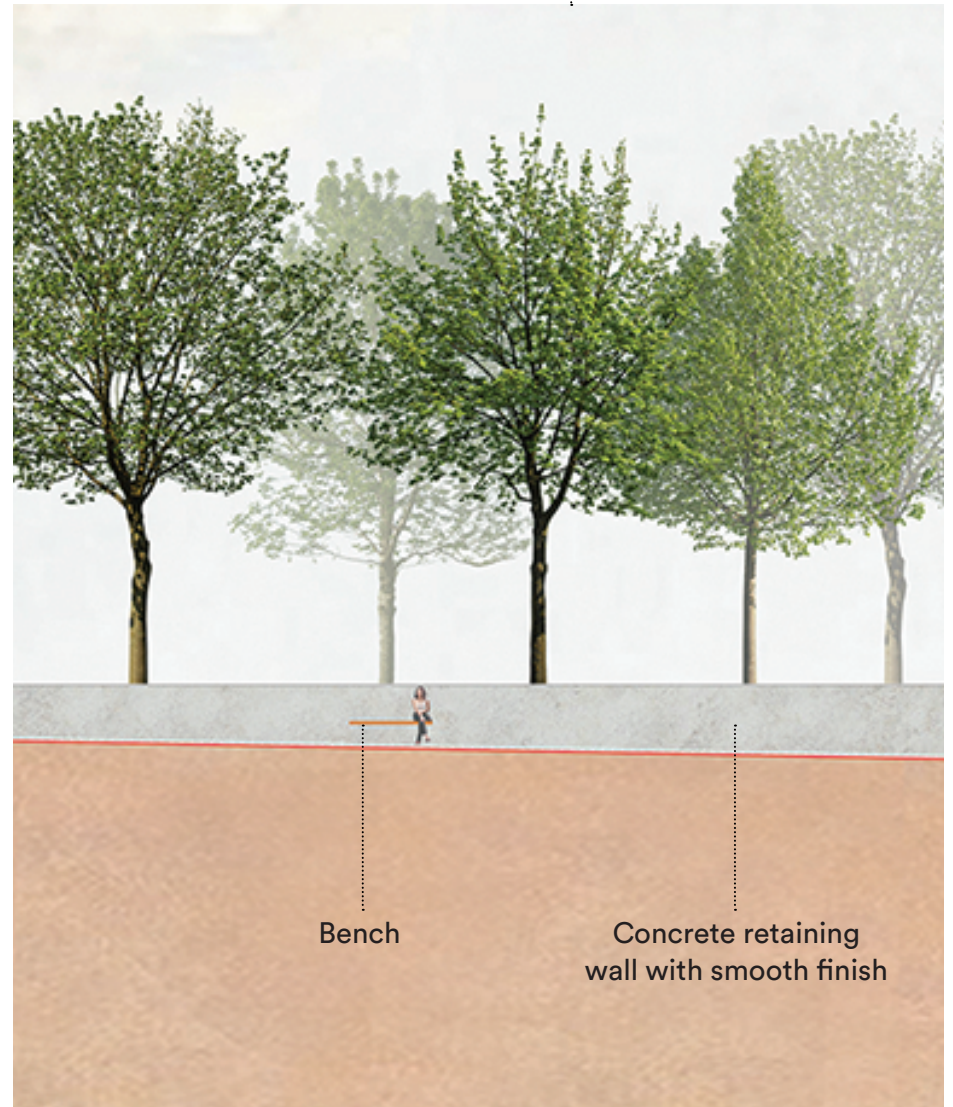
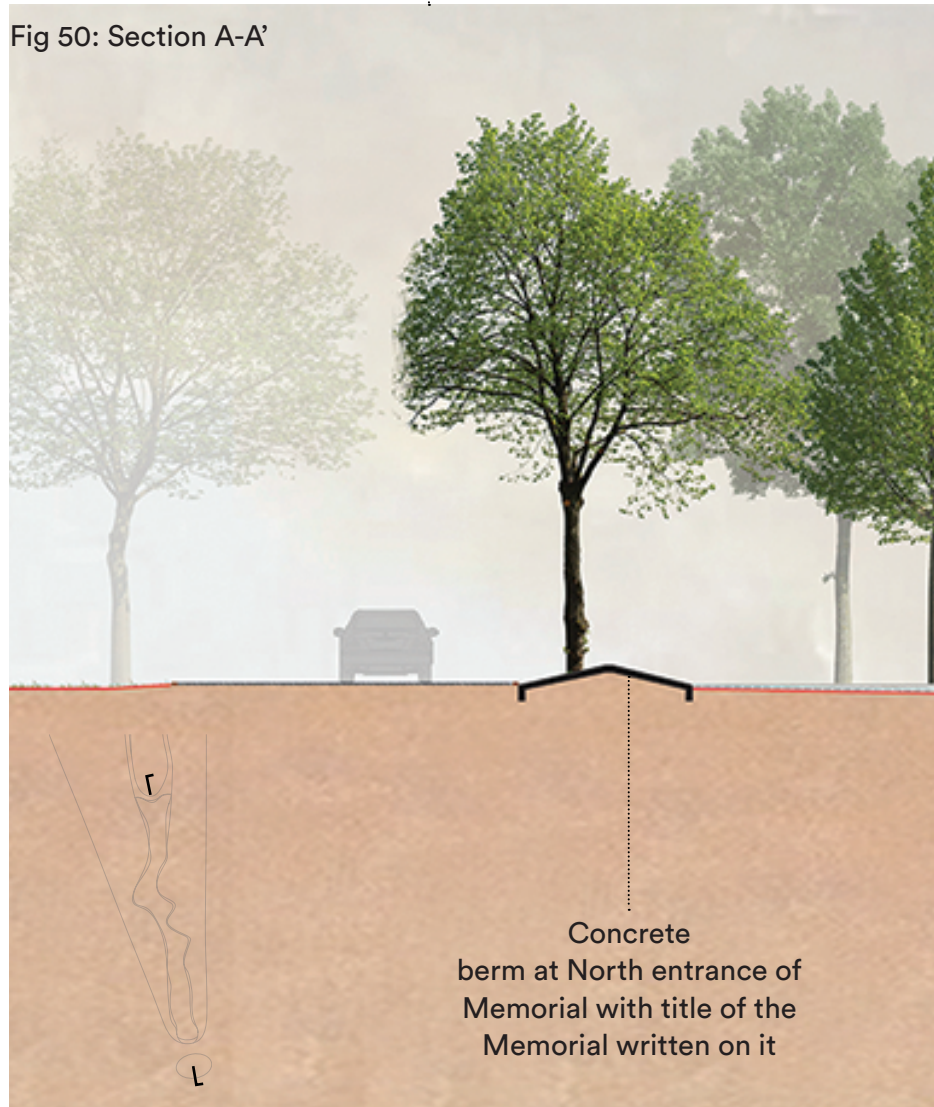
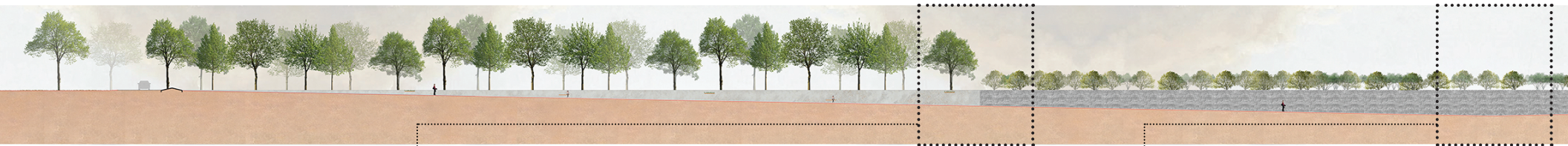


