

## Fallen Journalists Memorial

**NCPC submission**

03 October 2024

John Ronan Architects Chicago

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## Introduction

After receiving site approval in early 2023, the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation (foundation) has developed an initial concept design for a new Fallen Journalists Memorial. Initially authorized in Public Law 116-253, the foundation was also the subject of Public Law 117-328, which authorized location of the memorial within Area I, as defined by the Commemorative Works Act (CWA).

The enabling legislation authorized a memorial that commemorates “America’s commitment to a free press by honoring journalists who sacrificed their lives in service to that cause.” Although the memorial will honor journalists who have died carrying out their profession, the primary subject of commemoration is freedom of the press, as listed in the Constitution.

## Memorial Goals

The intent of the memorial is to balance the duality of providing a place of commemoration and serving as an inspiration for journalists and the public. The following identify the goals of the memorial.

### Commemoration

- Recognize and honor journalists’ heroism and lives sacrificed in service to democracy.
- Convey the dangers journalists face in protecting and documenting the truth enabled by freedom of the press.
- Provide a place for reflection and intimate contemplation for the public and serve as a focal point for those personally connected to fallen journalists.

### Inspiration

- Serve as a beacon for freedom of the press and emphasize that a free and independent press is a worthy cause in the past, present, and future.
- Showcase America’s commitment to a free press as a world-wide example and source of aspiration.
- Inspire young memorial visitors to consider a career in journalism.

### Education

- Raise awareness and educate visitors about risks to a free press and the contributions of journalism as a pillar of democracy (i.e., the Fourth Estate).
- Illustrate journalists’ role in witnessing, recording, and documenting historic events and seminal moments from diverse backgrounds and perspectives.
- Convey the breadth and depth of the various forms of journalism protected by free press principles.

### Program

To advance the goals of commemoration, inspiration, and education, the foundation desires a memorial that will include an outdoor site with a commemorative feature and other elements, such as a plaza, benches, and interpretive signage.

These physical elements would be supported by online educational information. Combined, the memorial will serve as:

- A daily place of reflection to inspire respect for the sacrifice made by journalists in the cause of seeking truth to preserve our freedoms, and for family and friends to remember those journalists who have given their lives
- A focal point for understanding the First Amendment and how it has enabled the work of journalism in seeking truth to advance democracy and maintain freedom
- A convening place for commemorative events to honor journalists and to study the future of journalism in an evolving world
- An attraction that stimulates visitors to the Nation’s Capital to access online educational programming to learn more about the importance of a free press to a functioning democracy

## Project Site

The approved 0.3-acre project site is a triangular park along Independence Avenue, Maryland Avenue, and 3rd Street NW under NPS jurisdiction. The site is a flat turf panel with multiple trees primarily concentrated in the western portion of the site. Street trees intermittently line the site along Maryland Avenue and Independence Avenue.

The primary viewshed is northeast along Maryland Avenue SW to the U.S. Capitol Building and immediately north to the east facade of the National Museum of the American Indian. Secondary, multi-directional views from the site extend east and west along Independence Avenue SW, north and south along 3rd Street SW, and southwest toward the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial. The site is located across from the Voice of America Headquarters and two blocks from the U.S. Capitol, with a clear view of the U.S. Capitol dome.

The project site is located within Area I as designated by the CWA.



## Review Process

### NCMAC

The National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) reviewed the site selection study for the Fallen Journalists Memorial and justification for establishment of the memorial within Area I on October 5, 2021. NCMAC commented on three sites: Site A in the eastern portion of Freedom Plaza, Site D at Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue NW; Site O at Maryland and Independence Avenues at 3rd Street SW, and Site T at Edward R. Murrow Park between 18th and 19th Streets NW. NCMAC noted that Site O, the project site, is a compelling location with direct views to the U.S. Capitol and a thematic connection to the nearby Voice of America headquarters. NCMAC recommended the memorial for inclusion within Area I.

### NCPC

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) reviewed the memorial site selection study on April 6, 2023. At that time, NCPC recommended advancing the project site (Site O) and Edward R. Murrow Park (Site T) for further evaluation. NCPC requested the foundation develop one or more alternative design concepts for sites advanced for further evaluation, including variations in scale, placement, and orientation. The commission also requested details about the physical relationship of the memorial to the surrounding context, including access and preservation of historic landscapes, and provide information about program needs at the site. The commission noted that due to the presence of important historic and cultural landscapes, proposed commemoration should minimize visual impacts to those landscapes and associated views.

### CFA

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) reviewed the memorial site selection study on April 20, 2023 and approved the project site (Site O). CFA noted that the site was selected for its strong visual relationship with the U.S. Capitol dome, which may symbolize and inform an understanding of the historical relationship between a free press and a democratic government. They observed that the site presents several design challenges: a limited footprint, the proximity to the strong architecture of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), and the presence of mature canopy trees that may partially obscure the view of the Capitol and should be protected. In general, they expressed strong support for the intent to use a landscape approach for the design of the planned memorial. They also emphasized the importance of defining the type of experience the memorial should provide.

### NEPA

The NPS and the foundation will initiate a design-focused 30-day National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public scoping process on September XX, 2024, which would extend to October XX, 2024. A design public scoping meeting is scheduled for September XX, 2024. This represents the second public scoping period and meeting conducted as part of this project. The NPS and the Foundation will produce an Environmental Assessment (EA) following the design scoping period. The first public scoping period occurred April 3, 2023-May 5, 2023 for the site selection phase of the project. A site selection public scoping meeting was held on April 29, 2023. In addition to comments from NCPC and CFA, the NPS and

the foundation received comments from the Smithsonian Institution, which supported establishing the memorial at the project site (Site O). The Smithsonian Institution requested that potential road closures of Maryland Avenue SW between the project site and the NMAI be coordinated in advance. Furthermore, the Smithsonian Institution suggested coordination with ongoing Independence Avenue planning efforts and adjacent food truck operations. One public comment questioned the need for a memorial (regardless of location).

### NHPA

The NPS and the foundation initiated consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and multiple tribal communities (listed below) in accordance with 36 CFR 800.3 of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, regarding the establishment of the Fallen Journalists Memorial. In a response dated November 19, 2021, SHPO noted that the project site (Site O) appears to be well suited for the proposed memorial. SHPO also noted that the Section 106 review should focus on potential effects on important viewsheds, archeological resources, and related topics.

NPS and the foundation will continue consultation for this project as the design progresses. The site selection and design public scoping processes also review historic resources and serve as early Section 106 consultations. No determination of effect has yet been made.

In addition to the SHPO, the following tribal communities were consulted:

- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
- Rappahannock Tribe
- Nansemond Indian Nation
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Chickahominy Tribe Eastern Division
- Monacan Indian Nation
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Delaware Nation
- Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Shawnee Tribe

### Public Engagement

The NPS and the foundation have used the agency consultation and NEPA processes to engage the public. During each meeting of NCMAC, NCPC, and CFA, the public has had the opportunity to review documents and provide comments. The public scoping process for the site selection and design phases also offered the public the opportunity to comment.

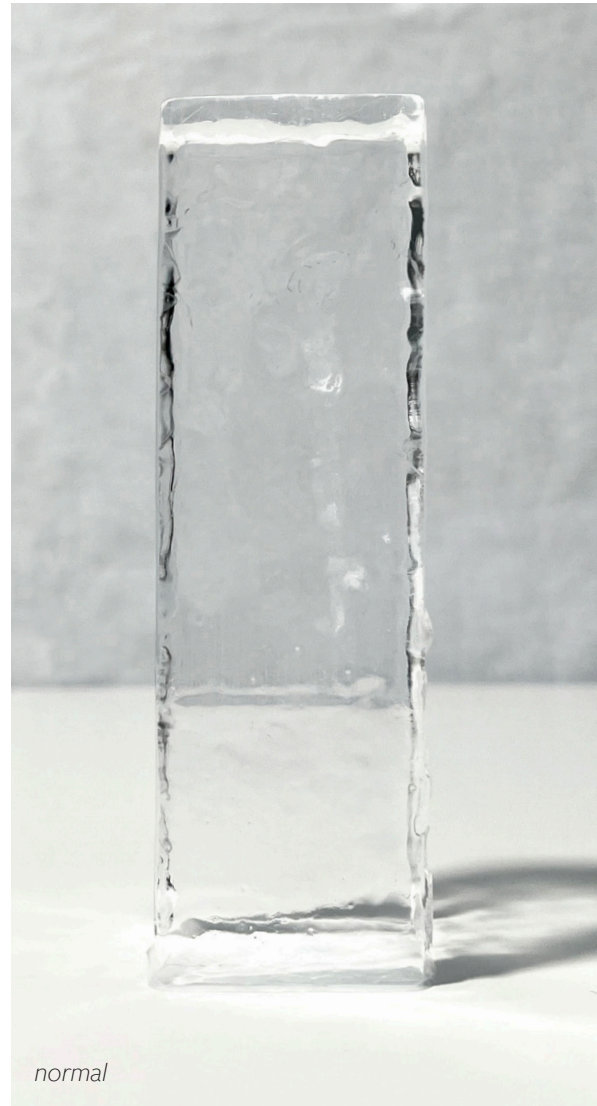
## Project Timeline

<b>june 2019</b>	Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation established, and the bipartisan “Fallen Journalists Memorial Act” introduced in the U.S. House and Senate.
<b>december 2020</b>	Congress passed, and the President signed into law, legislation authorizing the foundation “to establish a commemorative work on federal land in commemoration of America’s commitment to a free press as represented by journalists who sacrificed their lives in service to that cause.”
<b>december 2022</b>	Congress passed legislation approving the location of the Fallen Journalists Memorial in Area I, as defined by the Commemorative Works Act.
<b>april 2023</b>	Foundation received site approval from the National Capital Planning Commission and the US Commission of Fine Arts to design the memorial on the site located at Independence Avenue, Maryland Avenue, and 3rd Street SW.
<b>june 2023</b>	Foundation initiated a design team competition by inviting a broad and diverse group of 118 architects, designers, and artists from the U.S. and abroad to submit proposals.
<b>july 2023 - january 2024</b>	Design Team Selection Committee reviews 54 submissions of expressions of interest and qualifications. 12 architecture and design teams invited to meet with the selection committee in November to discuss their ideas for translating the concept of press freedom and the notion of honoring those who have lost their lives in pursuit of truth into a public memorial. The selection committee recommended four teams to submit detailed design concepts and participate in in-person interviews in late January 2024.
<b>march 2024</b>	Foundation announced the selection of John Ronan Architects to design the memorial.

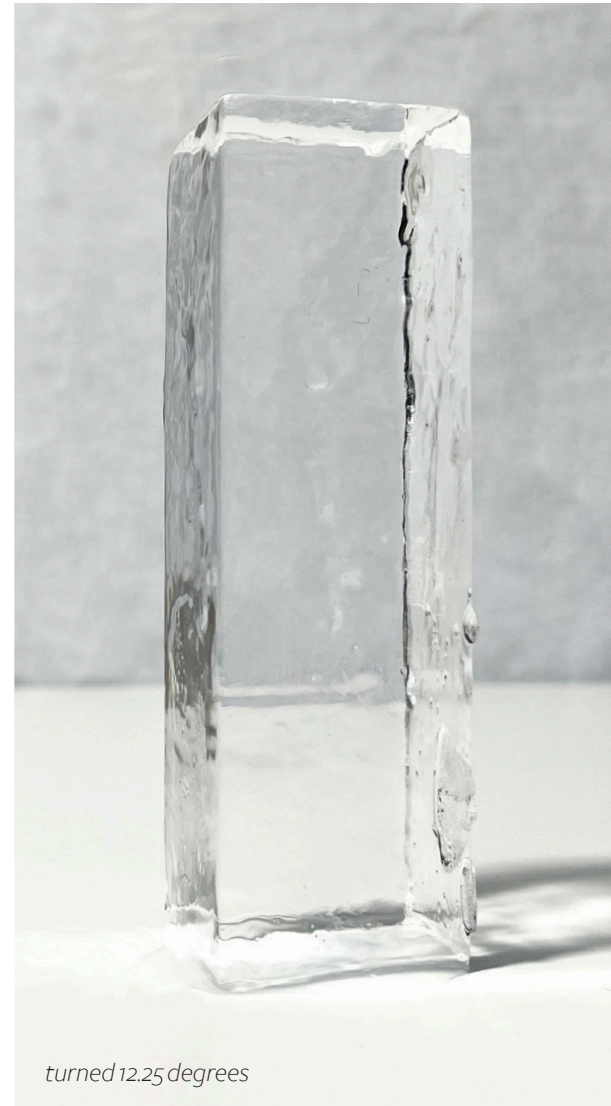
Concept



An investigative journalist sheds light on issues obscured in darkness. They clarify factual distortions and explain what is difficult to comprehend, making what is opaque become clear. Similarly, the memorial should engage with themes of transparency, opacity, distortion, clarity and light.



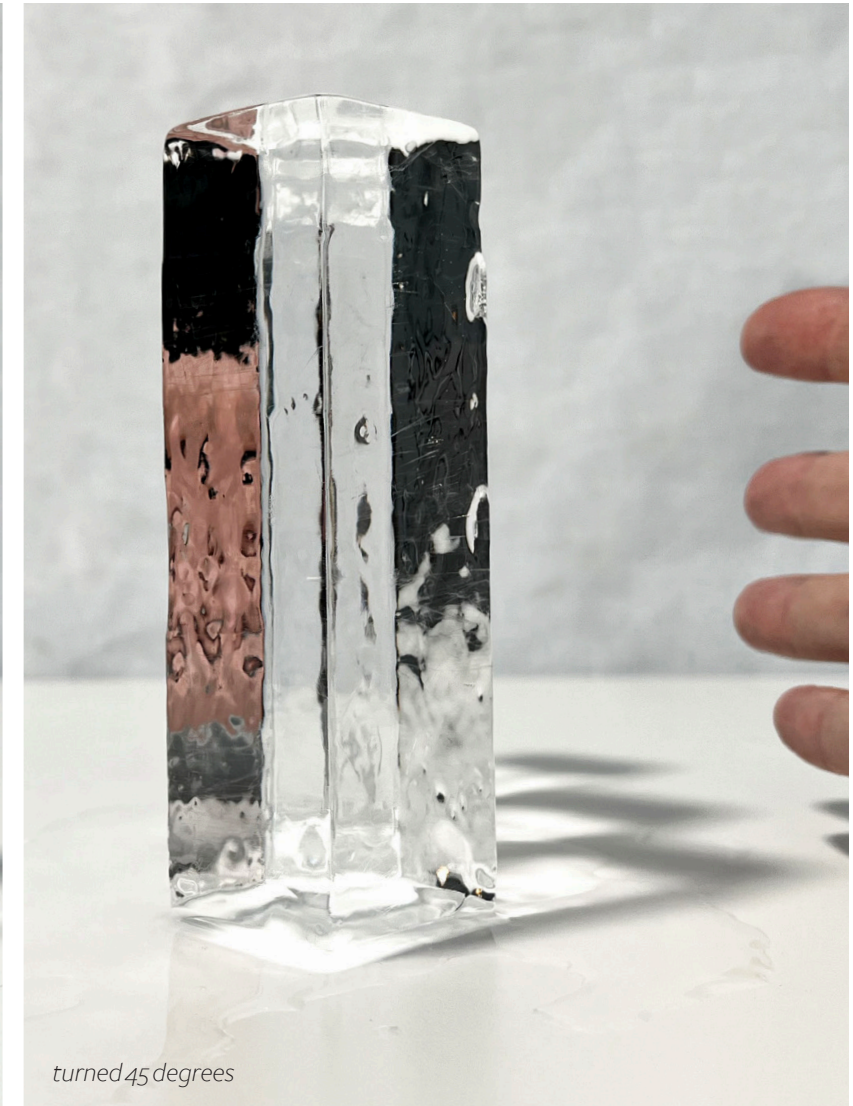
*normal*



*turned 12.25 degrees*



*turned 22.5 degrees*



*turned 45 degrees*

To explore these themes, we began by studying ice, which can be transparent, distorted, or opaque, depending on the viewer's perspective.

