



CAPITALS
ALLIANCE

2003 Annual Meeting
Washington, D.C.



CAPITALS ALLIANCE PARTICIPANTS 2003

Baku, Azerbaijan

Berlin, Germany

Brasilia, Brazil *

Canberra, Australia *

Moscow, Russia

Nicosia, Cyprus

Ottawa, Canada *

Seoul, South Korea

Tokyo, Japan

Washington, D.C., United States *

*Founding Members

THE CAPITALS ALLIANCE

Capital cities are special places. They are the seat of government and the symbolic heart of their nation. The Capitals Alliance is an international forum for exchange among public policy officials on the unique symbolic and functional role of capital cities. The Alliance:

- » Creates linkages and encourages the sharing of visions and ideals for national capitals in the 21st century.
- » Provides a forum for the exchange of information, expertise, and ideas on national capitals.
- » Promotes the story of the past, present, and future of Alliance capitals.

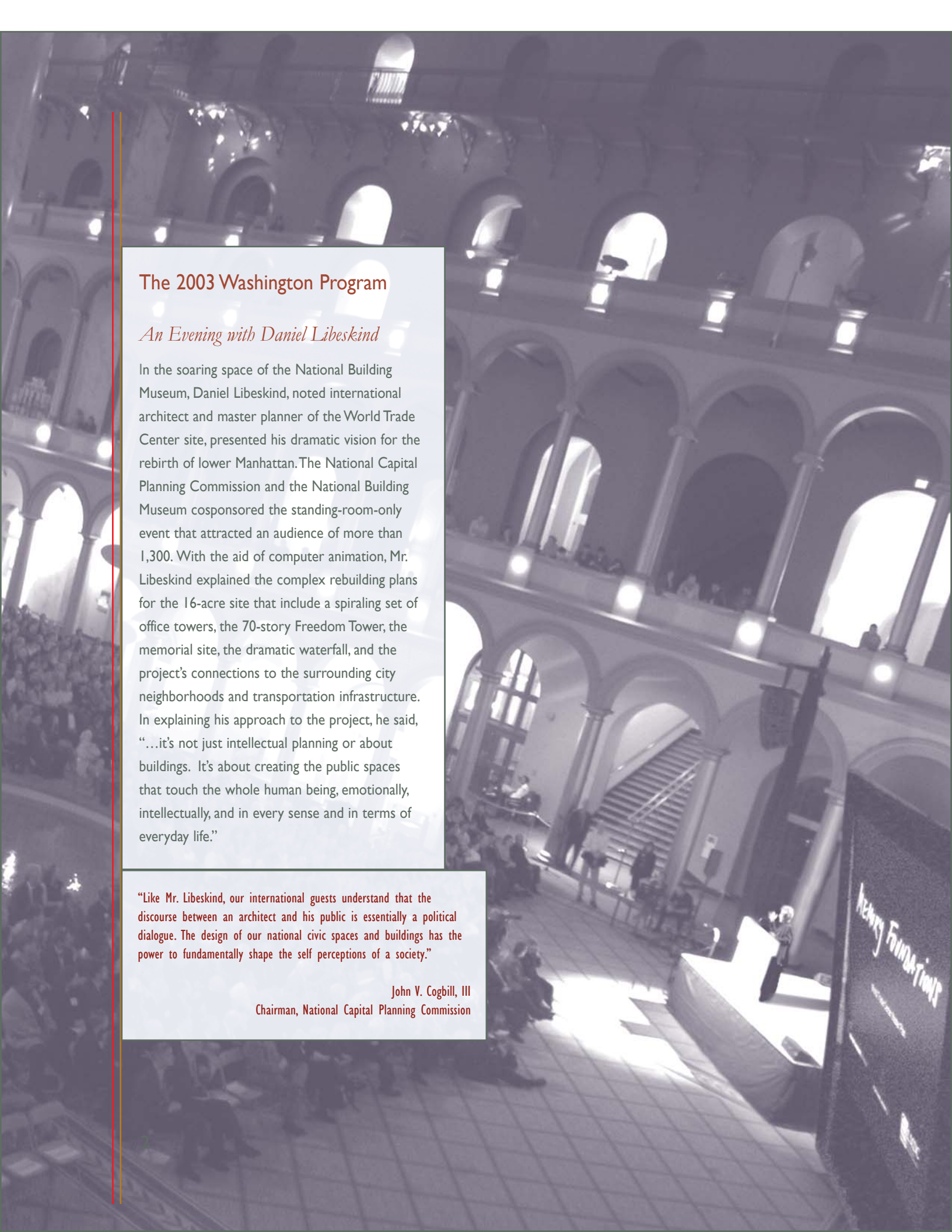
The Alliance evolved from a July 2001 meeting hosted by Canada's National Capital Commission where representatives from Canberra, Washington, Brasilia, and Ottawa had an opportunity for professional exchange. Following these useful discussions, representatives of the four capital cities agreed to meet in Canberra in 2002 to organize and formally launch the Capitals Alliance. The October 2003 Washington gathering was the second annual meeting of the Alliance.