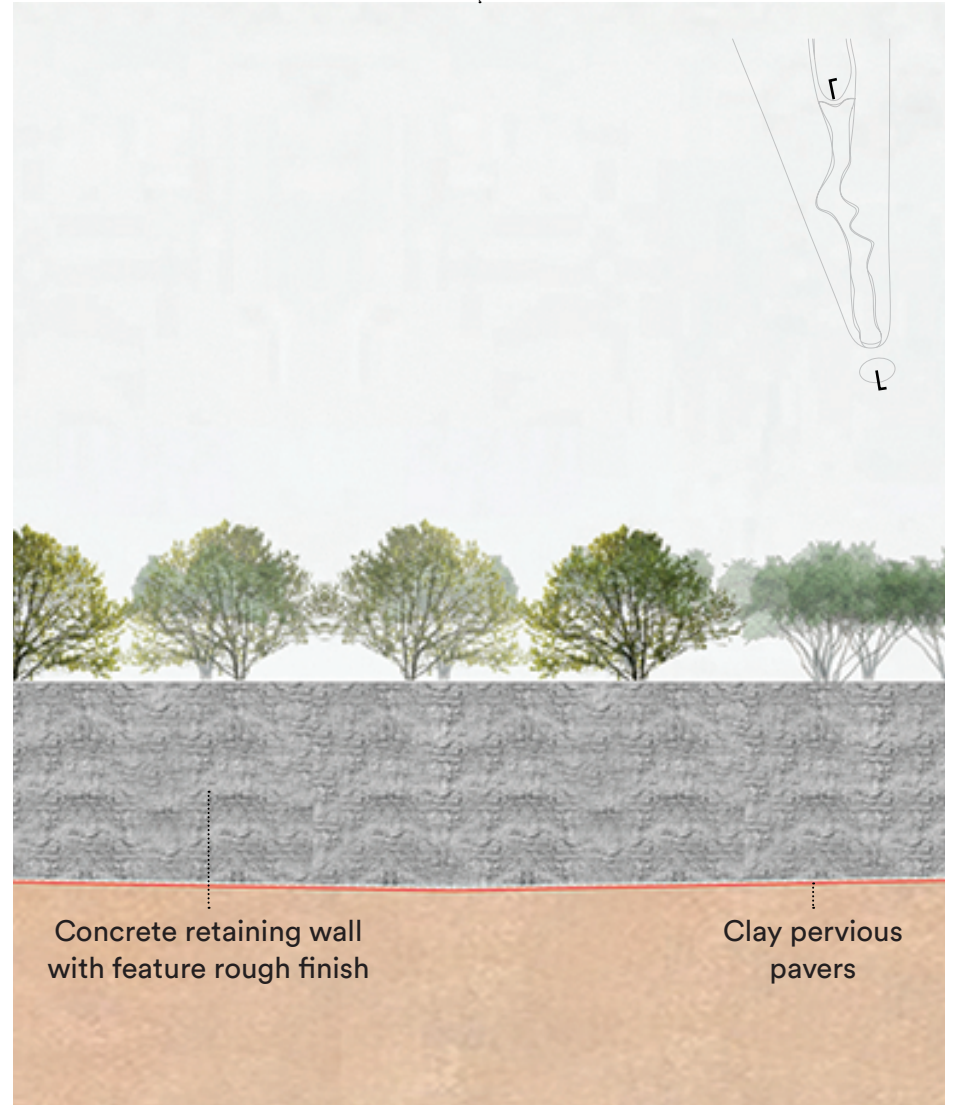