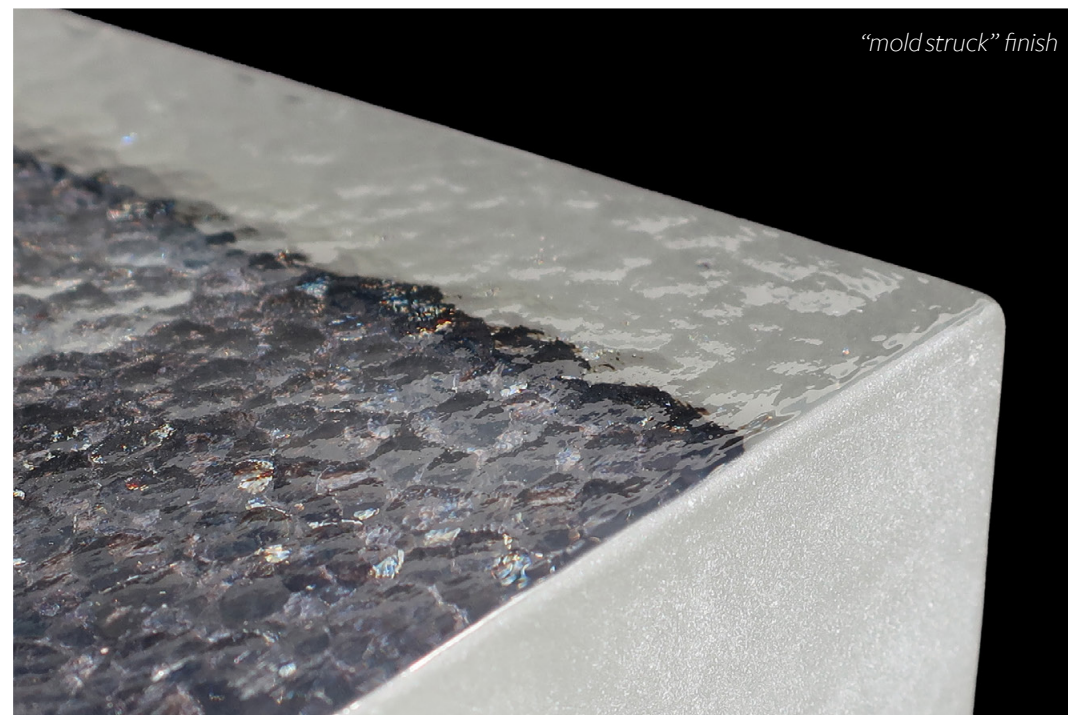
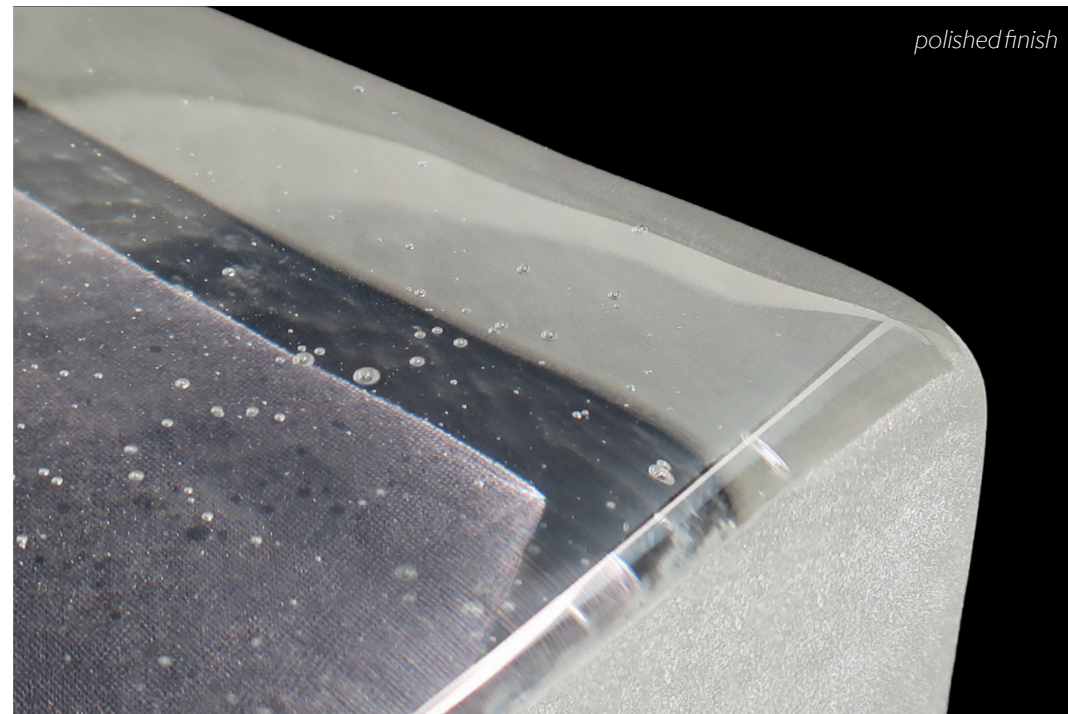
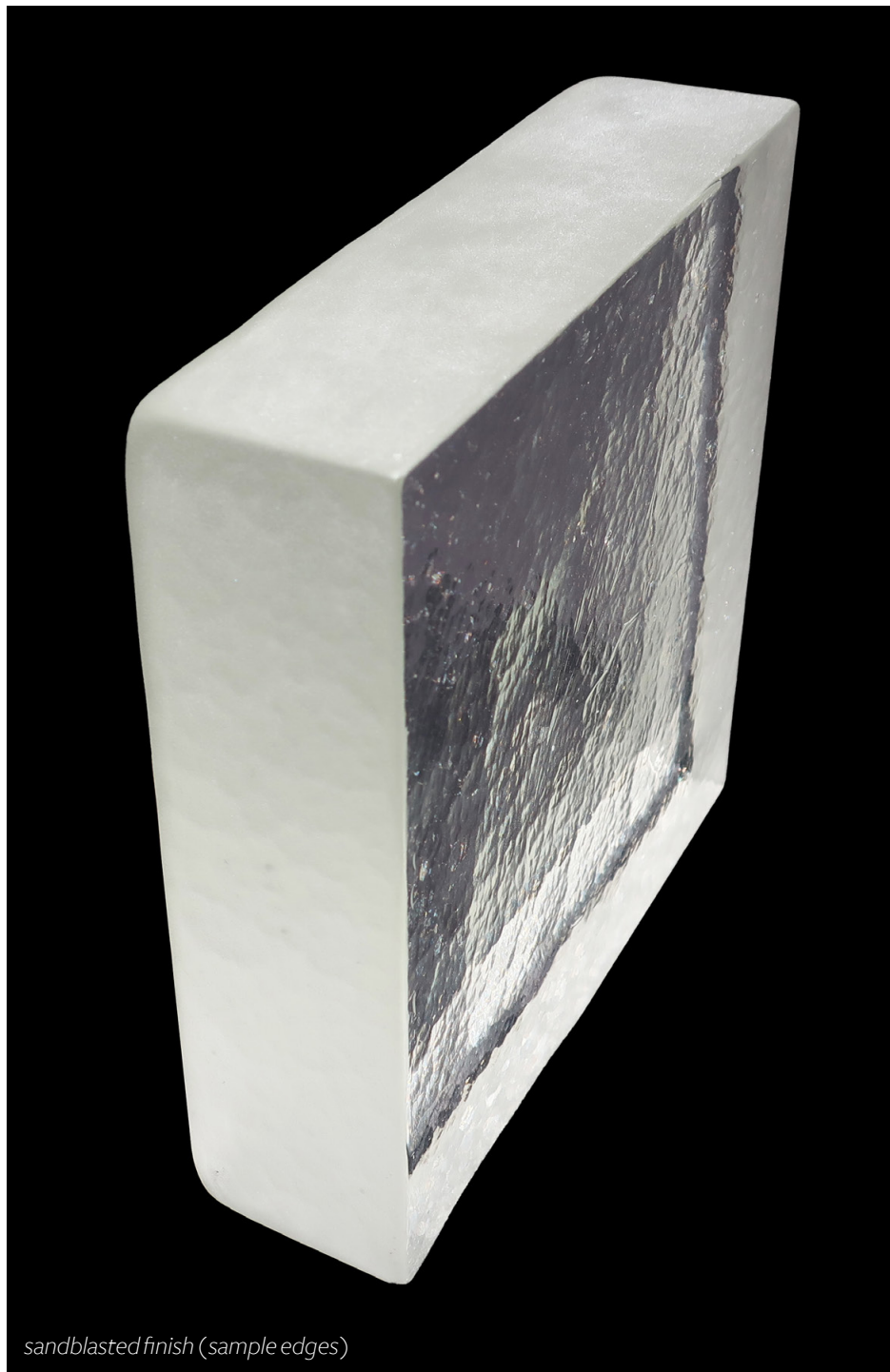


Stacking the ice elements, we noticed how reality can be distorted by the positioning of the stacked ice elements.

**Borosilicate glass** is a type of glass containing boron trioxide which allows for a very low coefficient of thermal expansion. It is thermal shock resistant and will not crack under extreme temperature changes like regular soda-lime glass. (Pyrex is a form of borosilicate glass)



The memorial will need to **be unique** and **unconventional** to stand out amidst a crowded field. Solid elements of cast glass is the proposed material and main protagonist of our story. Each glass element will be unique and slightly different, to represent the unique personal story of each journalist remembered here.



***will the glass become hot to the touch?***

glass does not reflect heat, but instead heat passes through glass, with only small amounts absorbed. this is why thermometers still use glass, and why the heat from the sun passes through a window and can be felt on the inside of a house (it should be noted that the bench-height glass elements in our scheme are located under shade trees for added human comfort).

***will the glass break?***

high grade borosilicate glass is the strongest glass made and is resistant to thermal shock.

***how long does glass last?***

essentially, the decomposition rate of glass is none. there are no microorganisms on planet earth able to break down glass materials, and since it takes thousands of years, there is not a single glass bottle on the planet that has even come close to decomposing. it is speculated that it takes over 4000 years for glass to break up and decompose.

***how will the glass elements be connected?***

stacked glass elements will be installed with a silicone pad between them to cushion and adhere them together.

***is glass easy to maintain?***

yes. periodic cleanings (every 4-6 weeks) using ordinary water from the municipal supply will supplement the natural cleaning provided by rain water. glass elements are scratch resistant, they change little over time and will not rust or fade. in addition, graffiti can be removed easily from glass without special tools or chemicals that might stain or change the appearance of other materials.

## What is the difference between soda-lime and borosilicate glass?

**Soda-Lime glass** is the most common type of glass due to its workability and affordability (over 90% of glass used in commercial applications is soda-lime glass). It consists of roughly 60-70% silica, 13% sodium dioxide (soda), and 9% calcium oxide (lime), along with other trace elements.<sup>[1][2][5]</sup>

**Borosilicate glass** is a specialty glass invented in the 1880's by Otto Schott, designed to withstand extreme thermal, chemical, and mechanical conditions.<sup>[3]</sup> It contains roughly 80% silica and 13% boron oxide.<sup>[2][4][5]</sup> The high concentration of both silica and boron oxide gives the borosilicate glass a number of benefits over traditional soda-lime glass, including:

- **Toughness and Scratch Resistance**

borosilicate glass has significantly increased durability and surface hardness compared to soda-lime.<sup>[3]</sup>

- **Thermal Expansion and Shock Resistance**

borosilicate glass has less than half the thermal expansion and contraction rate of soda-lime glass, making it highly resistant to cracks and breakage as a result of thermal shock.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

- **Chemical Stability**

borosilicate glass is very chemically stable, meaning it will resist attack by corrosive agents.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

- **Optical Clarity**

borosilicate is used in optical applications due to its clarity and high light transmittance. (in comparison, soda-lime glass is less clear and often has a blue-green tint due to its high iron content.)<sup>[3]</sup>



Borosilicate glass is used in many different applications where high performance is required, including laboratory glassware, cookware and kitchen equipment, optics, medical devices, and electronic components.



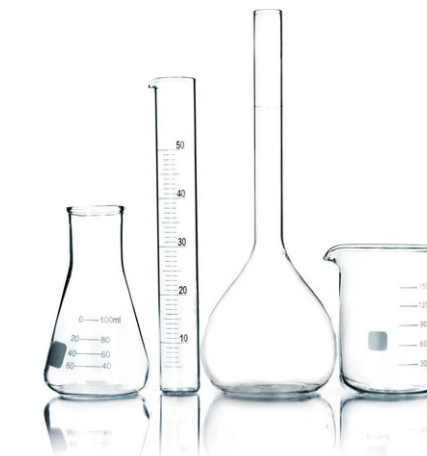
telescope mirror blank



vacuum tube housing



kitchen cookware



laboratory glassware

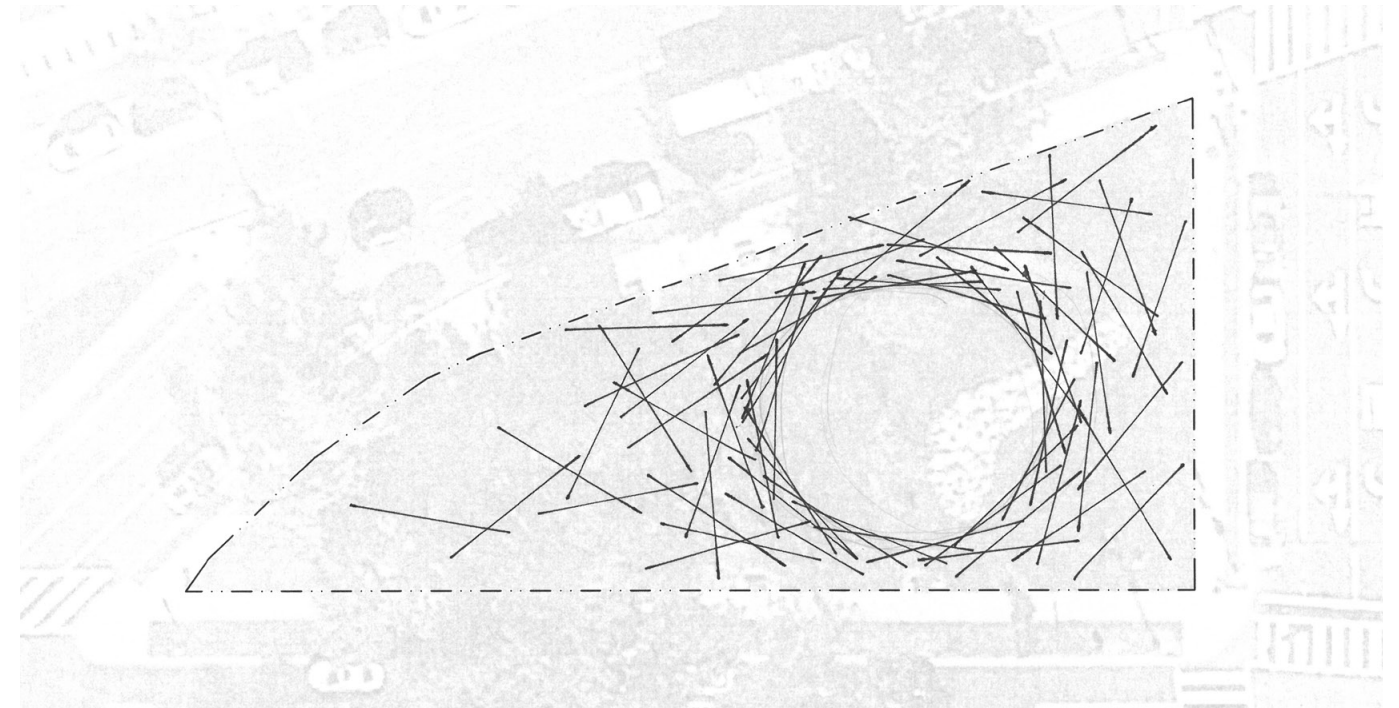
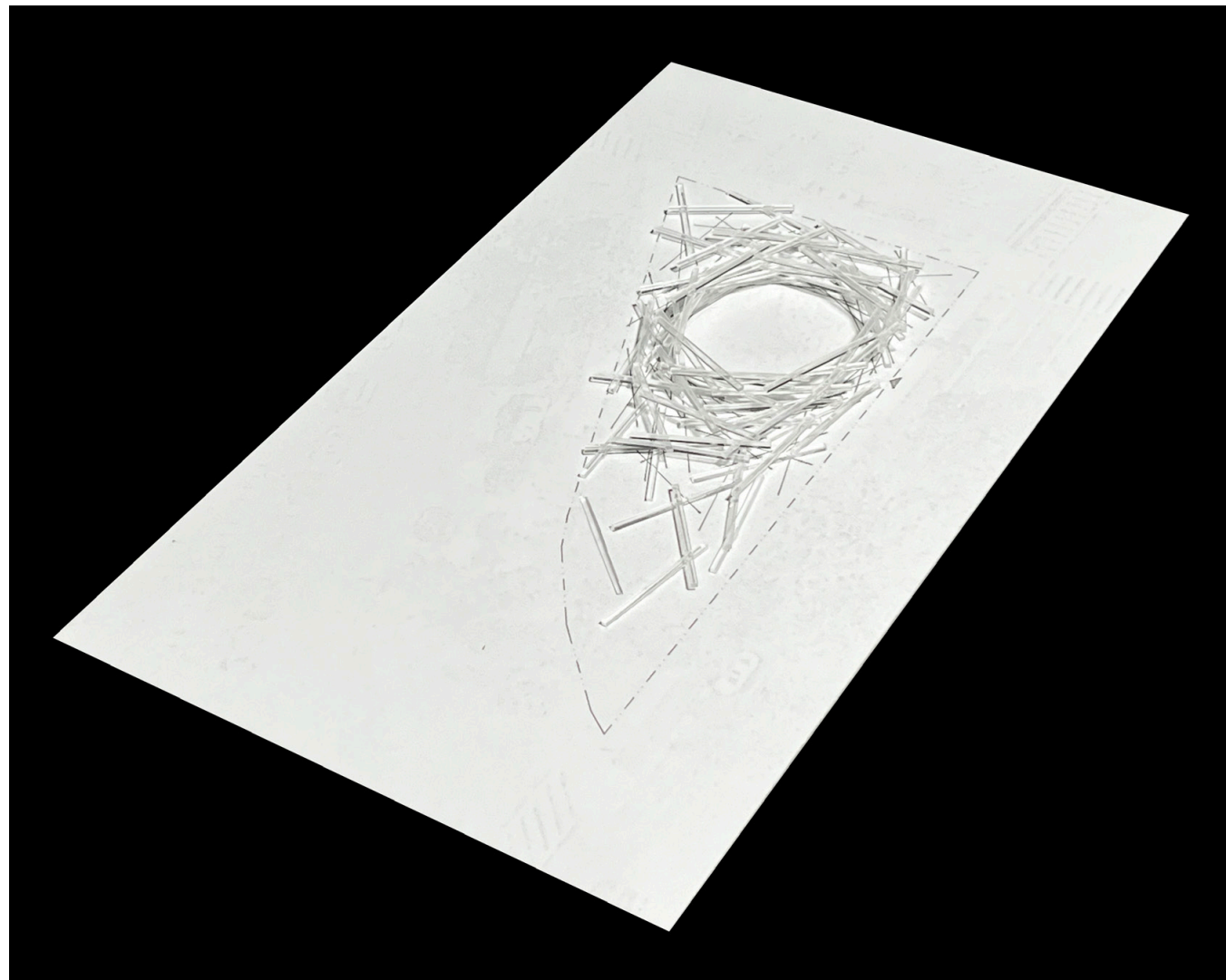


optical lens

footnotes: 1. Britannica, "soda-lime glass." <https://www.britannica.com/technology/soda-lime-glass> 2. Wondrwood, "What is Borosilicate Glass." <https://wondrwood.com/blogs/what-were-working-with/what-is-borosilicate-glass-why-is-it-better-than-regular-soda-lime-glass> 3. Schott, "Borosilicate Glass." <https://www.schott.com/en-dk/expertise/materials/borosilicate-glass> 4. Schott, "Schott - Technical Glasses - Physical and Technical Properties." Mar. 2020 (see appendix) 5. camlab, "Borosilicate glass vs Soda Lime glass vs Pyrex - what is the difference?" <https://www.camlab.co.uk/what-types-laboratory-glassware-should-you-use>

		definition	borosilicate glass	granite	marble	unreinforced concrete	stainless steel	remarks
mechanical properties	density	amount of mass per unit volume	140 lb/cuft <sup>[12]</sup>	162 lb/cuft <sup>[10]</sup>	168 lb/cuft <sup>[10]</sup>	140 lb/cuft <sup>[3]</sup>	490 lb/cuft <sup>[2]</sup>	borosilicate glass is a similar density to granite, marble, and concrete.
	compressive strength	resistance of a material to breaking under compression	290 ksi <sup>[7]</sup>	320 ksi <sup>[8]</sup>	78 ksi <sup>[9]</sup>	3 ksi <sup>[3]</sup>	30 ksi <sup>[2]</sup>	borosilicate glass has <b>greater</b> compressive strength than marble, unreinforced concrete, and stainless steel. it is similar to granite.
	tensile strength	resistance of a material to breaking under tension	41 ksi <sup>[7]</sup>	5.1 ksi <sup>[8]</sup>	1.3 ksi <sup>[9]</sup>	0.3 ksi <sup>[3]</sup>	74 ksi <sup>[2]</sup>	borosilicate glass has <b>greater</b> tensile strength than granite, marble, and unreinforced concrete
	flexural strength	resistance of a material to breaking under bending	5 ksi <sup>[7]</sup>	3.5 ksi <sup>[8]</sup>	2.2 ksi <sup>[10]</sup>	0.3 ksi <sup>[3]</sup>	30 ksi <sup>[2]</sup>	borosilicate glass has <b>greater</b> flexural strength than granite, marble, and unreinforced concrete
	knop hardness	measure of a material's surface hardness, or its resistance to scratching and abrasion.	480 <sup>[12]</sup>	550 - 650 <sup>[1]</sup>	140 - 180 <sup>[1]</sup>	550 - 850 <sup>[14]</sup>	166 <sup>[6]</sup>	borosilicate glass is <b>harder</b> than marble and stainless steel, and is similar to granite.
thermal properties	thermal expansion coefficient	rate at which a material expands with increase in temperature	3.3 x 10 <sup>-6</sup> K <sup>[11]</sup>	7.9 - 8.4 x 10 <sup>-6</sup> K <sup>[5]</sup>	5.5 - 14.1 x 10 <sup>-6</sup> K <sup>[5]</sup>	13 - 14 x 10 <sup>-6</sup> K <sup>[5]</sup>	16 x 10 <sup>-6</sup> K <sup>[2]</sup>	borosilicate glass will be the <b>most stable</b> material when undergoing temperature changes.
	thermal conductivity	the ability of a material to transfer heat energy to and from its surroundings.	1.2 W/m-K <sup>[12]</sup>	1.7 - 4.0 W/m-K <sup>[4]</sup>	2.0 - 2.9 W/m-K <sup>[4]</sup>	1.0 - 1.8 w/m-K <sup>[4]</sup>	16.2 W/m-k <sup>[6]</sup>	borosilicate glass will conduct over <b>10x less heat</b> than stainless steel, and is similar to concrete.
	specific heat capacity	the amount of energy required to raise the temperature of a material by 1 unit.	0.83 <sup>[7]</sup>	0.79 <sup>[13]</sup>	0.88 <sup>[13]</sup>	0.88 <sup>[13]</sup>	0.50 <sup>[6]</sup>	borosilicate glass will gain <b>less heat</b> than stainless steel, and a similar amount to granite, marble, and concrete.

footnotes: 1. AutoDrill, "Knoop Material Hardness Scale." www.autodrill.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/HardnessScaleChart.pdf 2. AZoM, "Properties: Stainless Steel - Grade 304." 11 June 2024, www.azom.com/properties.aspx?ArticleID=965 3. Engineeringtoolbox, "Concrete Properties." 8 Sept. 2023, www.engineeringtoolbox.com/concrete-properties-d\_1223.html 4. Engineeringtoolbox, "Solids, Liquids and Gases - Thermal Conductivities." 22 Apr. 2024, www.engineeringtoolbox.com/thermal-conductivity-d\_429.html 5. Engineeringtoolbox, "Thermal Expansion - Linear Expansion Coefficients." 2 Nov. 2023, www.engineeringtoolbox.com/linear-expansion-coefficients-d\_95.html 6. EZLOK, "316 Stainless Steel Mechanical Properties." www.ezlok.com/316-stainless-steel-properties 7. Make It From, "Borosilicate Glass." https://www.makeitfrom.com/material-properties/Borosilicate-Glass 8. Make It From, "Granite." https://www.makeitfrom.com/material-properties/Granite 9. Make It From, "Marble." https://www.makeitfrom.com/material-properties/Marble 10. Modul Marble, "Physical Mechanical Characteristics Natural Stone." modulmarble.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Natural-Stone-Physical-Mechanical-Characteristics.pdf 11. Schott, "Schott - Technical Glasses - Physical and Technical Properties." Mar. 2020 12. Schott, "Schott Borofloat 33 - Technical Data" 13. Wikipedia, "Table of Specific Heat Capacities." 30 May 2024, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table\_of\_specific\_heat\_capacities. 14. Becosan, "How to measure the hardness of concrete and why it is important." https://www.becosan.com/how-to-measure-the-hardness-of-concrete-and-why-it-is-important/



### Memorial as Story

The memorial design consists of a collection of transparent, solid glass elements arranged on the site in a seemingly accidental manner which aggregate to form a pure cylindrical space at the heart of the site, suggesting the way ostensibly disconnected facts coalesce to form a journalist's story.