The Capitals Alliance 2003 Washington Meeting

Senior planning officials from 10 capital cities around the world gathered in Washington, D.C., October 19-24, 2003 to exchange strategies on building vibrant national capitals and to get a behind-the-scenes look at new development in the American capital. The occasion was the second annual meeting of the Capitals Alliance. The Alliance focuses on the special symbolic and functional roles of capital cities such as stewardship of national land and historic buildings, commemoration and national celebration, security, and accommodation of embassies and international organizations.

Hosted by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the U.S. federal government's central planning authority in Washington, D.C., the Alliance meeting attracted an international group of more than 30 senior government representatives. Participants met in private sessions to discuss professional issues of mutual concern as well as in several open, public sessions to converse with Washington policy makers and leading American urbanists, planners, and scholars. The Washington program also included site visits to federal development projects and tours of Washington's monumental core and embassy precincts.

The next meeting of the Capitals Alliance will be held in Brasilia in September 2004 and in Ottawa in 2005. The Alliance continues to expand its networks and welcomes new member capital cities.



The 2003 Washington Program

An Evening with Daniel Libeskind

In the soaring space of the National Building Museum, Daniel Libeskind, noted international architect and master planner of the World Trade Center site, presented his dramatic vision for the rebirth of lower Manhattan. The National Capital Planning Commission and the National Building Museum cosponsored the standing-room-only event that attracted an audience of more than 1,300. With the aid of computer animation, Mr. Libeskind explained the complex rebuilding plans for the 16-acre site that include a spiraling set of office towers, the 70-story Freedom Tower, the memorial site, the dramatic waterfall, and the project's connections to the surrounding city neighborhoods and transportation infrastructure. In explaining his approach to the project, he said, "...it's not just intellectual planning or about buildings. It's about creating the public spaces that touch the whole human being, emotionally, intellectually, and in every sense and in terms of everyday life."

"Like Mr. Libeskind, our international guests understand that the discourse between an architect and his public is essentially a political dialogue. The design of our national civic spaces and buildings has the power to fundamentally shape the self perceptions of a society."

John V. Cogbill, III
Chairman, National Capital Planning Commission

Highlights of the 2003 Washington Meeting



Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton makes a point during a panel discussion moderated by Ray Suarez.

Washington, D.C.: National Capital/Hometown City

Ray Suarez, Senior Correspondent of PBS television's *The NewsHour*, moderated a public panel discussion focused on the impact of the federal government on the urban environment and economic life of the city. Panelists included Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District of Columbia's Director of Planning Andrew Altman, National Capital Planning Commission Executive Director Patricia Gallagher, and Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Alice Rivlin. The session, held on Capitol Hill, examined Washington's struggle to be both a successful hometown for its residents as well as a monumental capital and symbolic seat of national government. In lively exchanges, panelists debated the role of Congress, voting rights for city residents, taxation, and federal security measures. Many of the issues under discussion were the same ones that Capitals Alliance members face in their own capital cities.



"The Capitals Alliance is a great way to exchange ideas and learn solutions to challenges and issues that are common to us all."

Annalie Schoen, Berlin



Alliance delegates met with Washington Mayor Anthony Williams, who has an extensive professional background in city planning and community development.