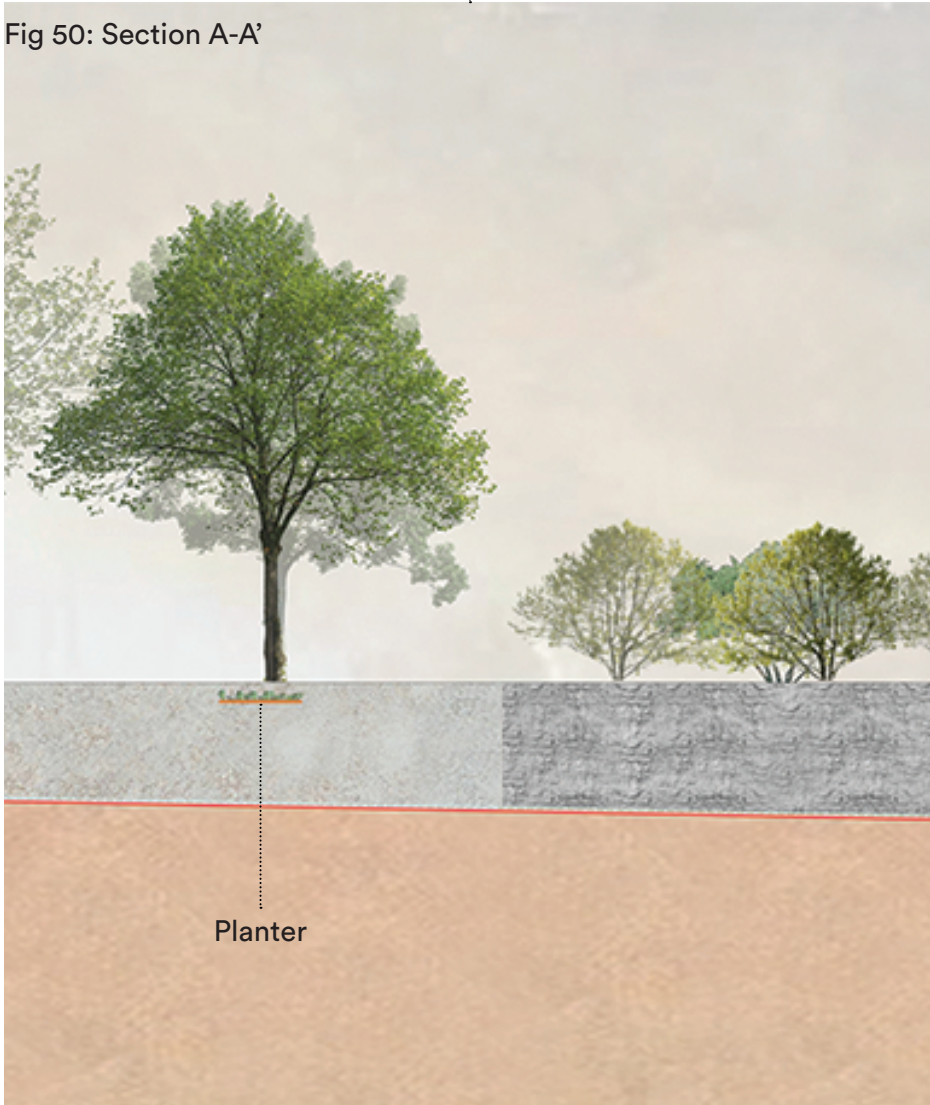
Fig 50: Section A-A'

