securityscape

implications of security design on public landscapes in Washington, DC
security design
dc public space
bollards, etc.

1. history / symbolism
2. program / access
3. character / aesthetics
opportunities

securityscape
a history of defensive design

source: fema's “site and urban design for security”

security design
crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)

- access control
- natural surveillance
- territorial reinforcement
- target hardening

Basic principles

Sources: City of Vancouver & Design Against Crime NW

Security design
urban terrorism prevention / protection

“ring of steel”
belfast city center

security design

source: j. coaffee
“The events of September 11 have traumatized as none other but don’t doubt that this has been in our system from at least the time of the assassination of President Kennedy.”

“post-modern terrorism”

oklahoma city, ok
1995

u.s. embassy in beruit
lebanon, 1983
source: fema

security design
dc public space
the most public of urban public spaces?

I’Enfant’s plan for the city, 1791

source: library of congress

dc public space
the most public urban public spaces

- Washington Monument grounds
- Pennsylvania Ave.
- Folk Life Festival
- National Mall
- Capitol Grounds
dc public spaces of significant symbolic significance, public ownership, and heightened risk level; both new construction and retrofits

source: joseph passonneau & partners
“...but there is a point here and Jefferson made it when he said design activity and political thought are inseparable.”
bollards, etc.
“explosive environments”

source: fema
building security zones

source: gsa / ncpc

ZONE 1
Building Interior

ZONE 2
Building Perimeter

ZONE 3
Building Yard

ZONE 4
Sidewalk

ZONE 5
Parking Lane

ZONE 6
Street

bollards, etc.
landscape-based strategies: “stand off” distances

American History Museum
Design: EDAW
Source: NCPC

Bollards, etc.
landscape-based strategies: access limitations

white house, e street

senate office buildings

pennsylvania ave
n. of the white house

tunnel proposal, 2001
pennsylvania ave

bollards, etc.
landscape-based strategies: guardbooths / checkpoints

air force memorial
arlington, va
design: pei cobb freed & partners / olin

independence ave
@ canal st

bollards, etc.
landscape-based strategies:

cctv / surveillance
air force memorial
arlington, va

invisible defense
“tiger traps”
source: rogers marvel architects / ncpc

bollards, etc.
landscape-based strategies: barriers

- jersey barriers
- hardened fences & walls
- retaining walls
- "bunker pots"
- hardened street furnishings
- stones, trees, etc.
- bollards, etc.
landscape-based strategies: barriers

bollards, etc.
anchoring systems

source: department of defense / fema
landscape-based strategies : general issues...

21 June 2009
source: Washington Post

The Built-In Response to Terrifying Moments
By Philip Kessler
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, June 21, 2009

The impulse to do something is almost unbearable after an incident such as the 1 June shooting at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The communal structure of bureaucracy, so integral to every thought and action in Washington, requires at least the appearance of tangible change in the way we do business. But when it comes to architecture, the best response may be nothing at all.

The history of security and public architecture is generally one of catastrophic failure followed by architectural excess. Huge changes to how buildings are situated, how their entrances are structured, how much glass they show to the world, have

20 June 2009
source: Washington Post

High Interest
No Fees. No Minimum

“too many cooks...”

knee jerk reactions

security precedence

opaque process

lack of public input

“security creep”

30 July 2009
source: Washington Post

“security creep”

bollards, etc.
The National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan

EXTENDING THE LEGACY
PLANNING AMERICA'S CAPITAL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

bollards, etc.
alterations to historically significant design

frederick law olmsted plan for the capitol park, 1874
source: library of congress

u.s. capitol visitor center construction, 2007
source: architect of the capitol
design: rtkl / sasaki assoc.

implications history / symbolism
alterations to historic uses

“The building was meant to be open to the public. That’s why we built it.”

u.s. capitol building
source: theodar horydczak / library of congress

northeast corner, 2009
design after: edaw

implications history / symbolism
alterations to historic uses

Pennsylvania Avenue, north of the White House
Redesign rendering, 2002
Source: Michael Van Valkenburgh Assoc. / Michael McCann
damage to historic landscapes

bollard installation

source: ncpc

independence ave
@ canal st

implications history / symbolism
program / access
implications
“The only way you could lose the democracy would be to start impairing the functioning of the buildings it represents and the society it represents.”

changes to public access

e street, 1935  
source: theodar horydczak, library of congress

e street, today

implications
“...he said...we will hand the terrorists a precarious victory by abandoning our values under the stress of battle. We could, but dare not.”

Significance for 1st Amendment Rights
wayfinding / legibility

national gallery of art

access for people with disabilities

east of jefferson memorial

implications program/ access
character / aesthetics
implications
diminished beauty

along the tidal basin

implications character / aesthetics
diminished beauty

e street, south of the white house

implications

character / aesthetics

pennsylvania ave, john marshall park
cluttered streets

Pennsylvania Ave, b/w 6th and 7th St

Hardened street furniture

Source: NCPC

Implications: Character / Aesthetics
altered urban character

“Precaution, yes, sequester no.”

federal reserve

u.s. capitol visitor center

implications character / aesthetics
altered urban character

museum of natural history

source: google
design: edaw

implications character / aesthetics
altered urban character

mural, lincoln memorial visitor center  lincoln memorial

implications character / aesthetics
permanent solutions to temporary problems?

security redesign proposal
michael van valkenburgh associates

implications character / aesthetics

source: fema
opportunities
gray areas / balance

u.s. holocaust memorial museum (west side)

opportunities
conscious choices

blending with context
pershing park

attempt to minimize visual impact
pennsylvania ave

well chosen barrier elements
national gallery of art

dual purpose designs
national museum of the american indian

opportunities
creative design solutions

minneapolis courthouse
source: martha schwartz / fema

ha-ha sketches
washington monument
source: olin / ncpc
silver lining?

pedestrian plaza?
pennsylvania ave redesign

landscape restoration?
washington monument grounds

opportunities
questioning the process

“I went on to suggest that it was time for a national conversation. There has been none.”

“...architecture is inescapably a public art and it reports faithfully for ages to come what the political values of a particular age were. Surely ours must be openness and fearlessness in the face of those who hide in the darkness.”

opportunities

Brian Cornell
Landscape Architect
RTKL

Joni Gallegos
Landscape Architect, President’s Park
National Park Service

Marsha Lea
Principal
EDAW

Gary Hildebrand
ASLA consulting committee
on the National Mall Redevelopment Plan

Gullivar Shepard
Senior Associate
Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates

and

John Beardsley / Gail Griffin
Dumbarton Oaks