Welcoming Visitors to the U.S. Capitol

As Architect of the Capitol, Alan Hantman oversees the operation and maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the U.S. Capitol, including the congressional office buildings, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Library of Congress. Mr. Hantman is currently managing construction of a new visitor center that will nearly double the Capitol's size, adding 580,000 square feet to the existing 775,000-square-foot building. The new center will accommodate 2,800 people and include expansion space for the Senate and House, a large auditorium, and a visitor education center. Years in the planning, the new center responds to the extraordinary increase of Capitol visitors and heightened security requirements. Mr. Hantman welcomed Capitals Alliance delegates with a presentation on the history of the Capitol buildings and the role of the complex in the physical development of the city. Leading a tour of the five-acre construction site, he noted that the project will preserve to the extent possible the historic Capitol grounds designed by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.



"Although members of the Capitals Alliance have many differences, we share optimism for the 21st century capital city. We look forward to hosting the 2004 meeting of the Capitals Alliance in Brasilia next fall so that we may continue this valuable dialogue with our sister cities."

Ivelise Longhi, Brasilia

Foreign Missions

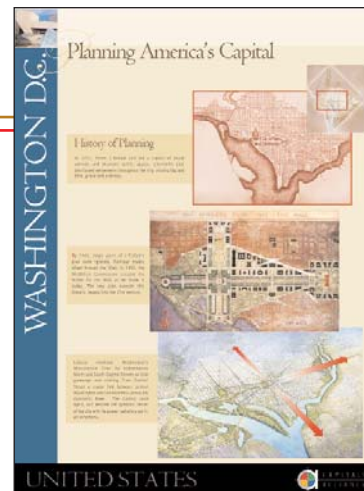
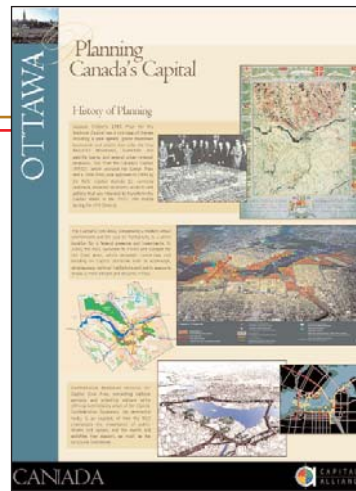
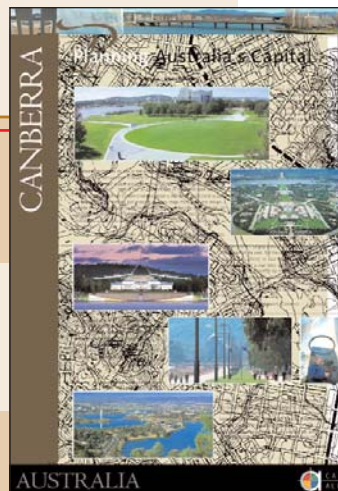
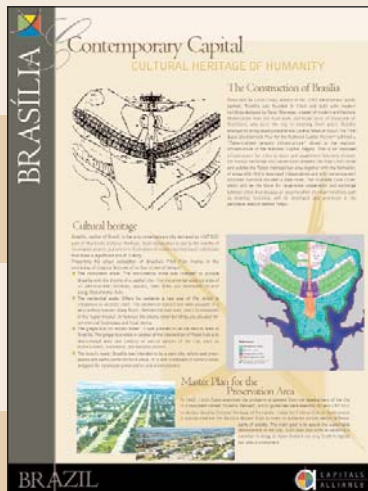
The National Capital Planning Commission has considerable oversight responsibility for the location and development of new diplomatic chanceries and foreign missions in the nation's capital. Today, Washington is home to 169 foreign missions that, along with international businesses and organizations, constitute a formidable economic force in Washington, contributing more than \$10 billion annually in direct spending to the city.

The number of foreign missions has increased significantly in the past two decades and Washington's International Center, a 47-acre campus and home to chanceries from 18 nations, is now fully built out. NCPC and the U.S. Department of State are working together to identify new locations for future foreign missions in appropriate locations throughout the city.