Experiencing the memorial is a **journey of discovery** that unfolds slowly, space by space like a story, and casts the visitor in the role of investigative journalist pursuing truth wherever it leads.

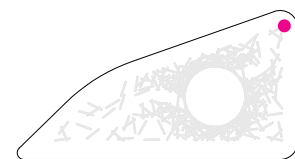
Site



The memorial can be entered from multiple sides with all paths leading to the circular Remembrance Hall, suggesting that there are many paths to the truth, none of which are linear.

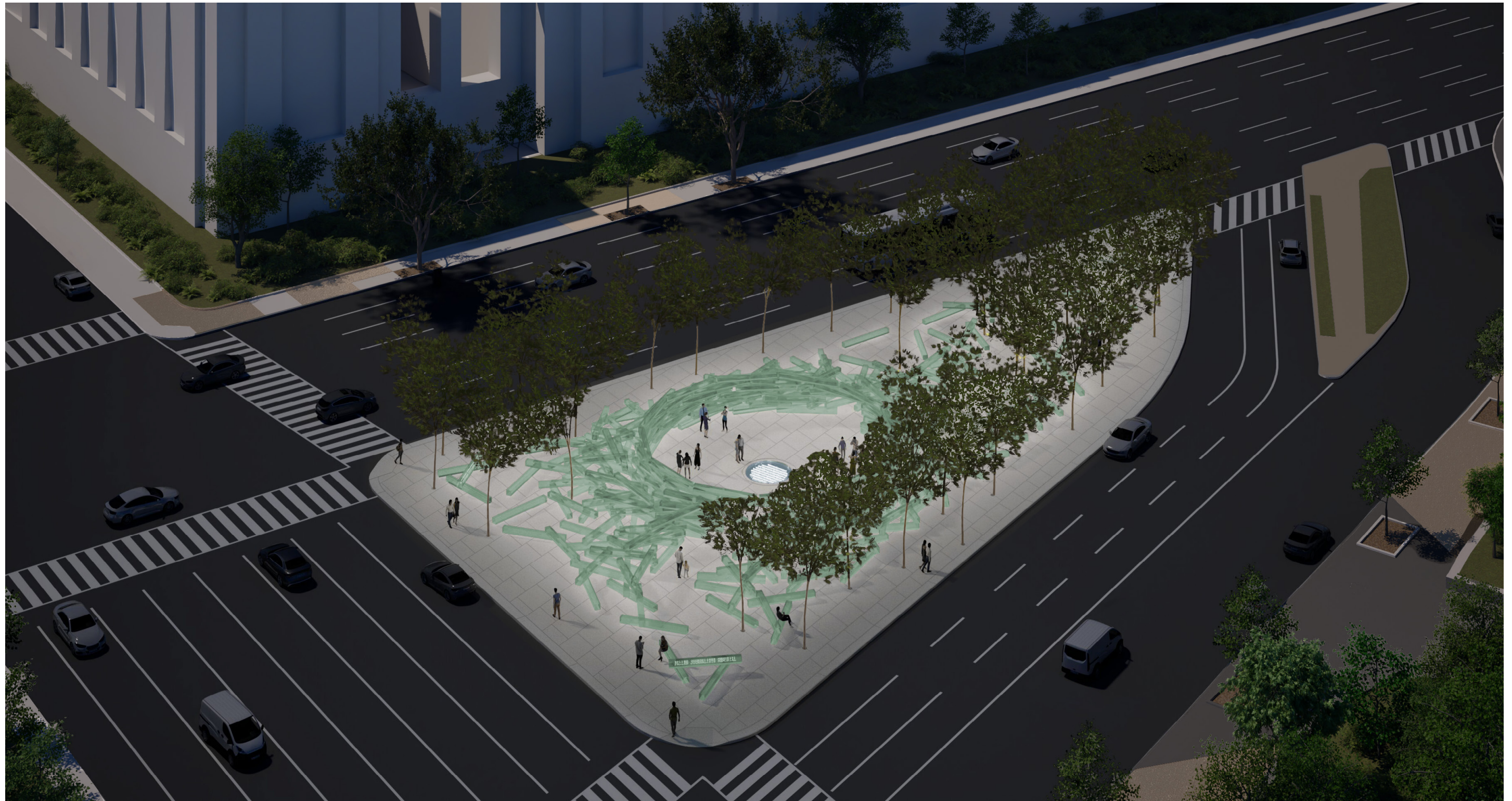


03 october 2024 view looking west

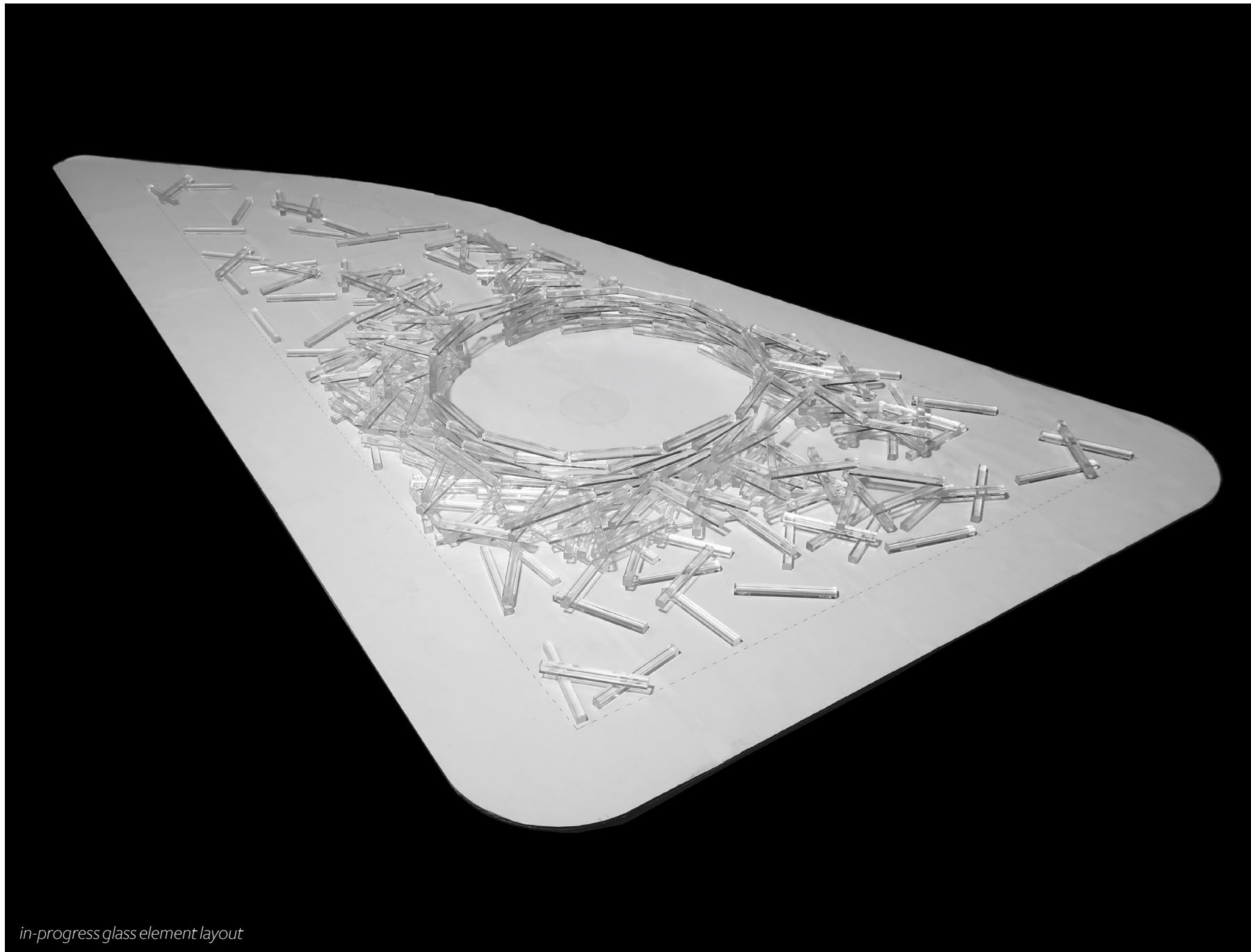


Like a newspaper headline, the memorial appears intriguing at first glance, inviting the visitor in to explore further. As visitors are drawn into the memorial, the glass elements increase in number and density, like facts in a journalist's story.

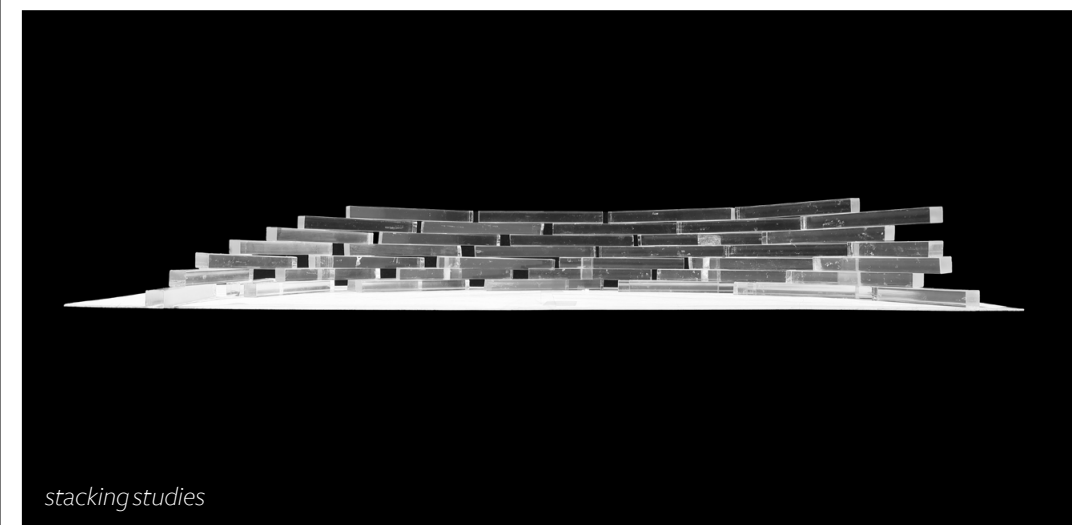
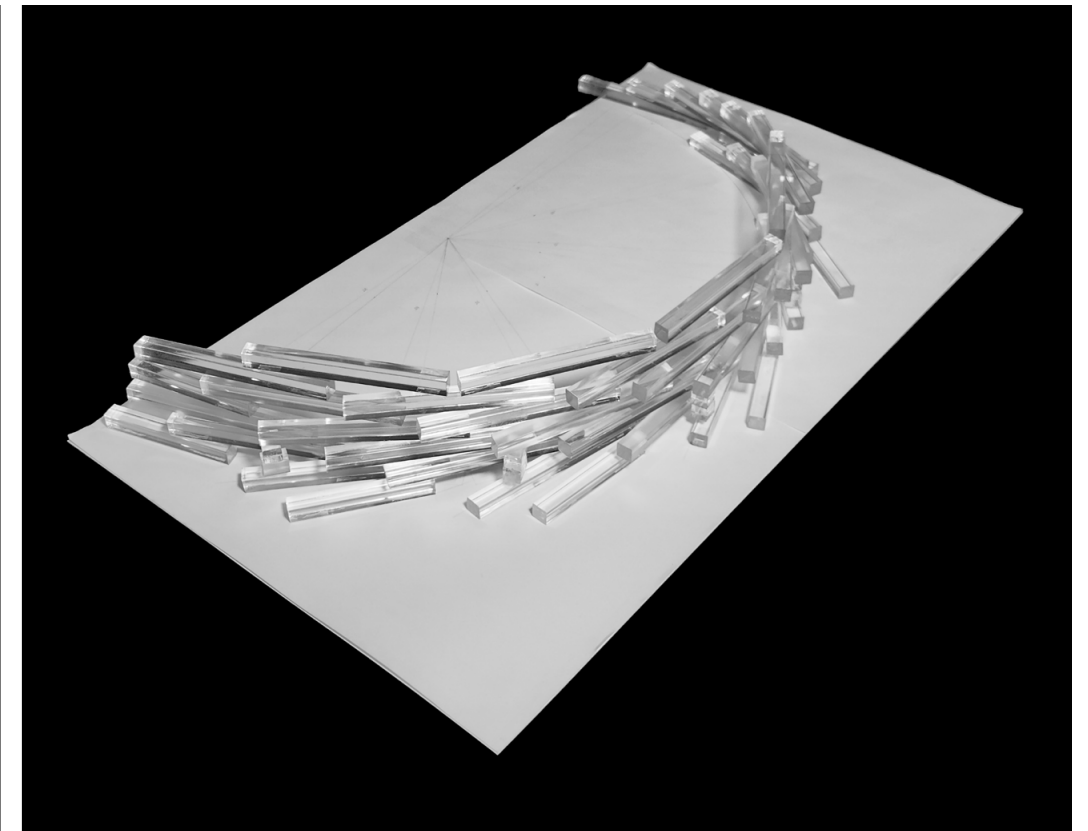
Fallen Journalists Memorial John Ronan Architects



At night, a soft glow emanates from the site, and the memorial becomes a beacon of truth. Symbolizing the role journalists play in shedding light on conditions obscured in darkness.



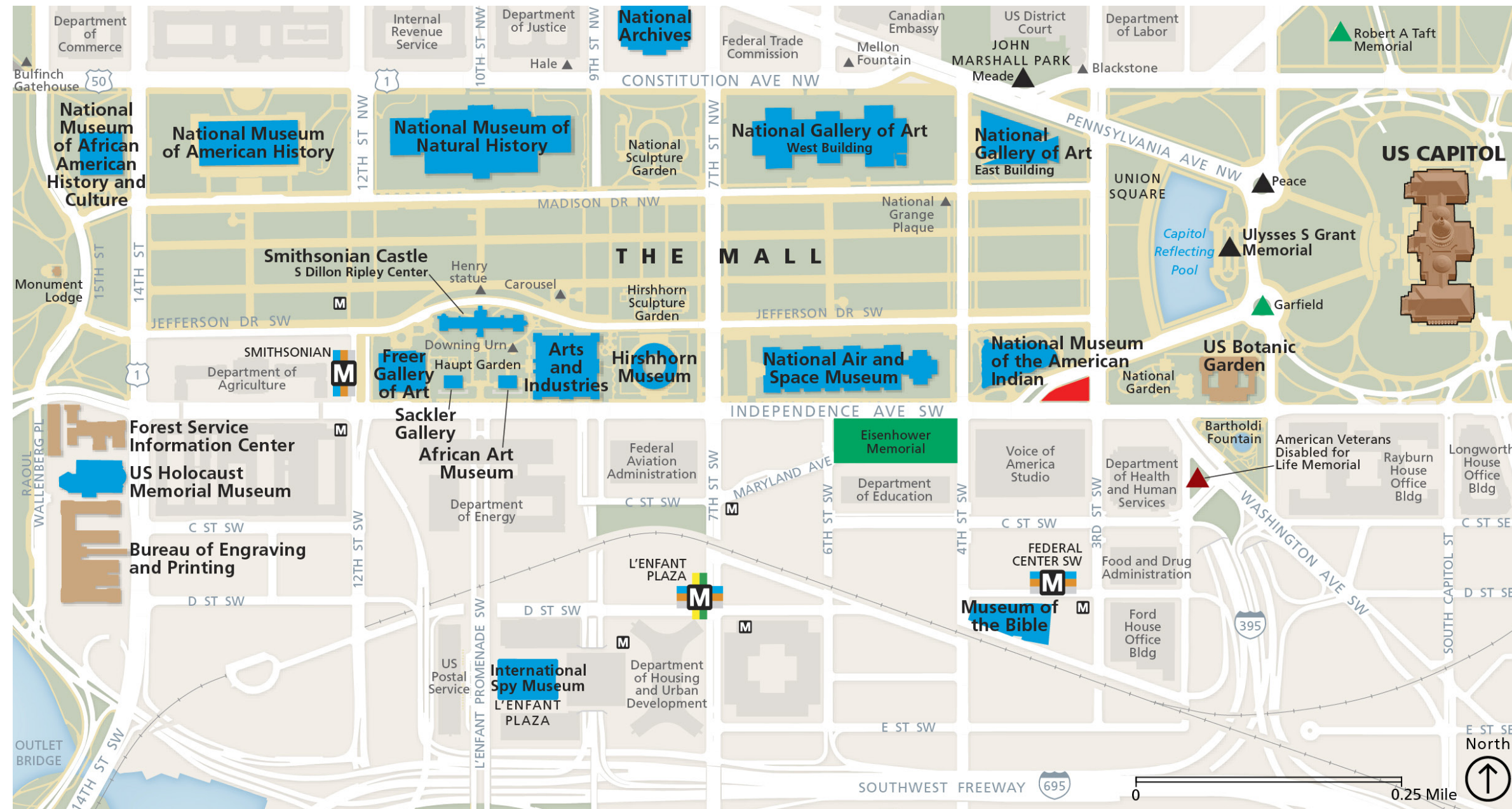
*in-progress glass element layout*



*stacking studies*

Solid clear acrylic bars are used to study empirically the disposition on the site of the glass elements that form the memorial's path of discovery.

