

# The Landscape Architect's Guide to **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

## Washington Monument

### History

1971 — L'Enfant proposed the site for the Washington Monument in his Federal City plan. In 1793, a stake was placed at the intersection of the north-south line through the President's House and the east-west line from the center of the Capitol.

1845 — The Washington Monument Society selected a design by Robert Mills. The original design was a 600-foot-tall obelisk surrounded at the base with a circular colonnade.

Disrupted by the fundraising challenges and later the Civil War, construction of the monument took place in two stages, 1848-1854 and 1877-1884. The monument was dedicated February 21, 1885.

1941-43 — Independence Avenue, Kutz Bridge, Maine Avenue, and related overpasses were constructed.

1944 — A permanent stage was constructed at Sylvan Theater.

1958 — Forty-eight flagpoles were installed in a circle around the monument, and aircraft warning lights were added near the top.

1960 — The 50th flagpole was installed. Roads and parking around the monument were turned into pedestrian walkways.

1976 — Sylvan Theater was renovated.

1997 — 15th Street, Jefferson and Madison Drives were reconfigured; 15th Street became a more symmetrical curve.

1997-2000 — Monument restoration commenced. The scaffolding was designed by Michael Graves.

2001-05 — Security concerns following the September 11th attacks prompted a national design competition for the grounds. Landscape architecture firm OLIN's design won.

2006 — A five acre site (14th to 15th, Constitution to Madison) was selected for to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African-American History and Culture. The design was the result of a competition. Winning team members included the Freelon Group; Adjaye Associates; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; Davis Brody Bond; and the SmithGroup. Construction is underway.

2010-12 — Washington Monument Visitor Screening Facility design and compliance funded.

2011 — The monument was damaged by an August 23, 2011 earthquake. While still structurally sound, the monument remains closed to the public while it undergoes repairs.

2011-12 — Following completion of the National Mall Plan, the Trust for the National Mall sponsored a three site design competition. One competition site was the Sylvan Theater area of the Washington Monument grounds. The design team of , landscape architecture firm OLIN and the architecture firm of Weiss/Manfredi were selected.

2012 — A revitalization of the German American Friendship Garden was proposed by the German Embassy and German-American business associations.