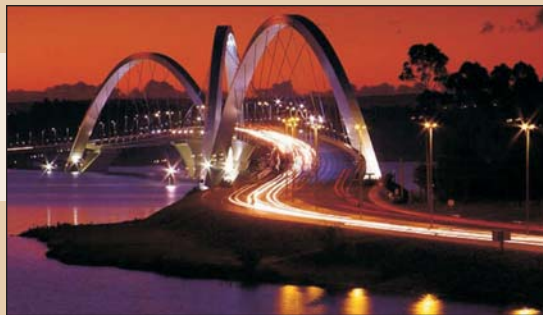
While in Washington, Capitals Alliance delegates had the opportunity to tour some of the city's diplomatic chanceries and foreign missions. The tour included lunch at the embassy of Azerbaijan, a stop at the International Center, and visits to some of the city's more established "embassy row" neighborhoods, with stops at the embassies of Finland and Pakistan. A reception hosted by the embassy of Canada in its signature building on Pennsylvania Avenue concluded the program.



The Canadian Embassy in Washington occupies a highly prominent site on Pennsylvania Avenue, "America's Main Street."



The three distinctive arches of Brasilia's new Juscelino Kubitschek Bridge complement the city's architecture.



The bold plan of Walter Burley Griffin provides a blueprint for modern Canberra.

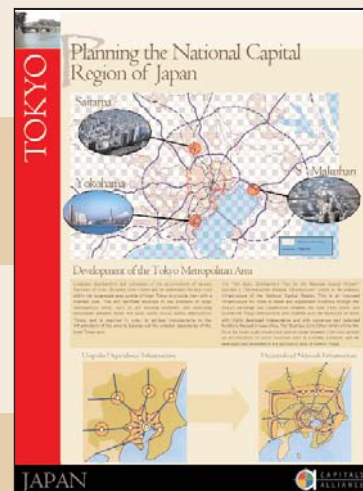
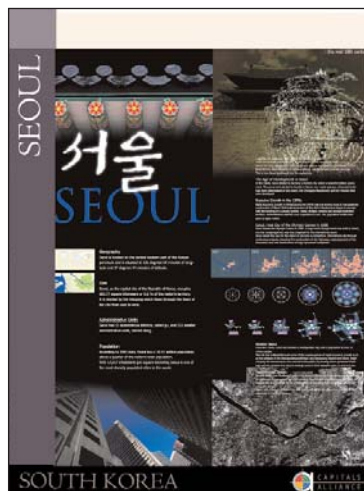
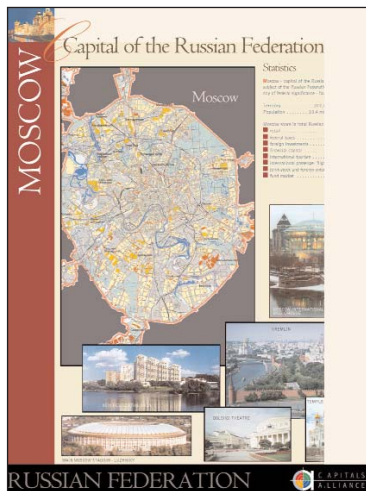


Capital Profiles

The Alliance meeting featured presentations on the history and current planning issues of member capitals. Participants heard about the dramatic 1960 relocation of Brazil's capital from coastal Rio de Janeiro to **Brasilia**, a new city 600 miles inland with daring new architecture by Oscar Niemeyer that captured the imagination of mid-century moderns. Planners from **Canberra** reported that the urban design principles of the 1912 Griffin Plan are being revisited in the contemporary planning debate, offering not only an elegant framework for continued development, but also a viable pattern for a sustainable and economically competitive city.

While **Ottawa's** 1950 Gréber Plan provided a system of parks, downtown boulevards and plazas, and a greenbelt, its new *Plan for Canada's Capital* focuses on a core area that juxtaposes a modern urban environment with the seat of national government and investment. **Washington** representatives traced the city's 100-year planning cycles from the original vision of Pierre L'Enfant in the late 18th century, to the McMillan Plan's City Beautiful aesthetic 100 years later, to the 1997 Legacy Plan that seeks to disperse federal development beyond the city's traditional monumental core.