# National Mall Context



- ▲ Fallen Journalists Memorial Site
- National Museums
- ▲ American Leader Memorials
- ▲ Civil War Memorials
- ▲ Military Commemoration
- M** Metrorail System
- M Station name Metro lines
- M Entrance/exit to Metro station

## Thematic Links

### 1. US Capitol Building

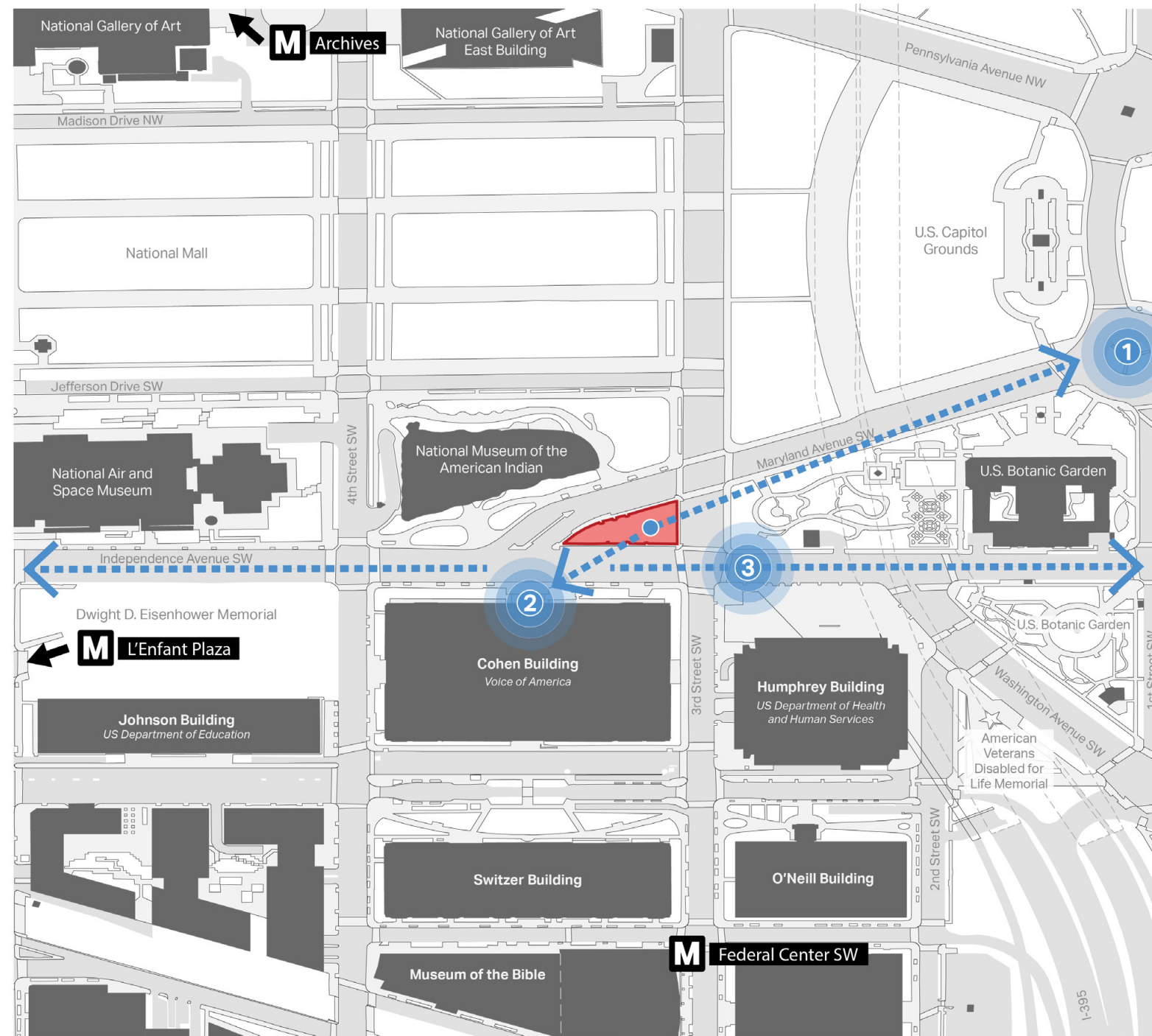
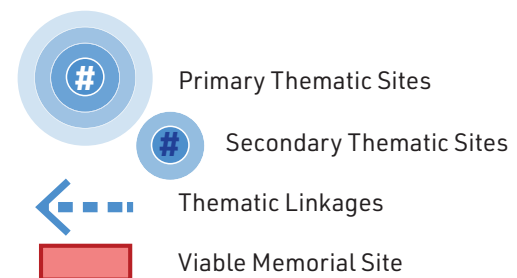
Adjacent to the U.S. Capitol grounds and with a direct, axial, and reciprocal view of the Capitol Dome, the site has a strong visual connection to the seat of the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government. This view underscores the independent relationship between the government and the press.

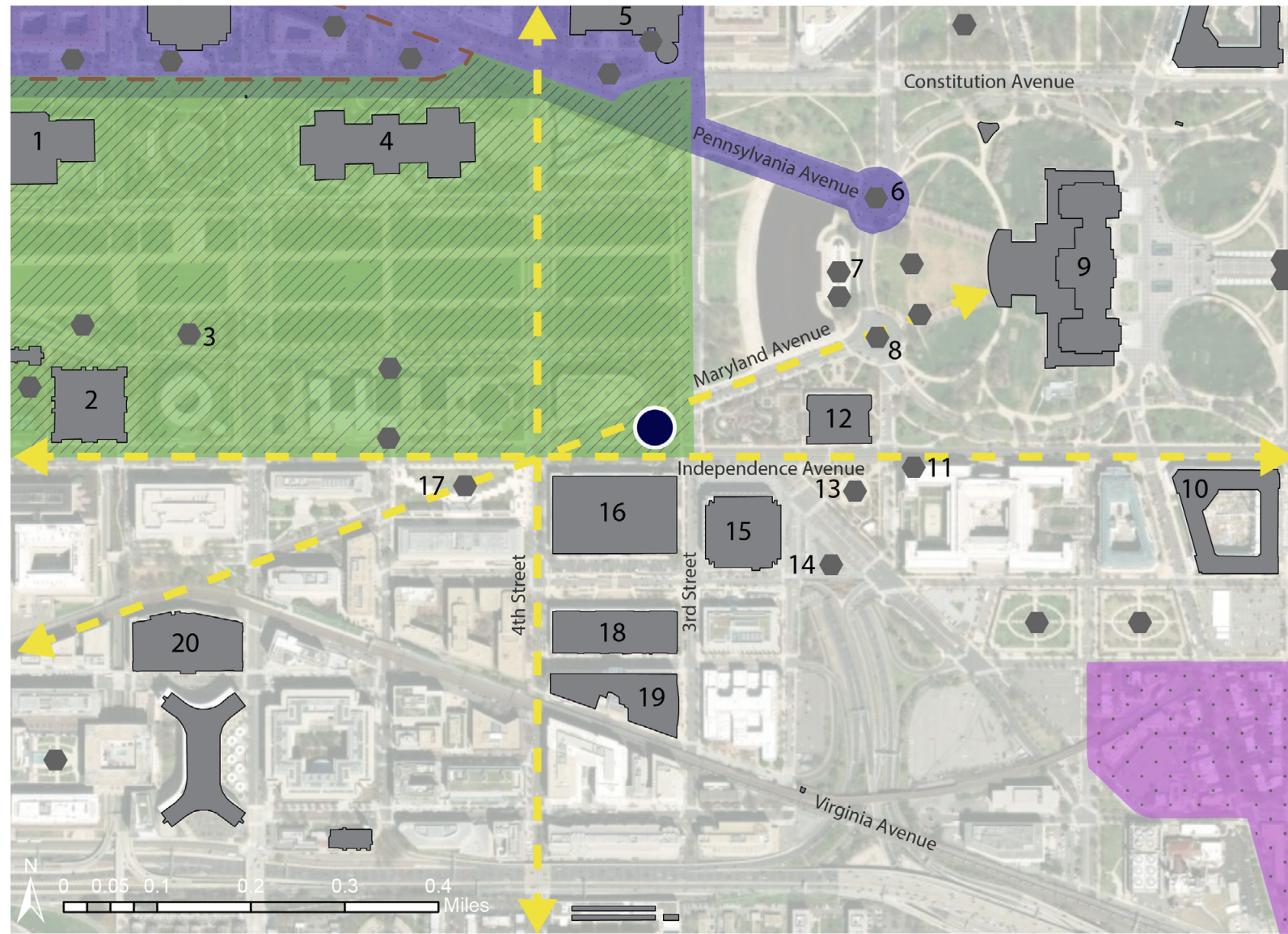
### 2. Voice of America (Cohen Building)

Directly north of the Cohen Building, the site has a strong visual connection to the headquarters of Voice of America, the oldest and largest American international broadcaster. Voice of America produces media in 47 languages and distributes throughout the world.

### 3. Independence Avenue

Independence Avenue forms the southern border of the site, emphasizing the importance of an independent free press.

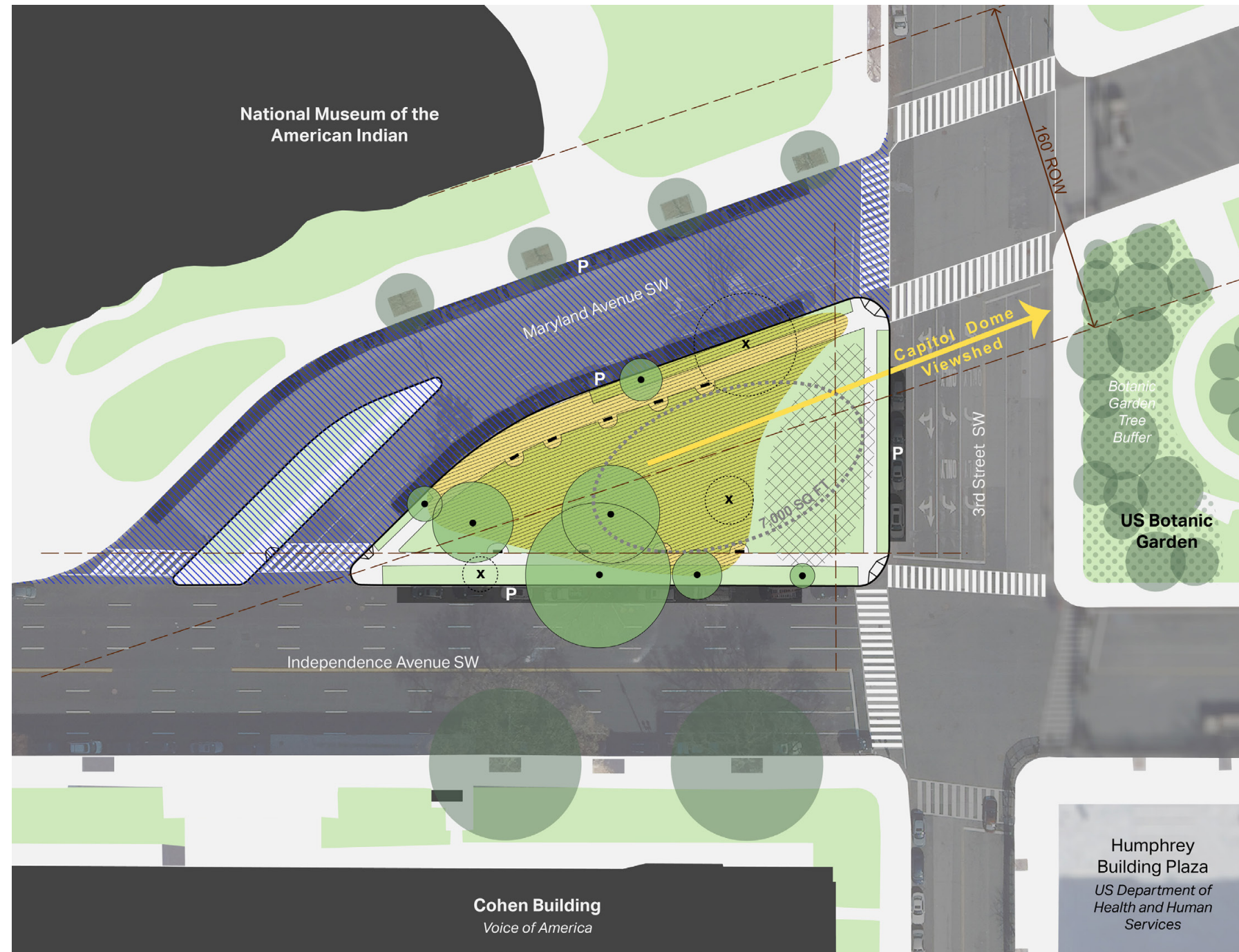
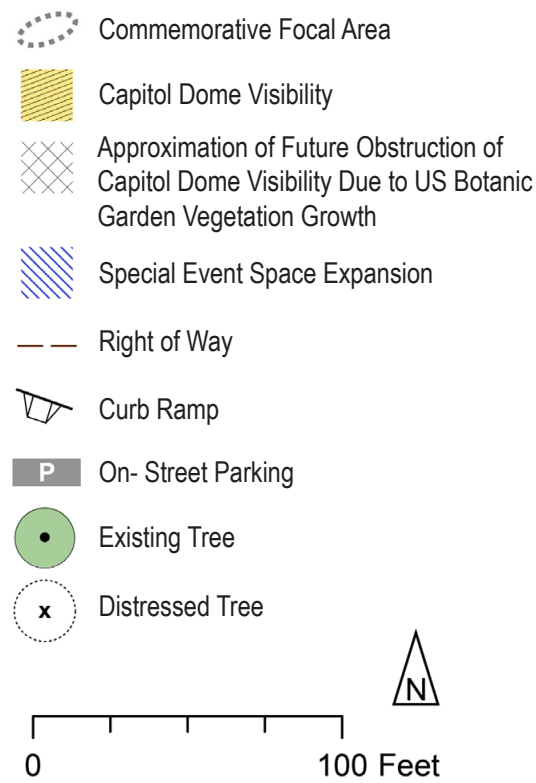




- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| ● Potential Site for the Fallen Journalists Memorial        | 1 Natural History Building, Smithsonian Institution   | 11 James Madison Statue                                      |
| ■ Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site                | 2 Arts & Industries Building, Smithsonian Institution | 12 United States Botanic Garden                              |
| □ Federal Triangle Historic District                        | 3 Hirshorn Sculpture Garden                           | 13 Bartholdi Fountain  |
| ■ National Mall Historic District                           | 4 National Gallery of Art                             | 14 American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial              |
| ■ Capitol Hill Historic District                            | 5 US Courthouse for the District of Columbia          | 15 Hubert H. Humphrey Building (HHS Headquarters)            |
| ← - - - - - → L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington Views | 6 Peace Monument                                      | 16 Social Security Administration (Wilbur J. Cohen Building) |
| ● Memorials   | 7 Ulysses S. Grant Memorial                           | 17 Eisenhower Memorial                                       |
| # Historic Resources near Potential Site                    | 8 James Garfield Statue                               | 18 Railroad Retirement Board (Mary Switzer Building)         |
|   | 9 United States Capitol                               | 19 Terminal Refrigerating & Warehouse Company                |
|   | 10 Cannon House Office Building                       | 20 GSA Regional Office Building                              |

## Site Study

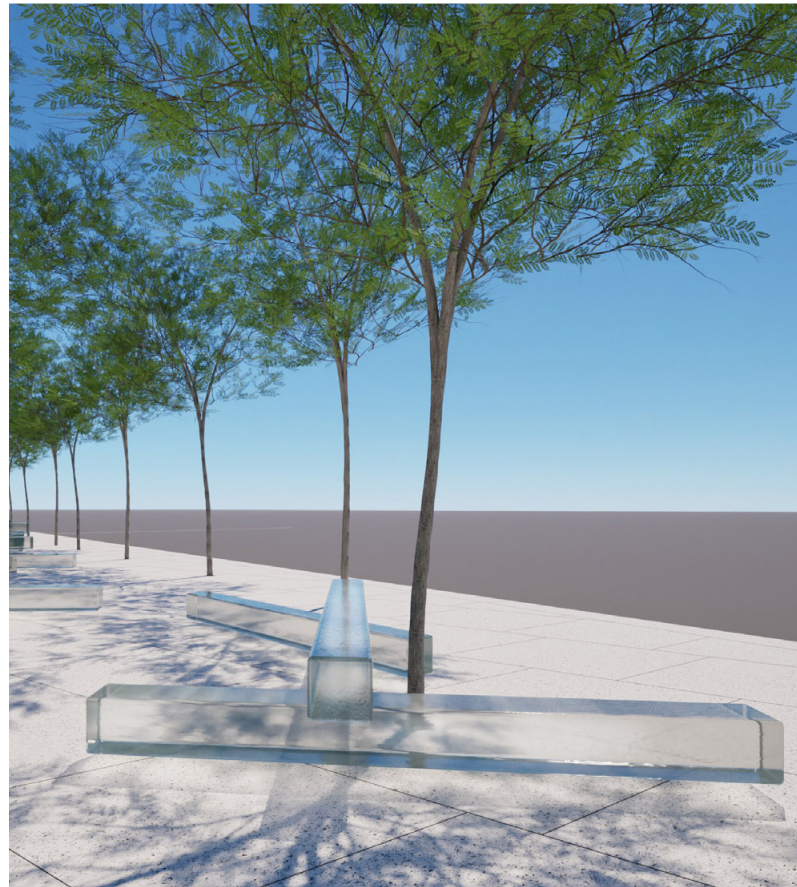
The memorial design for Site O would likely be oriented toward the U.S. Capitol, which would be visible from most of the site; views would likely be constrained over time due to vegetation growth at the U.S. Botanic Garden. The site could accommodate a central memorial area of approximately 7,000 square feet. The open turf of the site provides flexibility for the memorial design.



8

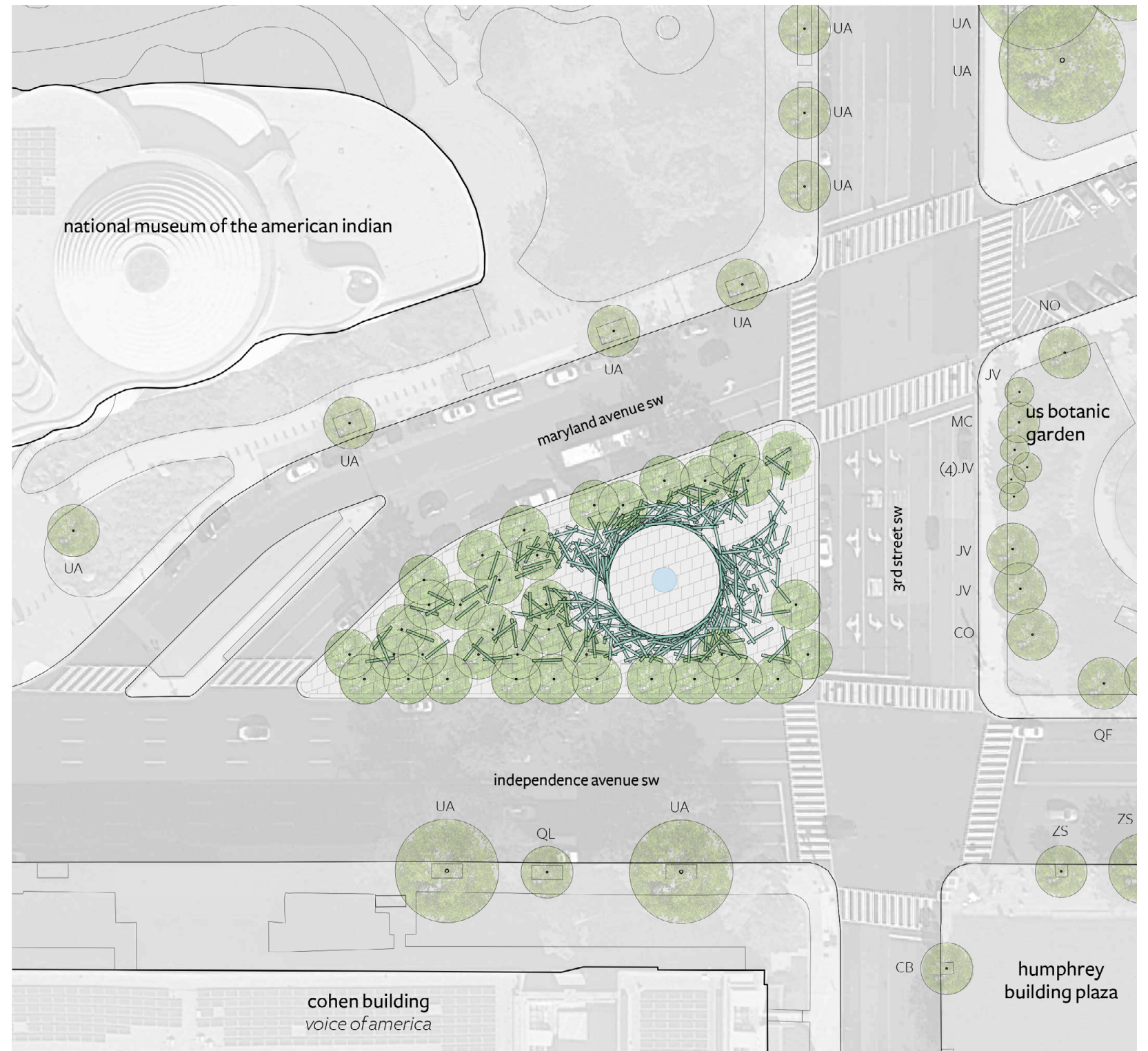


(above)  
A monoculture grove of trees appears as a singular element to identify the memorial from afar.



