NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL
Pershing Park, Washington DC
Why a World War I Memorial?
• “The Commission may enhance the General Pershing Commemorative Work by constructing on [Pershing Park] as a World War I Memorial appropriate sculptural and other commemorative elements, including landscaping, to further honor” American veterans of World War I.  

*Pub. L. 113-291, sec. 3901(b)(3)(A)*
Pershing Park
Pershing Park: Drawbacks

• Unfocused
• Uninviting
• Uninspiring
• Unemotional
• “The Commission may enhance the General Pershing Commemorative Work by constructing on [Pershing Park] as a World War I Memorial appropriate sculptural and other commemorative elements, including landscaping, to further honor” American veterans of World War I. Pub. L. 113-291, sec. 3901(b)(3)(A)
• “The World War I Memorial . . . may not interfere with or encroach on the District of Columbia War Memorial.” Pub. L. 113-291, sec. 3901(b)(5)
Pershing Park: Design Challenges

Create a memorial that:

1. Commemorates the service of 4.7 million Americans, and the sacrifice of 116,516 who died
   • Conveys the heroism and magnitude of that sacrifice
   • Stands with the memorials located on the Mall

2. Honors a generation of servicemen and women who are no longer with us
   • Implications for audience, memorial theme, and design style

3. Combines the functions of a memorial and an urban park
   • Is a war memorial in a working urban park, not a park that happens to contain a memorial
   • Remains a well-functioning, attractive urban park
   • Meaningfully integrates park and memorial elements
Pershing Park: Design Challenges

Create a memorial that:

4. Is an independent, yet appropriate attraction
   • Is distinctive enough to attract visitors – yet is dignified and respectful
   • Is open and visible to passersby – yet has a sense of quiet and enclosure

5. Takes into account the existing cultural resources at the site
   • Integrates the existing Pershing memorial elements
   • Defers appropriately to the Friedberg design

6. Respects and contributes to the urban context of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site and the adjacent sites
Pershing Park Design Competition
PLAZA TO THE FORGOTTEN WARS

National World War I Memorial Plaza
Washington, D.C.

Situated on a scarp between the National Mall and the dynamic urbanity of downtown, this Plaza to the Forgotten War commemorates the sacrifice of those who served in World War I through a series of symbolic elements. The design is inspired by the idea of a remembrance and the desire to create a place that honors the memory of those who served.

A moat, protected by 1,601 illuminated bronze markers, one for every 100 killed in action. These markers, arranged in a semi-circular formation, represent the 16,000 casualties of the war. The bronze markers are organized in a semi-circular formation, symbolizing the remembrance of those who lost their lives. A linear bronze wall, adorned with inscribed names, commemorates the 16,000 casualties of the war. This wall, glowing from within, serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made.

The Plaza's design is a place of reflection and remembrance, offering a peaceful sanctuary for visitors to commemorate the sacrifices of those who served in World War I. The Plaza serves as a reminder of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for our freedoms.
NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL DESIGN COMPETITION

An American Family Portrait Wall in the Park

Our proposal for the new WWI Memorial in Pershing Park pays tribute to the American men and women who participated in the war by remembering that each of them were members of a great family: the American Family. These are the stories of our brothers and sisters, our sons and sisters, our mothers and fathers.

We honor them in the Family Portrait Wall of Memorials, and through these photographs we acknowledge their commitment and sacrifice as we celebrate the bonds that were forever created, the friendships that were sealed, the covert of brotherhood that endures even today.

Inside the Park, large bronze photographs are placed within framed cases that are grouped around 4 proposed themes, each echoing essential aspects of our American identity: Family, Brotherhood, Diversity and National Pride. We anticipate that historians and experts in historical photography work with the selection of photographs during subsequent design phases.

The proposal features a Park that is organized by a northeast-southwest axis, which visually connects Pershing Park with the Castle and which also traces the most often walked corridors to Westminster DC historic.
01. SITE PLAN

- Large Scale Bronze Statues
  Placed around the park, observing the framed images, and inviting the passerby to enter the park to experience the memorial

- Pershing Memorial
  Relocated in site

- ADA Pavelements
  Solid Pavement
  Permeable pavers
By seamlessly blending framed memories into the landscape, our proposal provides an experience that is both park and memorial open and visible to the public. Casing the visitor, six large scale bronze statues are strategically placed around the park, observing the framed images, and inviting the passerby to enter the park to experience the memorial. Our design incorporates the use of permeable pavers throughout the park to ensure universal accessibility to visitors.
WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

The style of the monument is inspired by the time of the Great War. The general layout is based on an ellipse with the main sacred space at the center. The relocated Pershing Memorial is the east, a new monument to the Cavalry Horse is in the west, and an urban area to the north. The monument victory tower is planted on a central axis, raised blue and set back from the street in a beautiful gardens park setting. From Pennsylvania Avenue it appears that the tower is the destination. However, once in the site the visitor immediately begins to descend into the heart of the monument. As the visitor moves down, the walls move up and in. The noise of the street gradually dissipates. Once in the monument's most sacred space, a still black pool of water dips from within the rusticated stone base of the tower above. It becomes evident that the visitor is no longer in the realm of the street and of the smooth cut marble of the victory tower. They are in a space in between, caught for a moment between life and afterlife. This is the grotto of remembrance. It is within this grotto that the visitors seem to morph into a natural form as though this is where life joins nature. At the grotto's entrance burns an eternal flame signifying the lives given in the Great War.
WORLD WAR ONE
CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

CONTEXT PLAN not to scale
AERIAL LOOKING NORTHWEST ALONG PENNSYLVANIA AVE
HEROES' GREEN
WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL + PARK

Heroes' Green seamlessly blends memorial, park, and garden into a new type of public space. A highly integrated composition of topography, paths, walls, and plants create a landscape of dynamic views, distinguished prospects, shaded valleys, and woodland glens. Five 20' wide arcing pre-aged copper wells embedded in monolithic earthworks render historic imagery through digitally perforated Ben-Day holes. These abstracted life-size images are woven into the landscape and become moments of reflection, while recognizing the diversity and scale of American contributions and sacrifices in the War.

The Memorial Tree Garden is comprised of 118 Sino-ko trees planted within a sculptural composition of earthworks and meandering paths. The 118 trees give physical scale to the 118,519 American Serviceman lost, while the landforms reference the iconic landscape of trenches and craters. The Washington Monument Prospect, located in the northwest corner of the garden, rises 10' in elevation to create a symbolic gesture and elevated view towards the Washington Monument. Soldier's Glen is an elevated hillocky landscape of native woodland plants and sweeping views, punctuated by 18 stately Tulip Poplar canopy trees that reference the total number of lives lost in one million per tree. The resulting grove of trees shades Doughboy Plaza, the symbolic heart of Heroes' Green. Dramatically sculpted image walls, a civic amphitheater, the Capital Promenade, and robust topography shape this civic gathering space and place of remembrance. The Pershing Lawn and walls are relocated at the plaza's south entrance where he faced east towards Pershing Lawn, the Capitol Building, and the rising sun.
NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL
Pershing Park, Washington DC