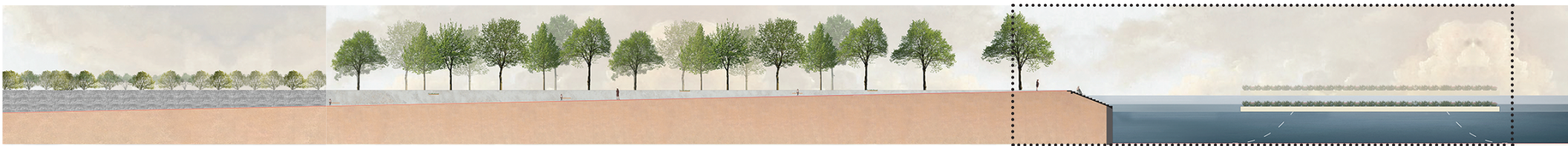




0 40ft

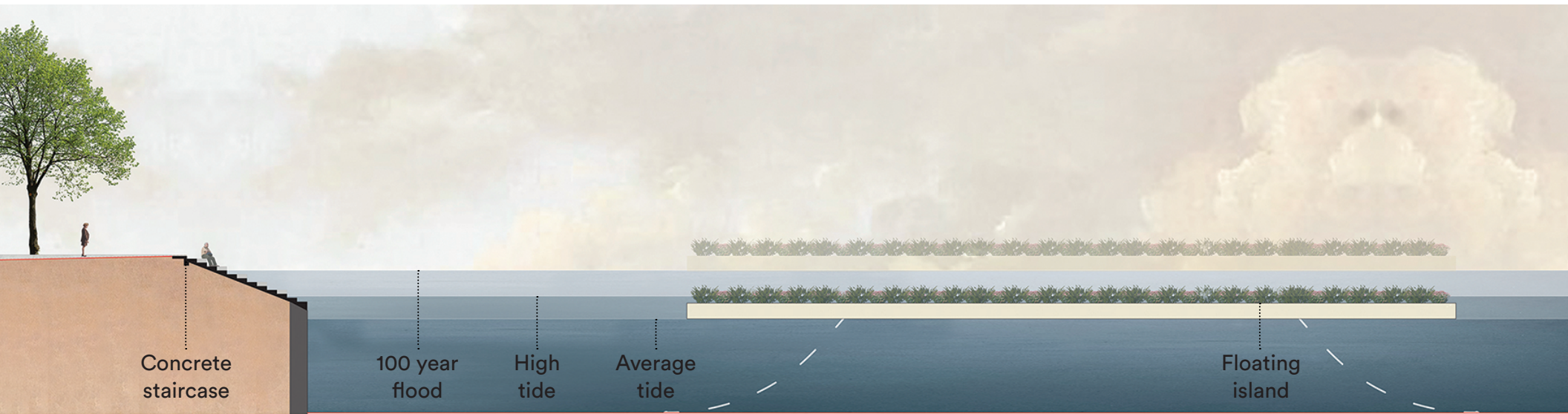
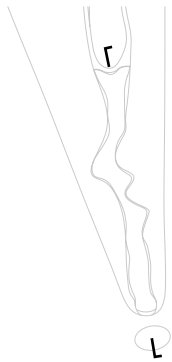
Fig 50: Section A-A'





0 _____ 40ft

Fig 50: Section A-A'



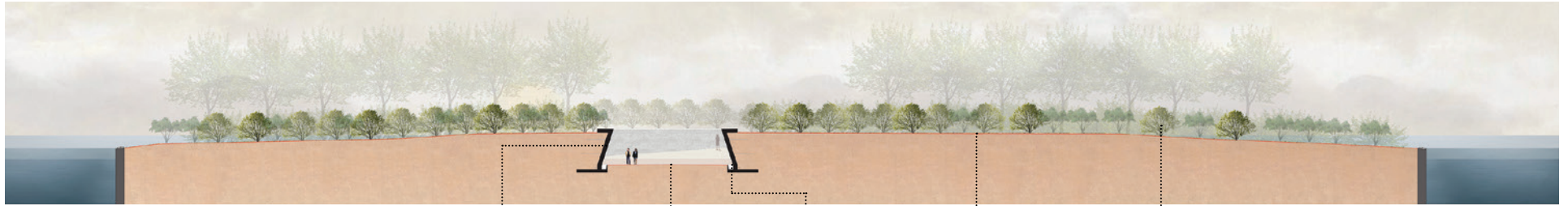
Concrete
staircase

100 year
flood

High
tide

Average
tide

Floating
island



0 40ft

Fig 51: Section B-B'