(right)  
Tree canopies filter light which activates the glass elements below it.

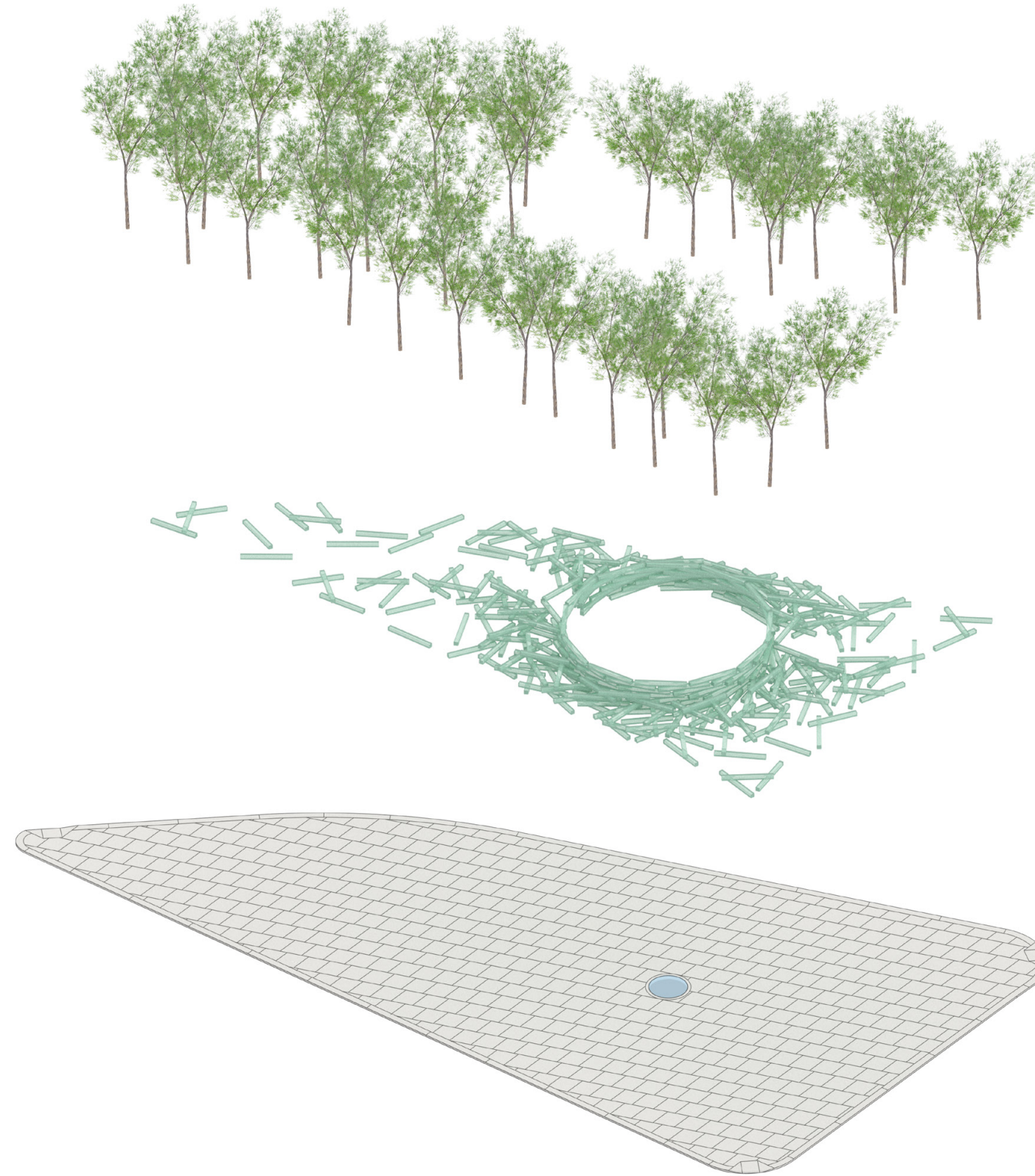
(far right)  
The site is expressed as an island, symbolizing an independent press.



- tree species key
- CB - carpinus betulus (european hornbeam)
  - CO - cotinus obovatusa (american smoketree)
  - JV - juniperus virginiana (virginia juniper)
  - MC - myrica cerifera (southern wax myrtle)
  - NO - nyssa ogeche (ogechee tupelo)
  - QF - quercus floridianum (southern sugar maple)
  - QL - quercus lyrata (overcup oak)
  - UA - ulmus americana (american elm)
  - ZS - zelvoka serrata (japanese zelvoka)

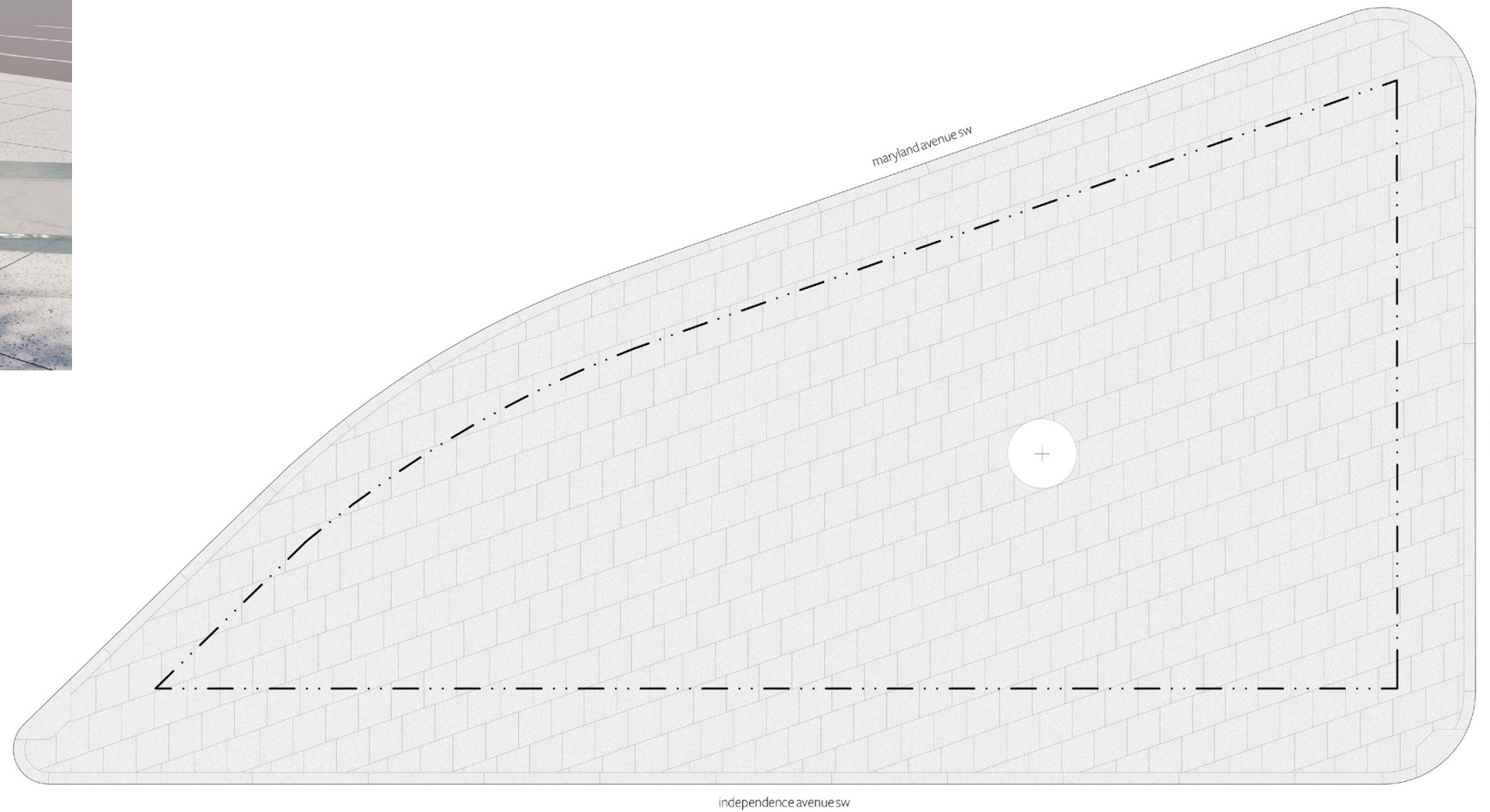
Memorial Design

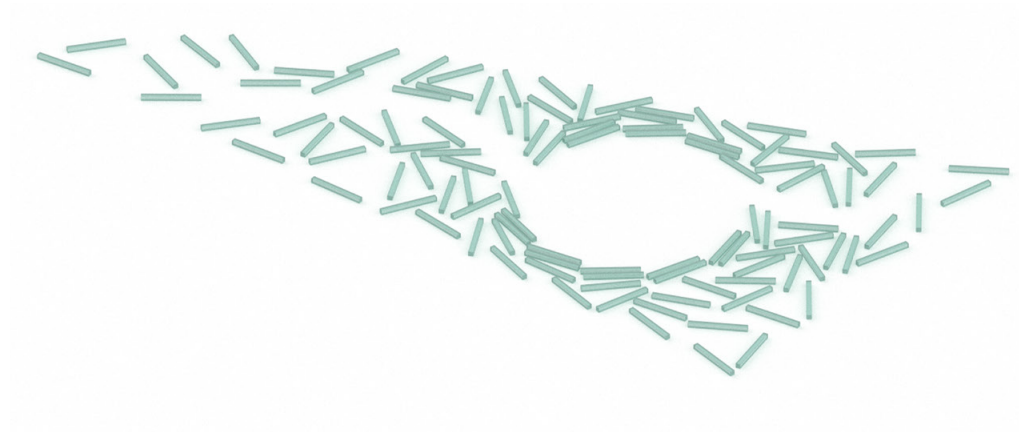
The memorial design consists of the interplay of three superimposed design elements – a hardscape stone plaza overlaid with a grove of trees that sidestep the array of cast glass elements which aggregate to form the memorial’s circular Remembrance Hall at the heart of the site.





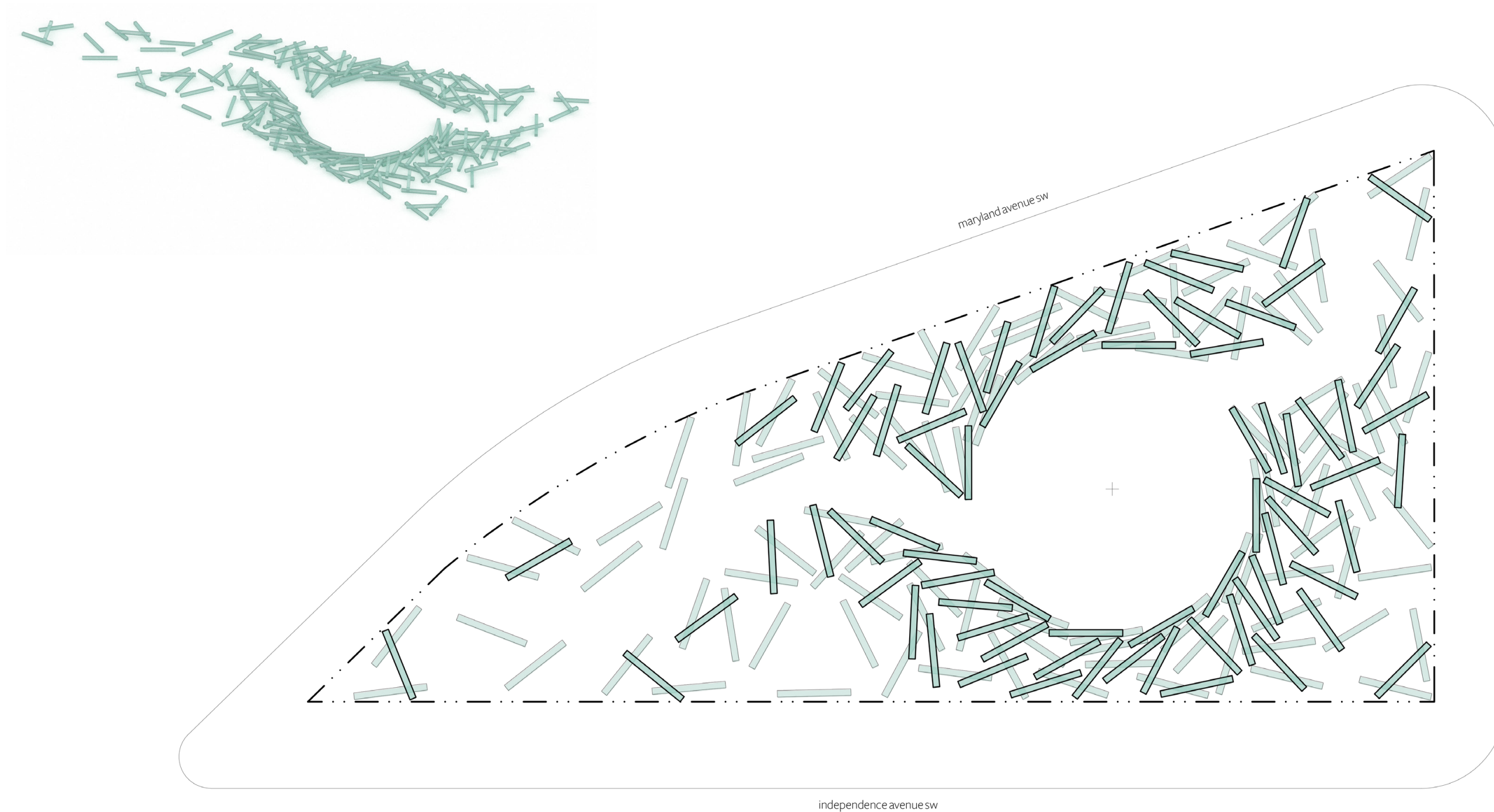
The memorial site's granite-paved hardscape is flat and accessible throughout. Glass elements are raised slightly off the ground to allow stormwater flowthrough and to facilitate routine maintenance. Sunlight activates the glass elements, casting their shadow on the light-colored stone to add another dimension to an experience that is more than the sum of its parts.