In **Moscow** current planning issues focus on preserving the city's historic cultural landscapes and architectural originality and at the same time meeting increased requirements for security and public safety. The head of the planning office in **Nicosia** reported that although his city has been the capital of Cyprus for the past 10 centuries, today it finds itself a metropolis politically and ethnically divided between its Greek and Turkish communities. Like Moscow, Nicosia has

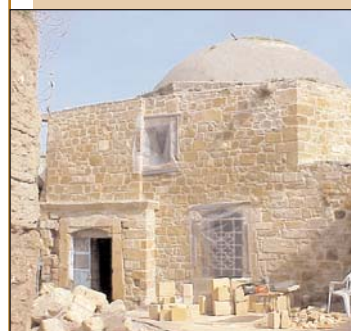


embarked on an extensive rehabilitation of its historic areas. In **Baku**, planners face many pressing challenges such as historic preservation. Fortunately, representatives from Baku reported that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is helping to finance the preservation of the city's urban heritage.

Representatives from **Seoul** reported on plans to relocate South Korea's capital as part of a regional redevelopment effort. A new capital city site could be selected as early as 2004 followed by an international design competition, with a potential move in 2012. In **Berlin**, Germany's new capital since 1999, a major federal building effort is nearing completion. Although the city is currently confronting declining investment and population, the new development of the Parliament precinct Alexanderplatz, and Potsdamer Platz features signature designs by some of the world's foremost architects. With a metropolitan population of some 30 million, **Tokyo** confronts major issues of density, over-concentration in the city center, and the need for expanded residential communities. The city's current development plan calls for establishing a shared infrastructure network with other cities inside and beyond the Tokyo region and potential relocation of their government offices.

"Cooperation among capital cities will help us all to better address our common challenges as well as promote peace, security and mutual understanding in today's globalized world."

Fikret Pashayev, Baku



Nicosia's walled city contains fine examples of Byzantine, Venetian, Ottoman, and British colonial architecture.



More than 50 percent of Azerbaijan's population lives in Baku.



Planning the 21st Century Capital City



"I think the more a capital city becomes like a regular city—a real city, a messy, organic city—the better."

Witold Rybczynski
Professor of Urbanism,
University of Pennsylvania

Alex Krieger, Chairman of the Department of Urban Design and Planning at Harvard University's School of Design led a panel exploring the symbolic, cultural and political role of capital cities in shaping and expressing national identity. The public program held at the National Press Club featured Witold Rybczynski, Professor of Urbanism at the University of Pennsylvania; Lawrence Vale, Professor of Urban Design and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Diana Balmori of Balmori Associates and the Yale University School of Architecture; and Benjamin Forgey, Architecture Critic of the Washington Post.

Two representatives of Capitals Alliance member cities also joined the panel: David Headon, Cultural Adviser for the National Capital Authority in Canberra, and Larry Beasley, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Planning, Design, and Realty for Ottawa's National Capital Commission.

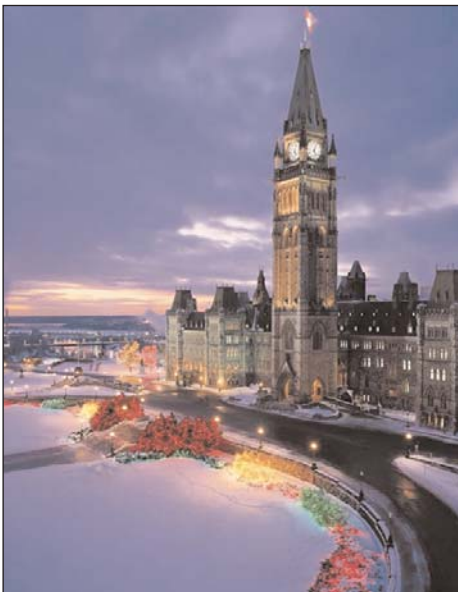
In a thoughtful and wide-ranging conversation, panelists commented on the distinction between one-dimensional, emblematic capitals and vibrant, living urban centers. Noting that more than three-quarters of today's national capital cities were not capitals 100 years ago, Professor Vale said that these new capitals confront the most daunting architectural and urbanistic perils.

DISCUSSION SESSIONS

The Washington program included several in-depth discussions in which conference participants informally exchanged views on shared planning and development issues.