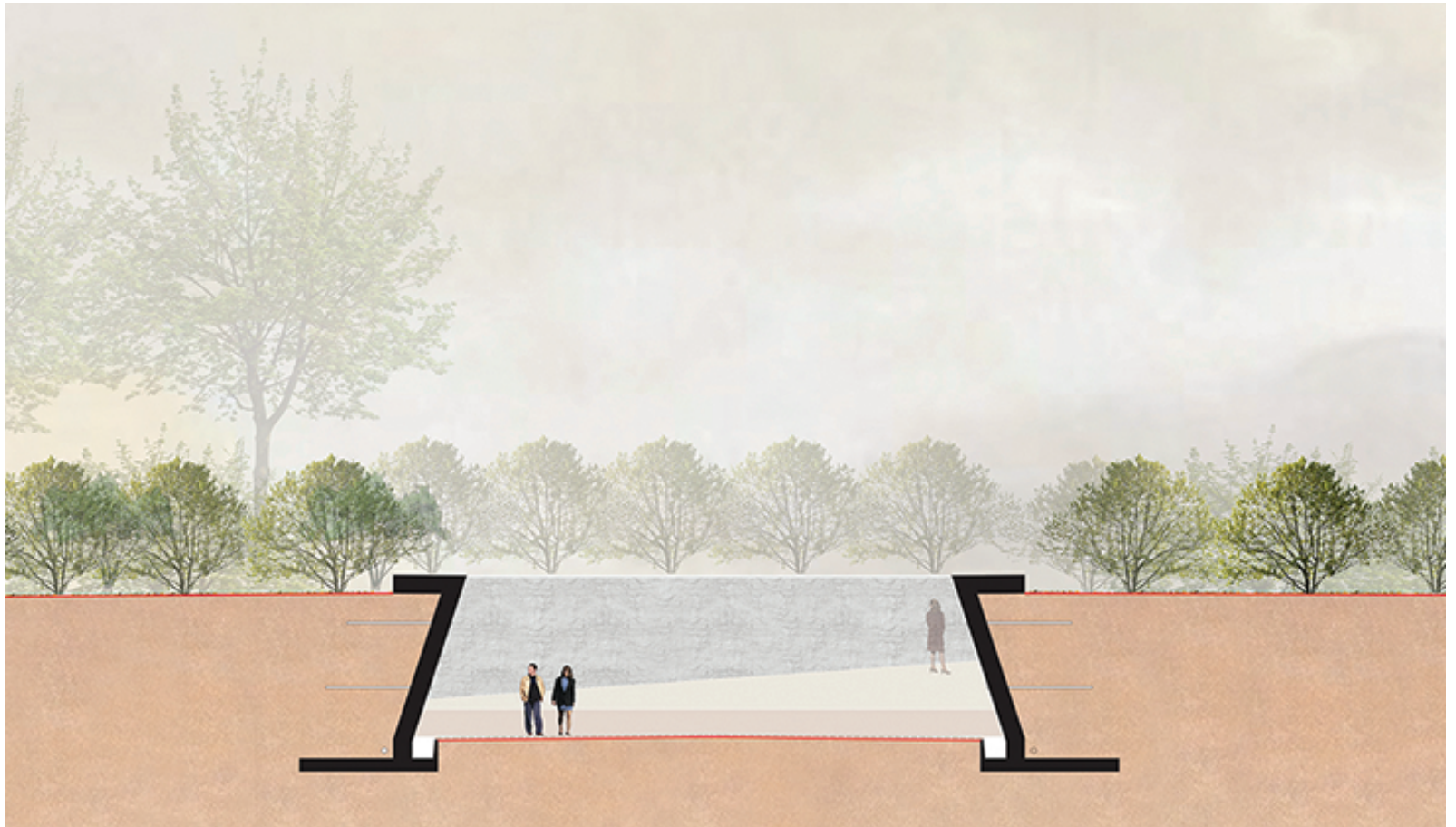
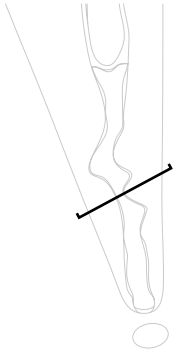
Concrete retaining wall with feature rough finish