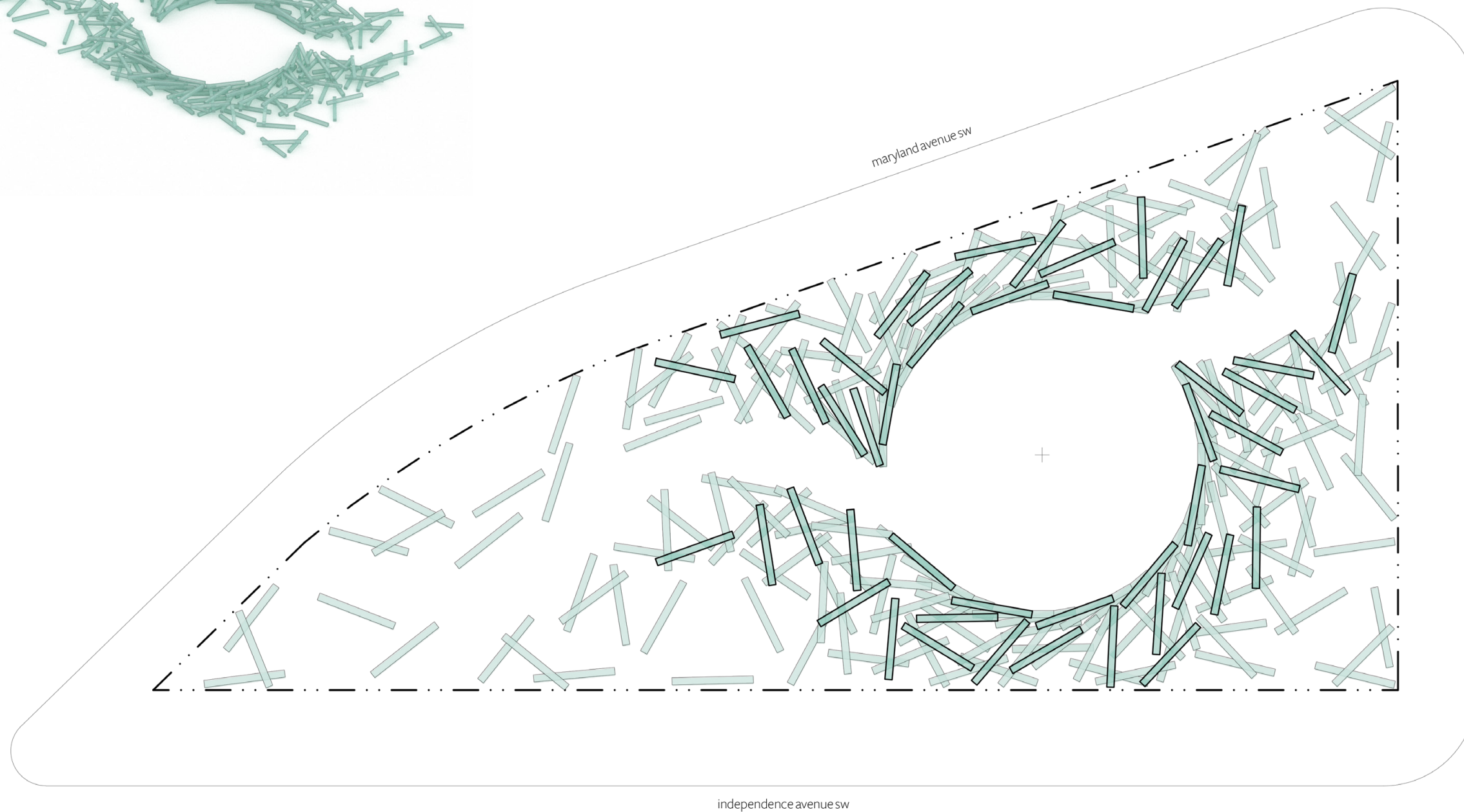


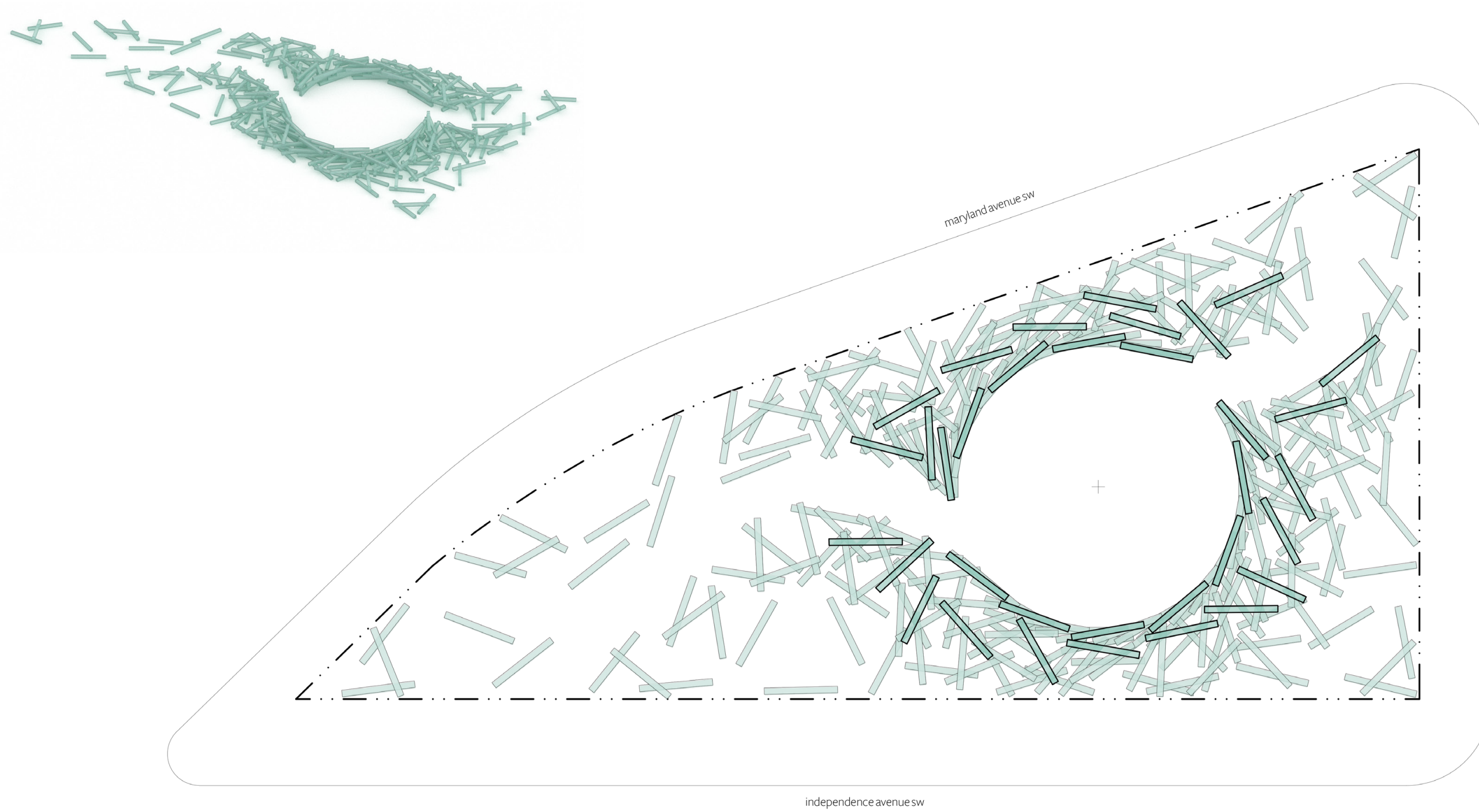


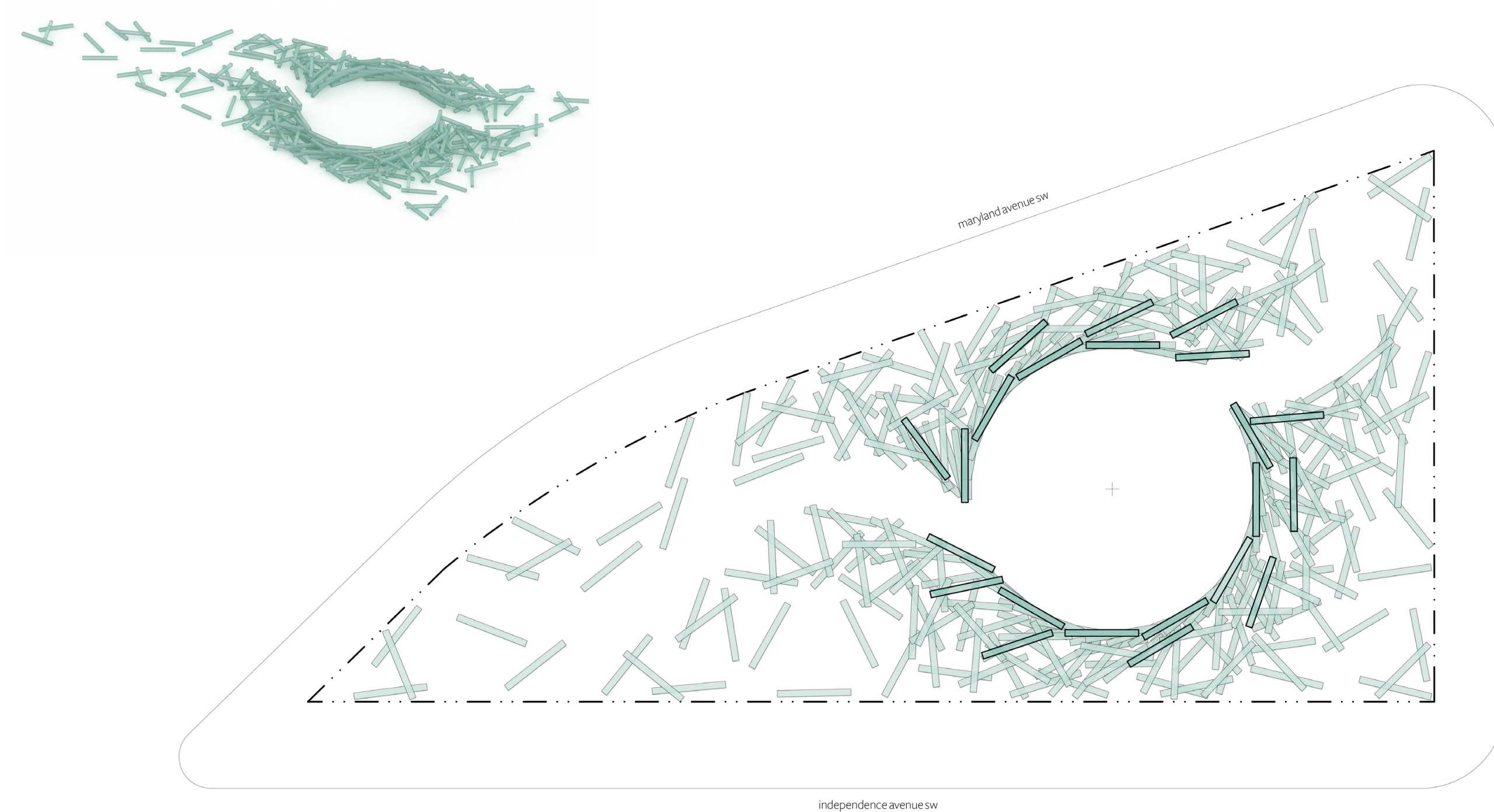
The first layer is comprised of bench-height glass elements in a seemingly random state of disorder, representing the condition that the journalist first encounters.

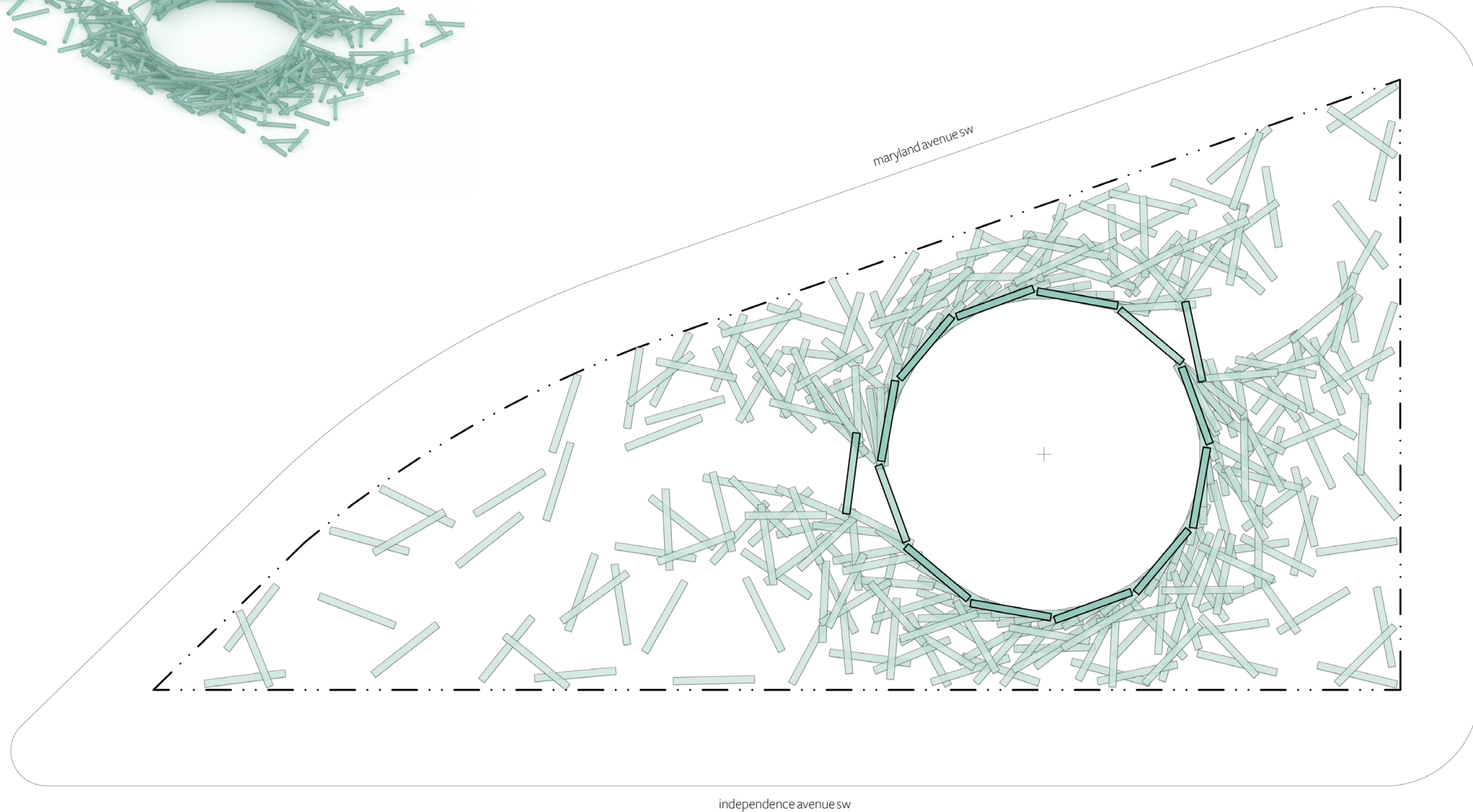






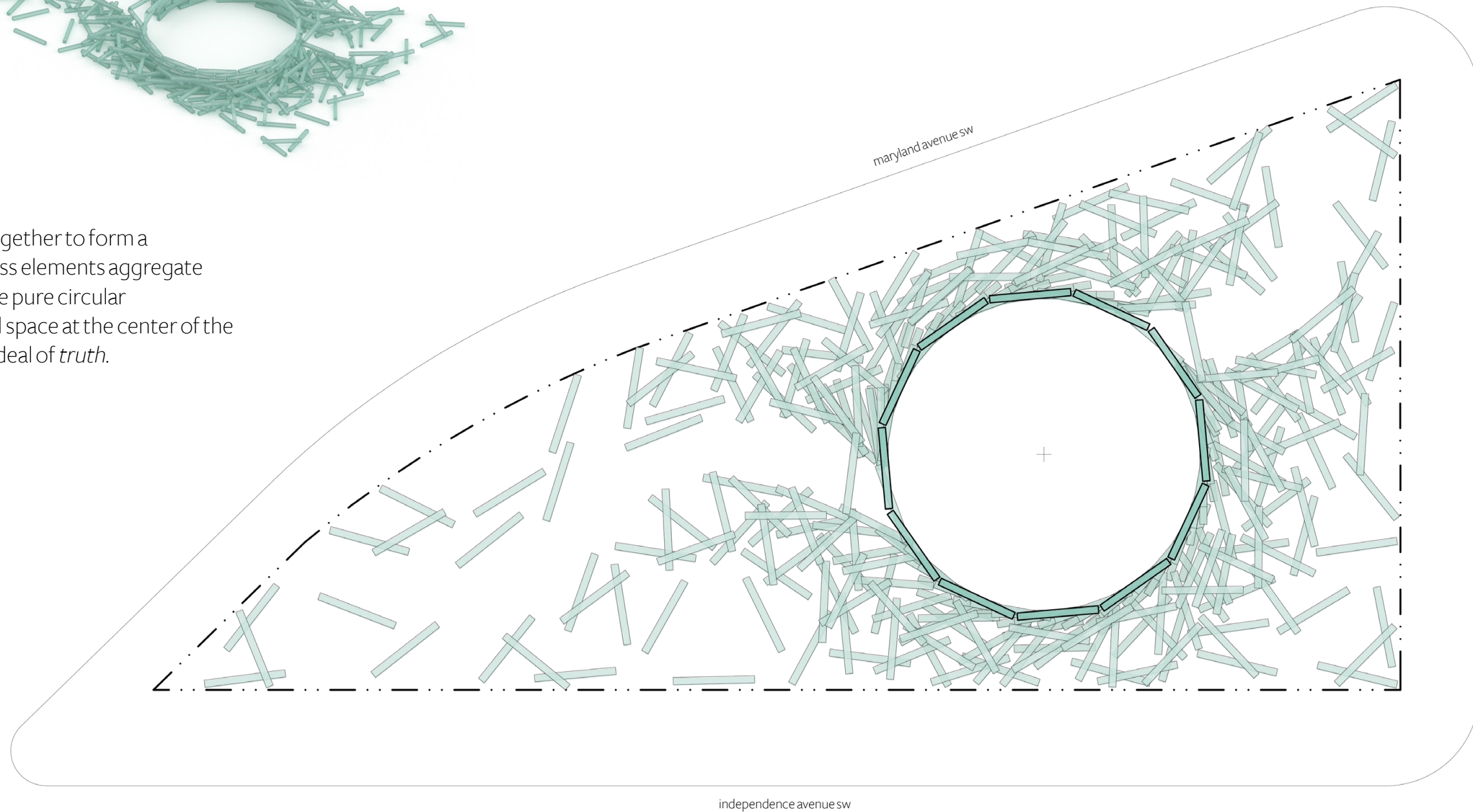






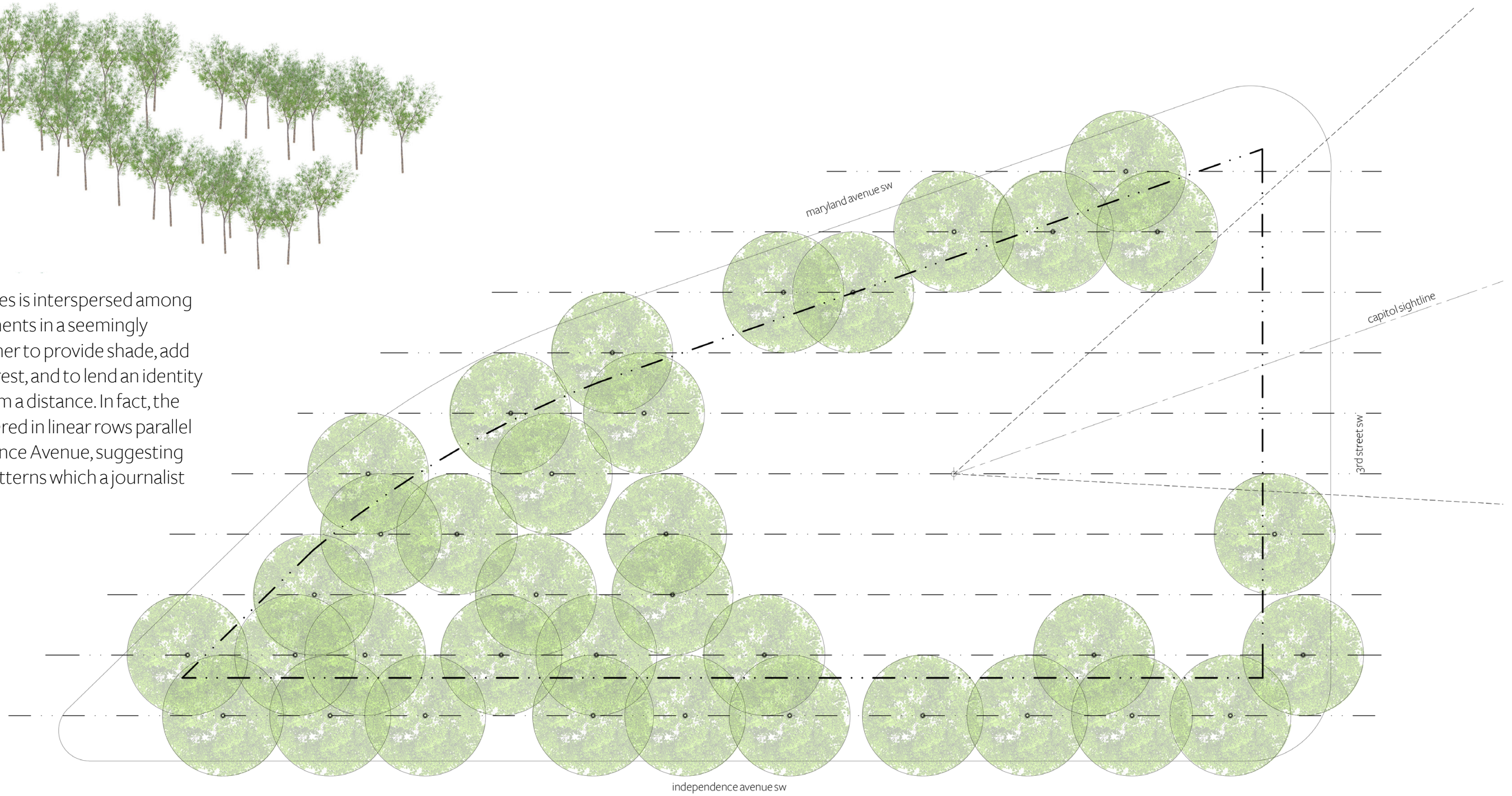


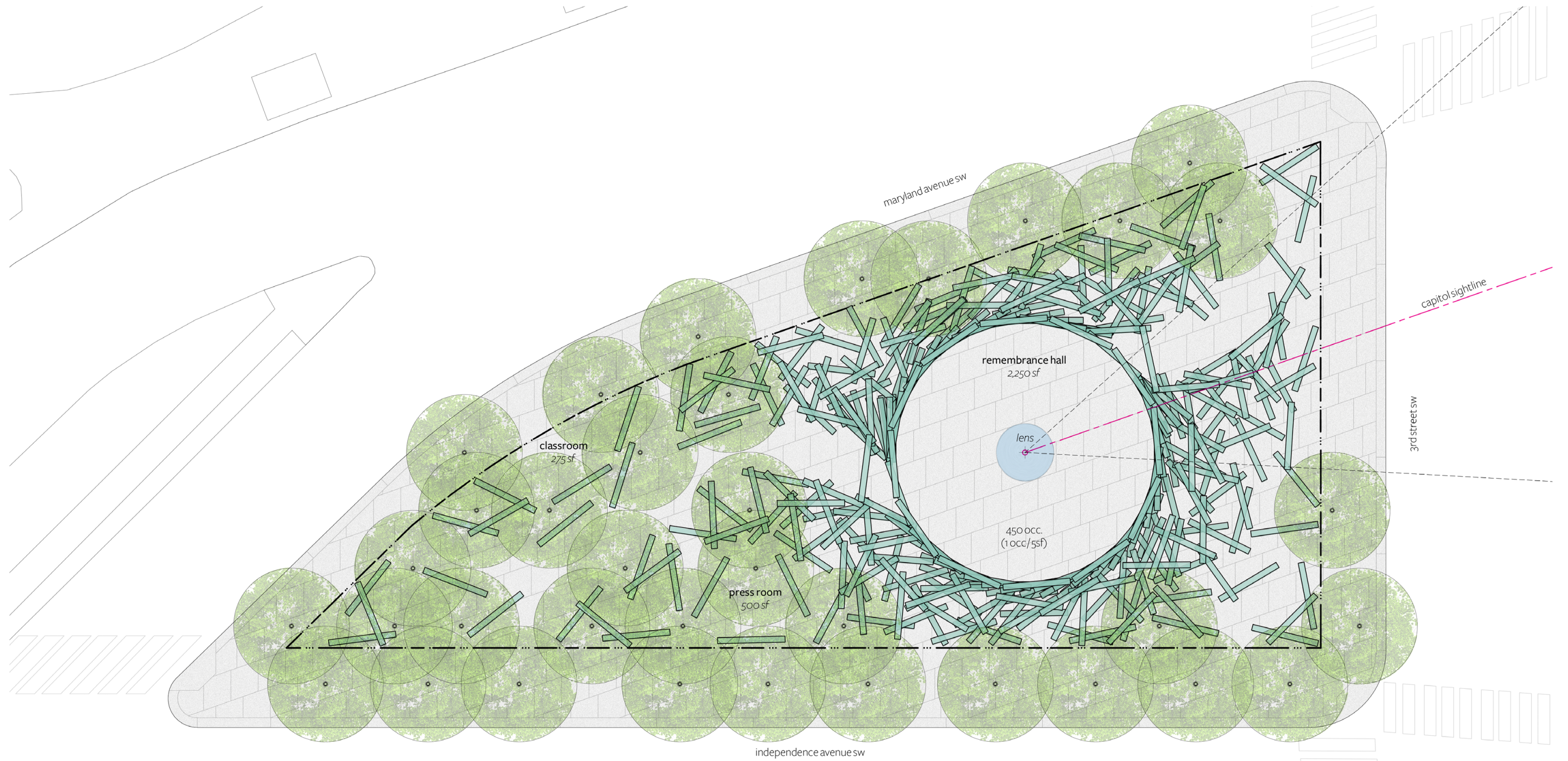
Like facts coming together to form a journalist's story, glass elements aggregate gradually to form the pure circular **Remembrance Hall** space at the center of the site, symboling the ideal of *truth*.