Planning and Managing National Commemoration and Celebration

Ottawa's National Capital Commission led the session on commemoration and celebration and reported on its extensive programming responsibilities for national holidays and events such as Canada Day, the fall festivals, and the Christmas/winter celebrations. Canberra's National Capital Authority has been working with its counterpart organization in Ottawa as it develops its own celebratory traditions. One such event was last year's centenary anniversary of the capital city, which featured 3,000 life-size models of local heroes from around the country.



In Ottawa, the National Capital Commission manages winter celebrations that include 300,000 holiday lights in the city's ceremonial core.

The National Capital Planning Commission has been a leader in planning and developing national memorials and monuments. NCPC's *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* establishes a "no-build" zone in Washington's historically sensitive National Mall and identifies 100 sites for future commemorative and cultural facilities beyond the city's traditional monumental core. Both Ottawa and Canberra are completing master plans and design guidelines for commemorative works in their capitals. Other Capitals Alliance participants acknowledged the extreme political and emotional sensitivity of national commemoration and the power of commemorative works to express national identity and aspiration.

Washington's National Mall: Policies, Goals, Governance and Public Consultation

This discussion was led by representatives of the U.S. National Park Service, which has jurisdiction over the National Mall, Washington's historic greensward that stretches from the U.S. Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial and from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial. Sometimes referred to as "America's front yard," the Mall attracts nearly 20 million visitors each year, is in constant use for public demonstrations, celebrations, and civic and cultural events, and is prized as the premier location for national memorials and museums. To prevent the National Mall from becoming a victim of its own success, the National Park Service, the National Capital Planning Commission, and other Washington planning organizations are committed to preserving the area's historic open space and sweeping vistas.

The Washington representatives provided candid perspective on some of the most controversial recent projects on the Mall including the World War II Memorial, the Martin Luther King Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial Visitor Center. Capitals Alliance participants were particularly interested in learning about the public/private partnerships the federal government has established to maintain the Mall and its commemorative works, such as the privately funded recent restoration of the Washington Monument. Delegates also heard from the head of the newly established Trust for the National Mall, a privately funded endowment dedicated to restoring, revitalizing, and maintaining this treasured civic space.