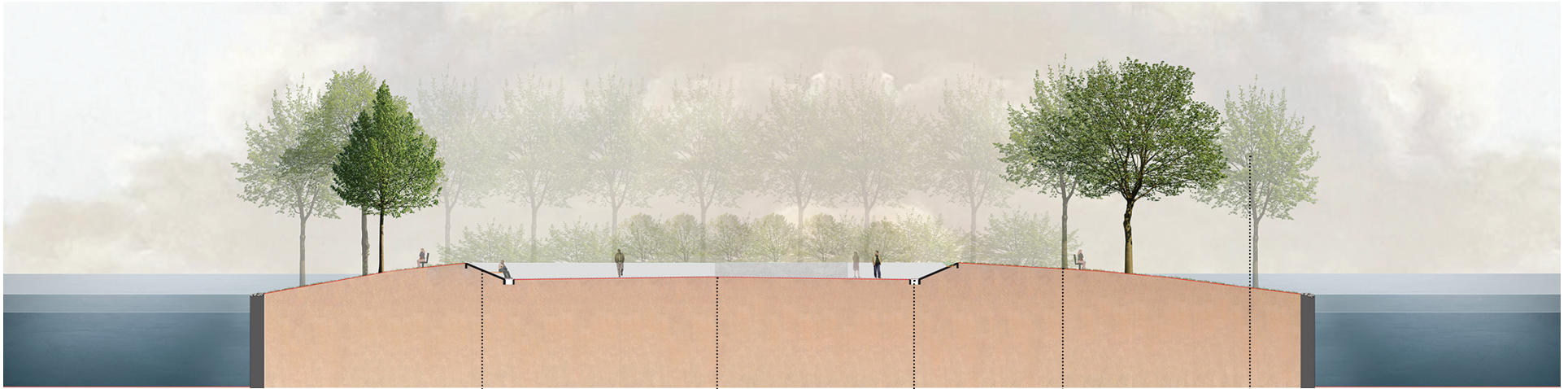
Clay pervious pavers

Exposed channel

Pebbles

Absence of shade due to trees with lower canopy





0 _____ 40ft

Fig 52: Section C-C'

Concrete retaining wall with smooth finish accommodating benches and planters

Clay pervious pavers

Covered channel

Lawn

Trees providing shades to benches underneath

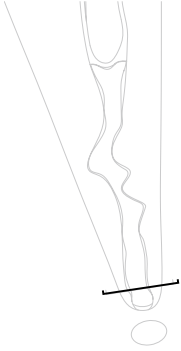




Fig 53: Perspective view of lowest part of the Memorial

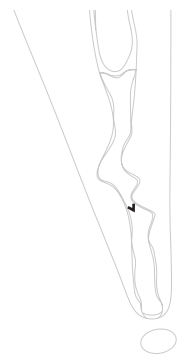




Fig 54: Perspective view from South end of the Memorial facing North

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

Unite, Reflect, Uplift is the intention of this Memorial. It is uniting because it is choosing to address more than one target group by commemorating events that happen around the world. It is uniting because of its physicality through the use of materials harvested from different places that all visitors can relate to.

The reflection is by bringing together in one space representation of different tragedies happening in different places. A visitor that may have not been in a place where a certain event happened will be walking on pavers of a color shade that represents that event. Through their feet they will have contact with it.

It is uplifting because the Memorial is designed to remind visitors that there is a coming out of tragedies, as it comes back up from below seawall level. It is also uplifting because of the floating island that will rise and drop as water level changes. Plants on this island symbolizing life that never ends. In 500 years from when the Memorial is built, when sea level rises to the point where Hains Point is entirely submerged in water, this floating island would still be there.

Lastly, the most powerful aspect of this Memorial is perhaps being at the opposite end of the Jefferson Memorial site where a “Whites Only” bathing beach used to be in the early 1900s. Now the Memorial built there is visited by people from around the world. This shows how things can change with time, and for the better. It can be an even more powerful moment for visitors from different generations and places to experience these 2 memorials together. A Pennsylvanian whose great-grandfather fought during the Civil War, a college exchange student whose parents fled war-torn Syria and found a new home in Canada, and a Genocide against Tutsi survivor from Rwanda on her U.S book tour for her biography, would all be inspired that in the Capital of the Free World, everyone found their place. It is another reminder that negative circumstances/ segregation in this case can be overcome. Why can't we overcome all the others?

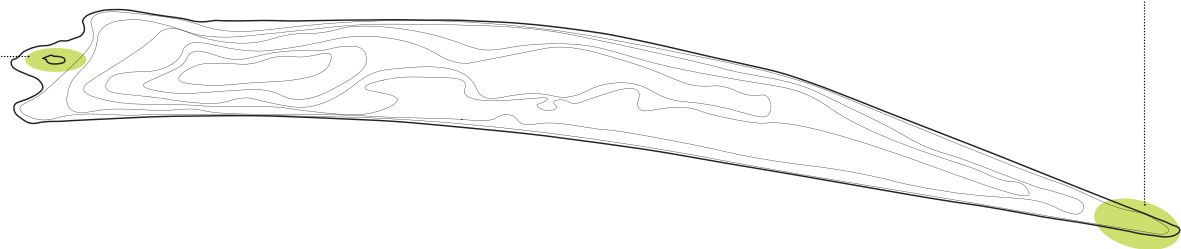


Figure 55: Tidal Basin
 “Whites Only” bathing beach
 1918-1925

VS



Figure 56: Proposed memorial
 uses clay from around the world
 representing crisis affecting
 different communities (2028)



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