A grove of trees is interspersed among the glass elements in a seemingly random manner to provide shade, add seasonal interest, and to lend an identity to the site from a distance. In fact, the trees are ordered in linear rows parallel to Independence Avenue, suggesting the hidden patterns which a journalist uncovers.

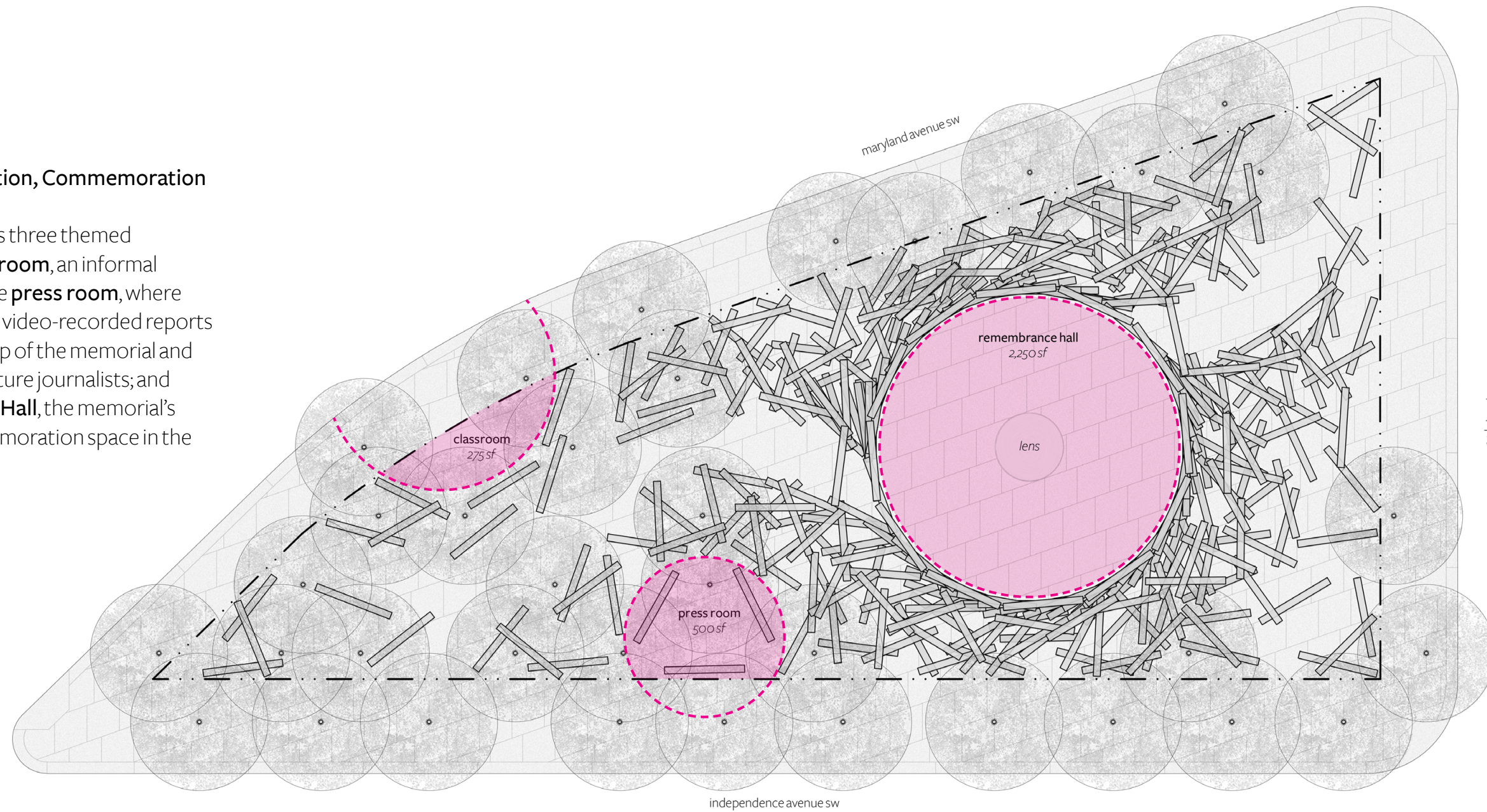


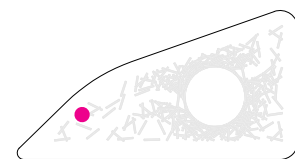


A clearing in the trees at the east end of the site re-introduces views of the Capitol dome from inside the Remembrance Hall. To establish the reciprocal relationship between power and a free press.

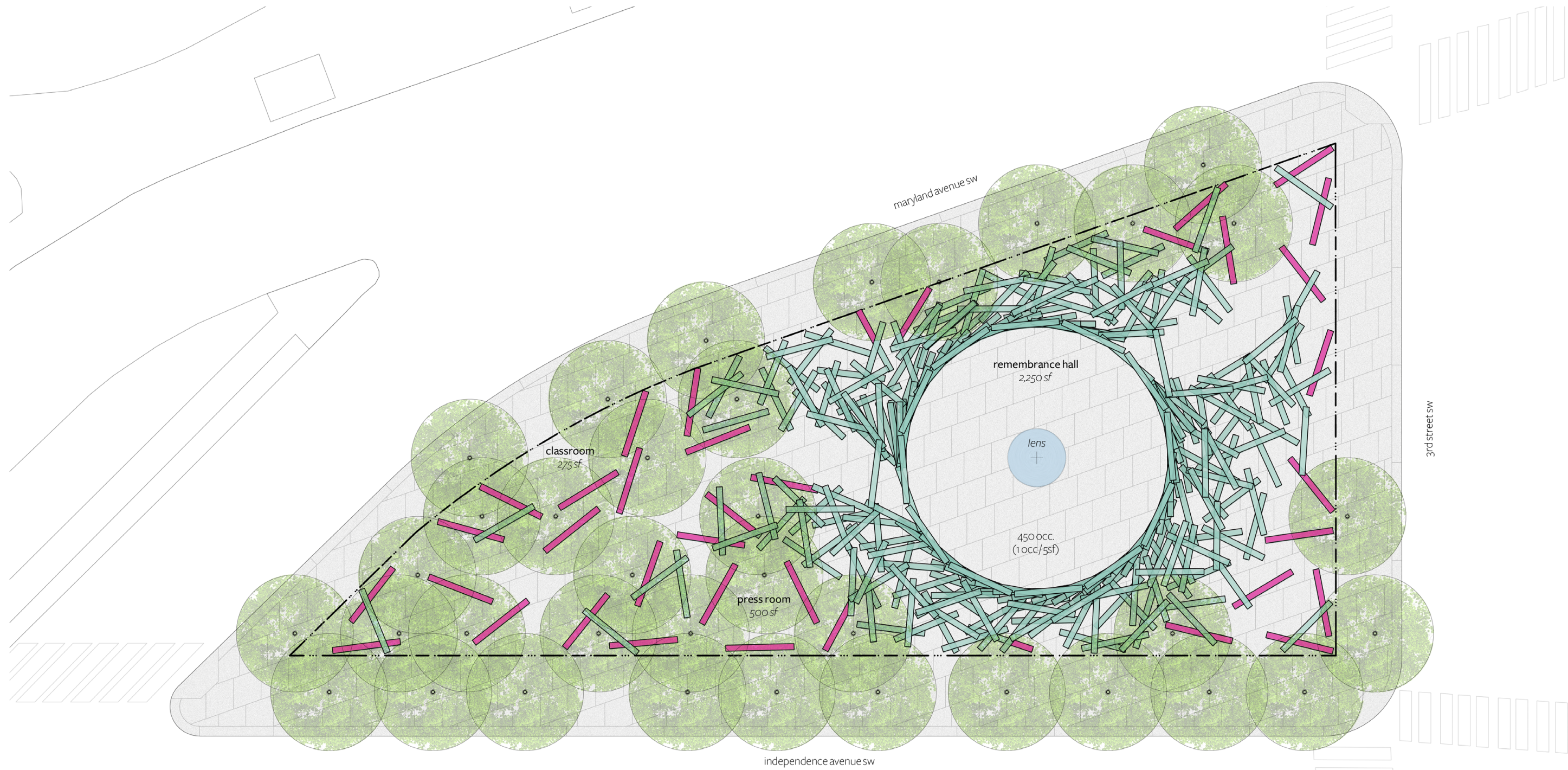
## Education, Inspiration, Commemoration

The project includes three themed “rooms” -- the **classroom**, an informal education space; the **press room**, where journalists conduct video-recorded reports against the backdrop of the memorial and Capitol to inspire future journalists; and the **Remembrance Hall**, the memorial’s destination commemoration space in the center of the site.

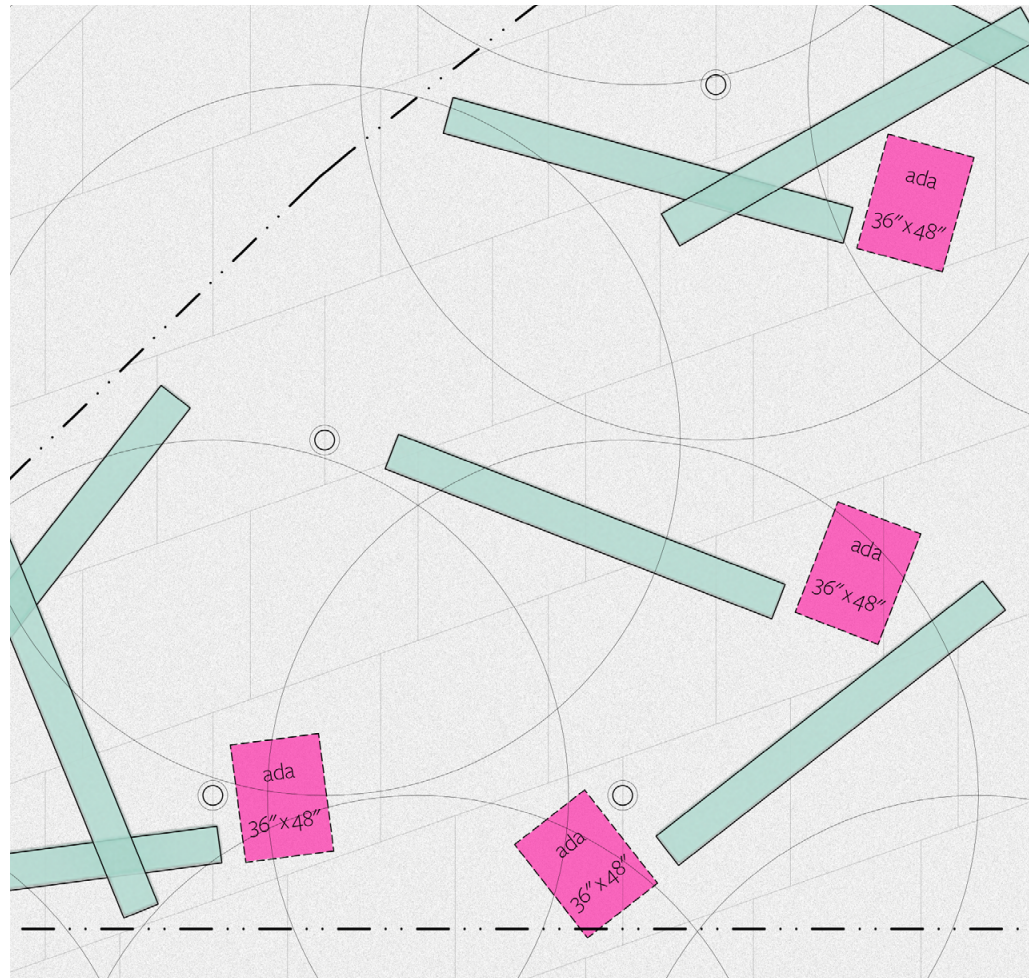




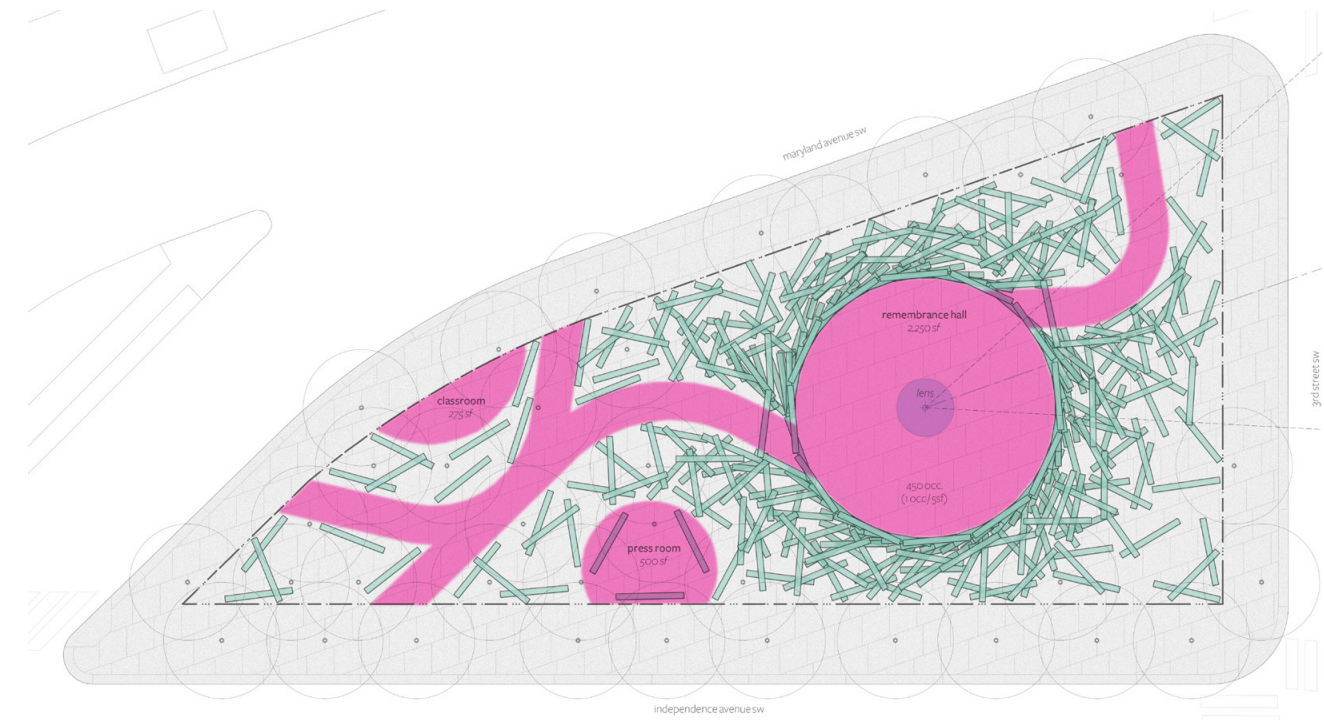
Bench-height glass elements are arranged to create an informal **classroom** (page left) where teachers can introduce the memorial to inspire the next generation of journalists. On the south side of the site is a clearing known as the **press room** (page right) which provides an area for journalists to conduct live reports with the memorial and Capitol building as backdrop.



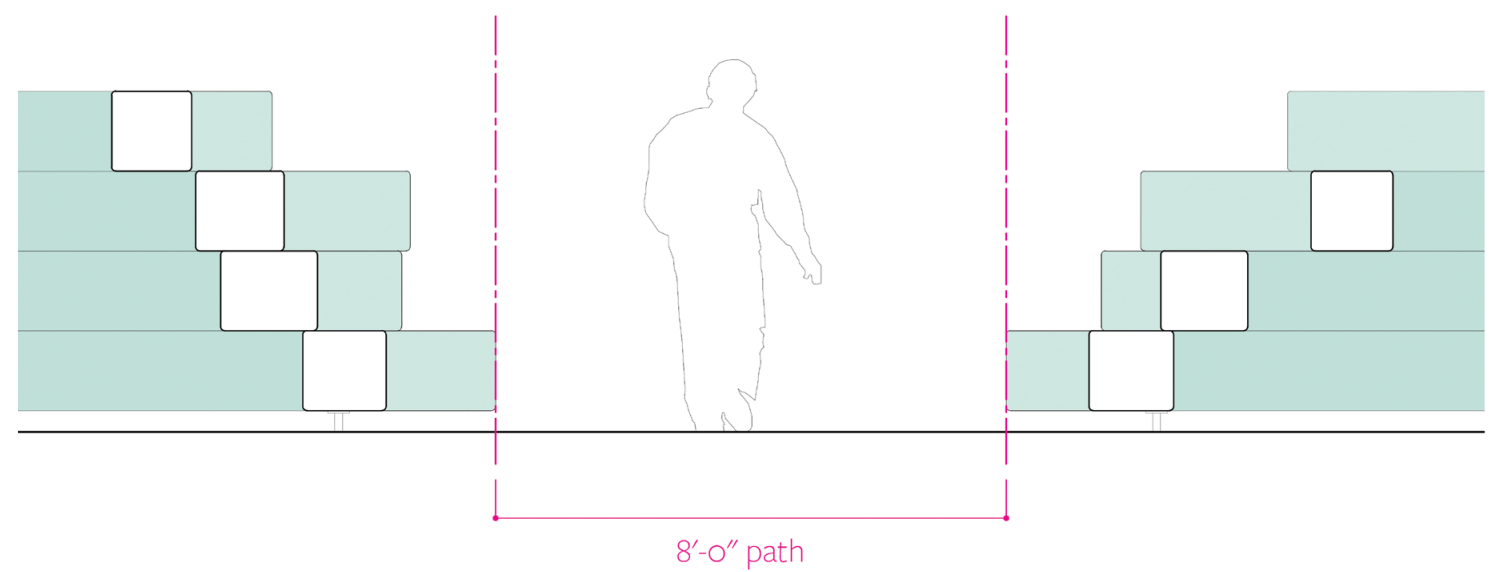
Seating is located throughout the tree-shaded areas of the site, where visitors can pause and reflect



(above)  
Per ABA and ADA requirements, ADA clear space is provided throughout the site alongside seat-height elements for wheelchair users.

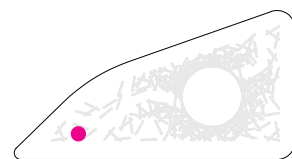


(right)  
The visitor path maintains an **8'** clear width throughout (3' clear width is required per the ADA and ABA). The walls of the visitor path are stacked such that no elements project into the clear width of the path.