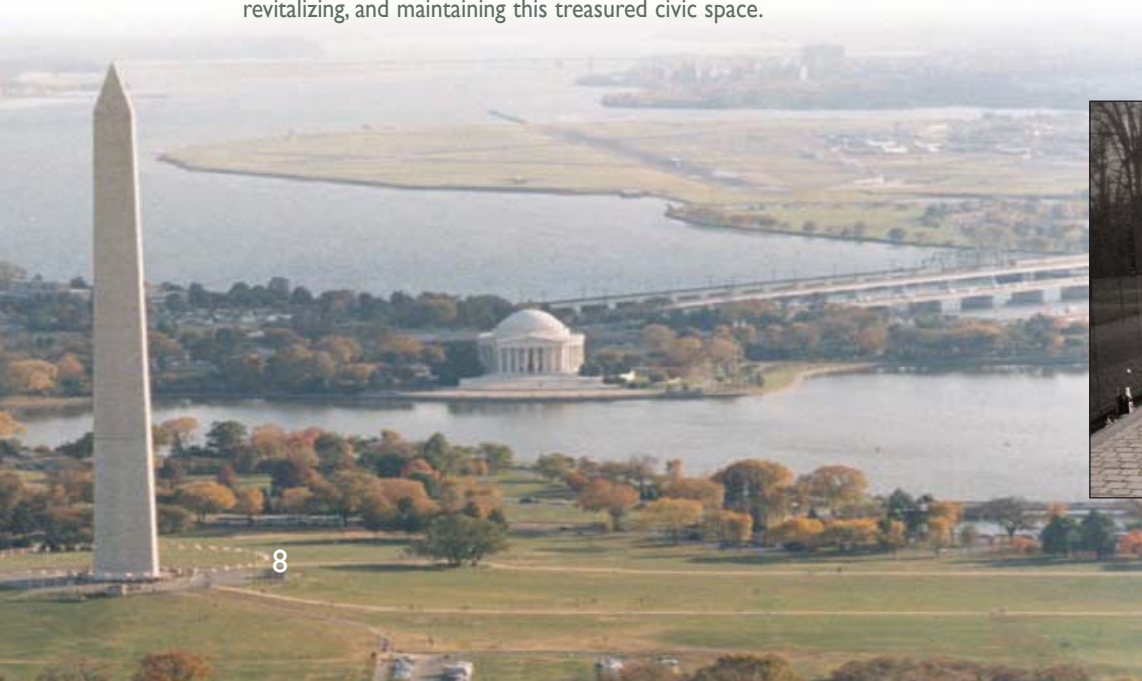


Julie Beckman and Kevin Kaseman (above), designers of a new memorial honoring the Pentagon victims of the September 11, 2001 attack, were special guests at Washington's Fort McNair. Raymond DuBois, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense and member of the National Capital Planning Commission, hosted the two designers and Alliance members at a formal reception and dinner at the Fort, a national historic landmark.



"As we have seen with our international counterparts here, clear guidelines, partnerships, and public consultation are all important elements in establishing national memorials."

Marcel Beaudry, Ottawa



Vietnam Memorial



During a boat tour, Capitals Alliance delegates learned about the city's ambitious plans for the revitalization of Washington's 22 miles of waterfront.

"Capital cities play such a vital role in establishing national identity. I find it to be of immense value to trade information on how we deal with issues that clearly affect us on all sides of the globe. Whether it's transportation, balancing the local and federal interests, or discussing our cultural values, we will all benefit from this exchange."

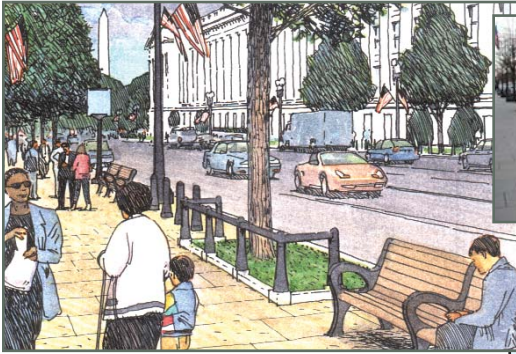
Hee-yun Jung, Seoul

Federal/Local Collaboration on Housing and Community Development Issues

Shannon Sorzano, a senior official with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), led this overview of U.S. federal housing programs including housing grants to low-income families, guaranteed mortgages, and mixed-income public housing developments. The HUD officials outlined the proposed American Dream Down Payment Initiative that would provide between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for down payment and closing cost assistance to low-income families. A \$15 million demonstration program to test whether concentrating new homeowner construction in low-income neighborhoods will lead to fundamental social change was also discussed. Known as Hope VI, the program provides grants to public housing authorities to demolish obsolete buildings in distressed communities and encourages mixed-income developments with lower densities and better integration with adjacent communities.

Noting that homelessness was an emerging problem in Canada, Ottawa delegates were particularly interested in U.S. approaches to the issue. The HUD officials described new comprehensive programs to combat homelessness that bring together the resources of housing agencies, social service organizations, and non-profit groups to provide a wide range of support systems.





A new security design plan for Washington, D.C. offers solutions that enhance the beauty of the city's historic streets.

Planning and Designing for National Capital Security

Security has become a leading topic for planners of capital cities. Alliance representatives from Moscow reported that securing their capital and ensuring public safety is the city's top priority. Led by Washington and Canberra staff members, this session focused on the special challenge faced by capitals with proud traditions of openness and accessibility. In Washington, federal planners recently released an Urban Design and Security Plan that proposes solutions to seamlessly integrate building perimeter security into the historic urban fabric of the city's monumental core. The plan demonstrates that security and good urban design can be compatible. The plan offers a variety of security solutions such as hardened street furniture, low landscaped walls, and green curbside plantings that provide security without marring the beauty and design of the streets they are meant to protect.

Canberra officials have also been working on landscape/streetscape improvements more sympathetic to the surrounding environment. Similar to the work in Washington, the National Capital Authority recently produced urban design guidelines for perimeter security and has been focusing on ways to mitigate threats from bushfires, such as better management of wooded areas in suburban perimeter areas. Planners from several Alliance cities discussed the need for reliable technical blast and structural testing data.



Canberra, Australia

NCPC

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal construction projects, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.



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