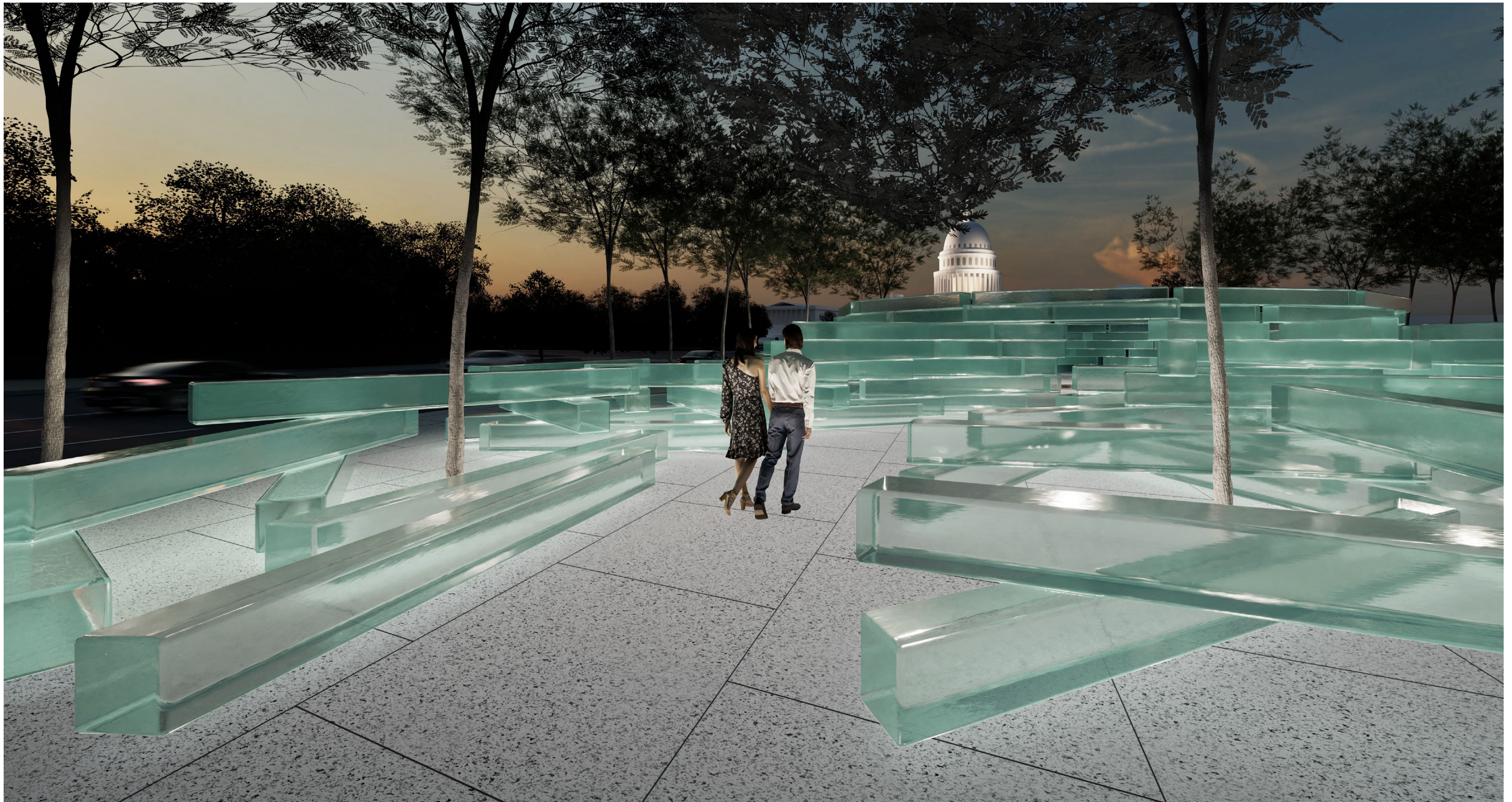


03 october 2024 view looking east

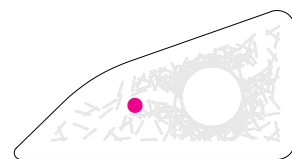


The shaded areas of the memorial provide a comfortable and inspiring public place for people to eat lunch, relax or meet with friends.

Fallen Journalists Memorial John Ronan Architects

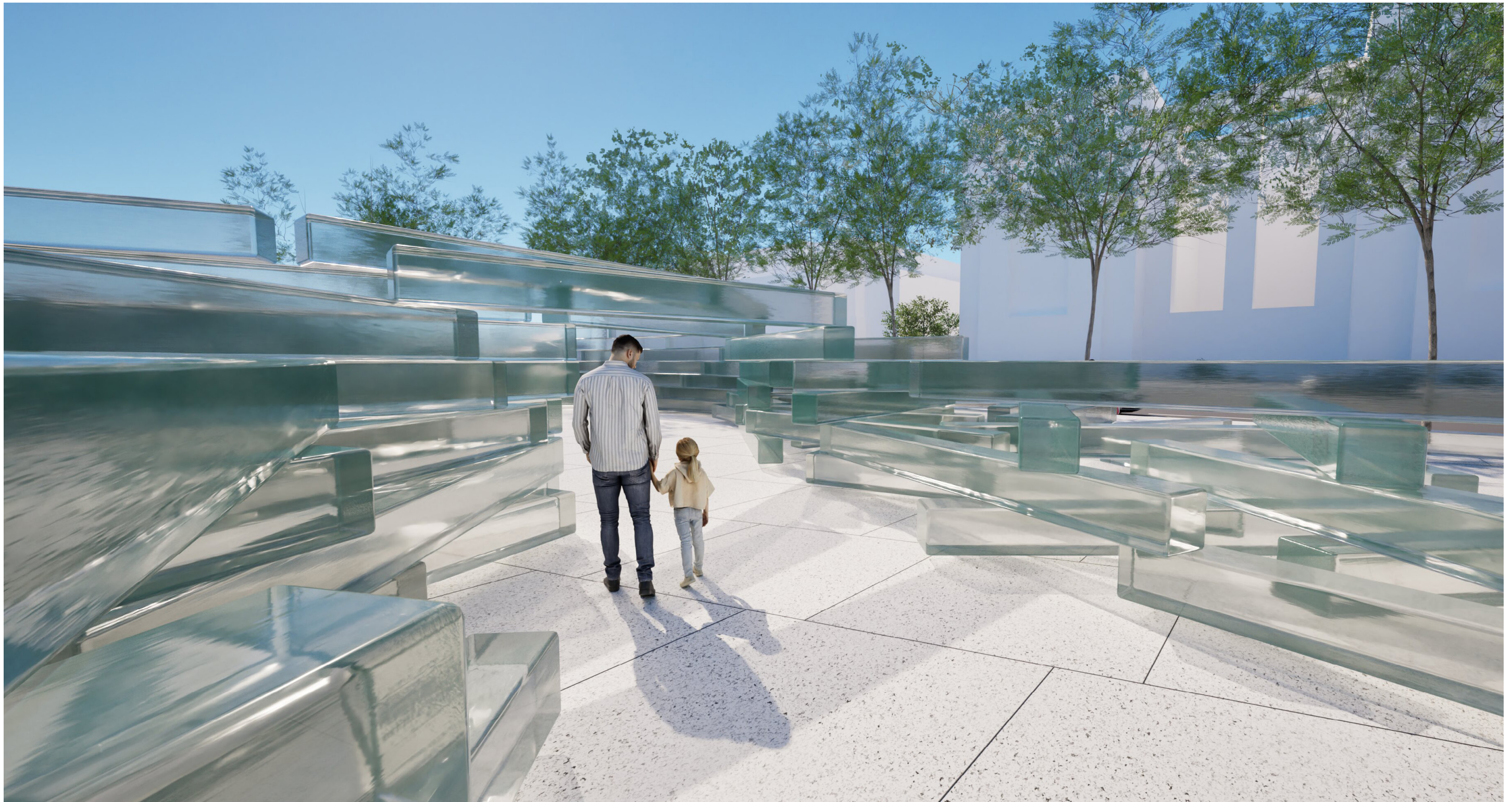


03 october 2024 path night

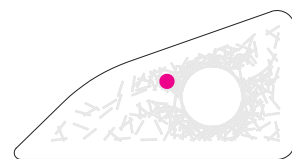


At night, uplit glass elements light the pathway leading to the circular Remembrance Hall.

Fallen Journalists Memorial John Ronan Architects



03 october 2024 path

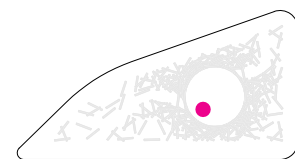


The memorial experience unfolds slowly, space by space like a story, and casts the visitor into the role of investigative journalist, following the facts, wherever they lead, in the pursuit of truth.

Fallen Journalists Memorial John Ronan Architects



03 october 2024 remembrance hall day



The circular Remembrance Hall is the memorial's "home for truth." Upon entering it, disorder yields to order, and things fall into place. The Capitol dome comes into view, signifying the watchdog role that journalists play in a democracy, and visitors are drawn to a circular glass "lens" in the center of the space bearing an important message: the text of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Fallen Journalists Memorial John Ronan Architects



site photo



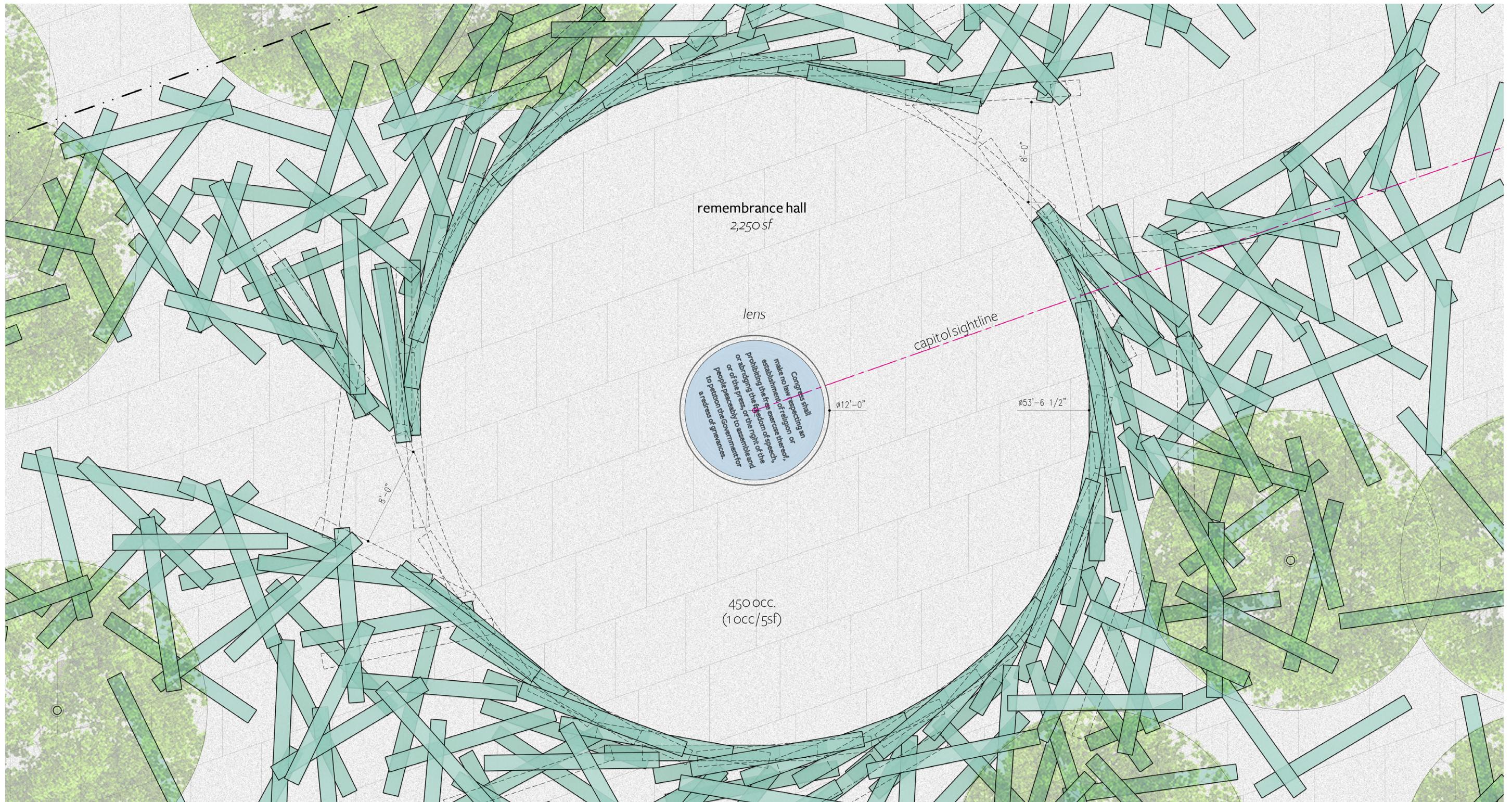
remembrance hall with complete top layer



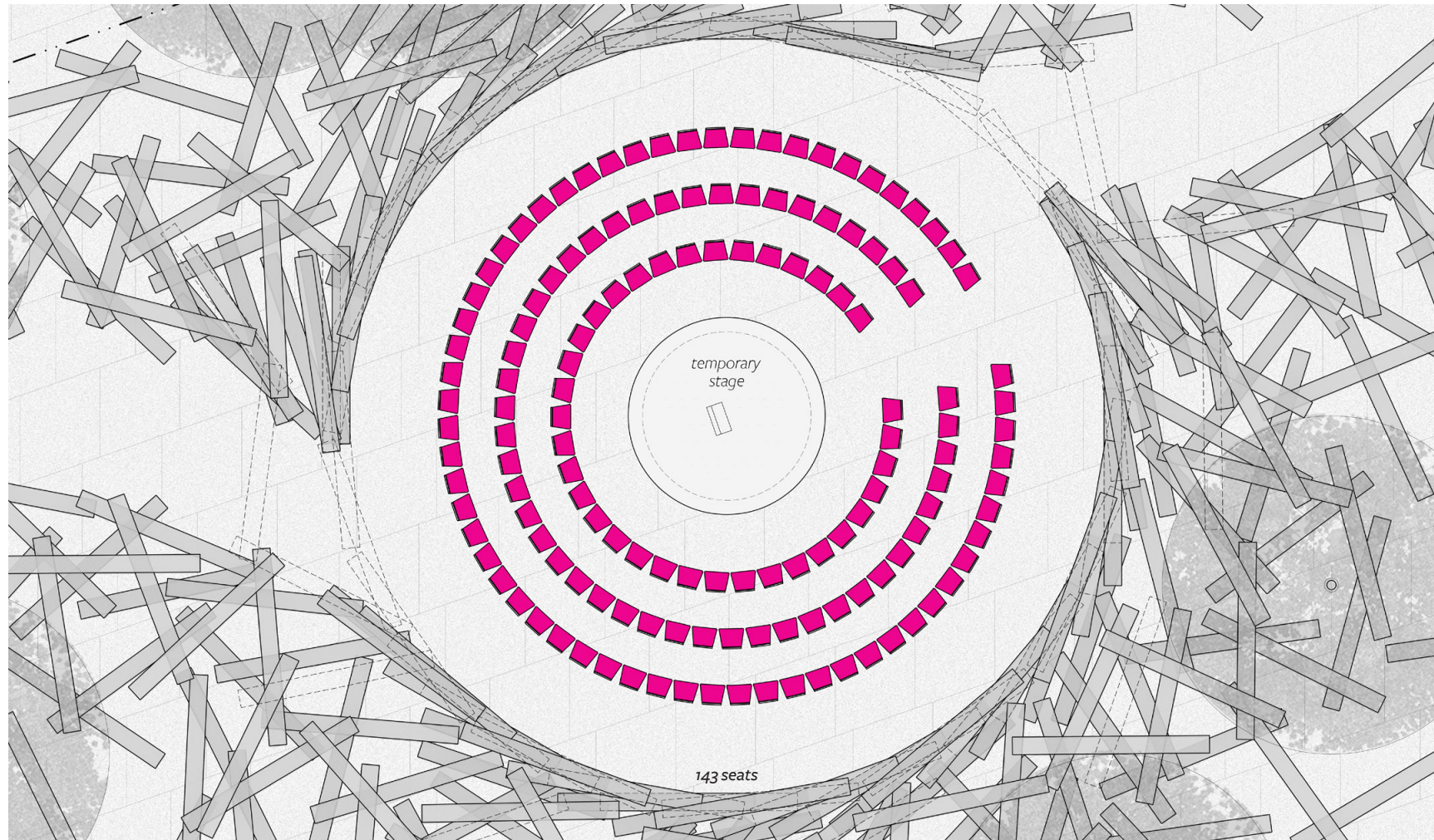
remembrance hall with gap in top layer



Looking downward into the lens to read its message, the visitor's own reflection gazes back, implying that each one of us has a role to play in protecting First Amendment freedoms, to properly honor the sacrifice of those remembered here.



Symbolizing the ideal of objective truth, the pure and polished glass lens is protected by the horizontally stacked glass elements which personify the fallen.



event test fit

The Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation plans to support and supplement the physical memorial by:

- hosting ceremonies and events commemorating fallen journalists and annual days of awareness (i.e., World Press Freedom Day, International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists)
- developing long-term programming and digital content
- developing curricula for high school students
- organizing volunteers to provide on-site docents during peak visitor times
- providing a space for reporting news
- arranging professional cleaning and general upkeep of the memorial



classroom



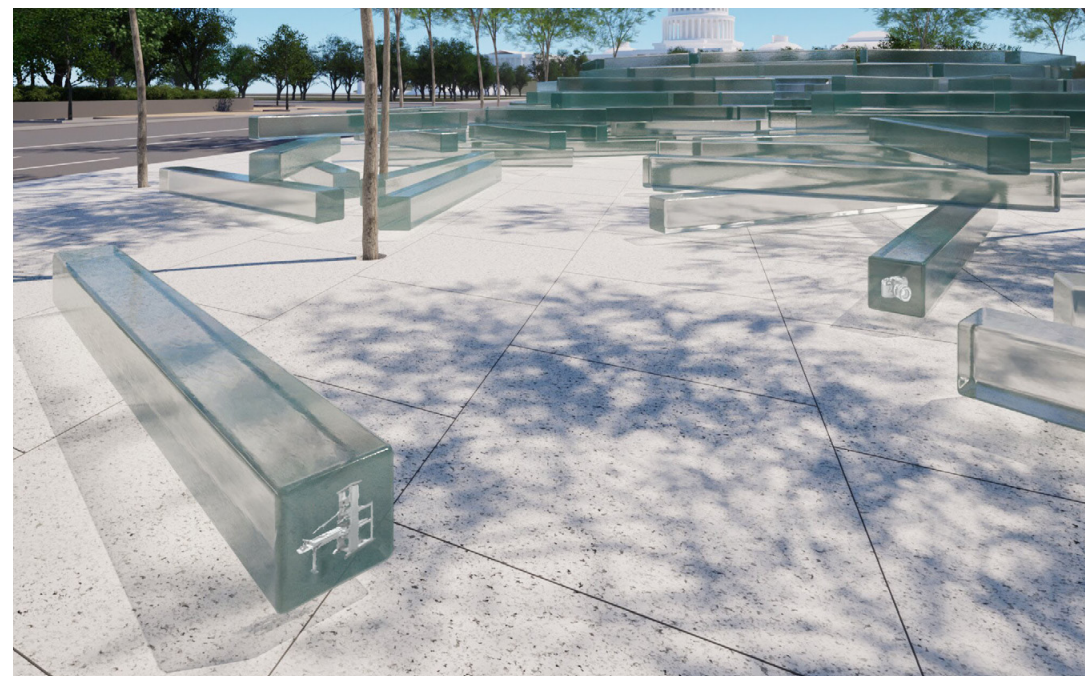
press room



quotes engraved in horizontal bench elements



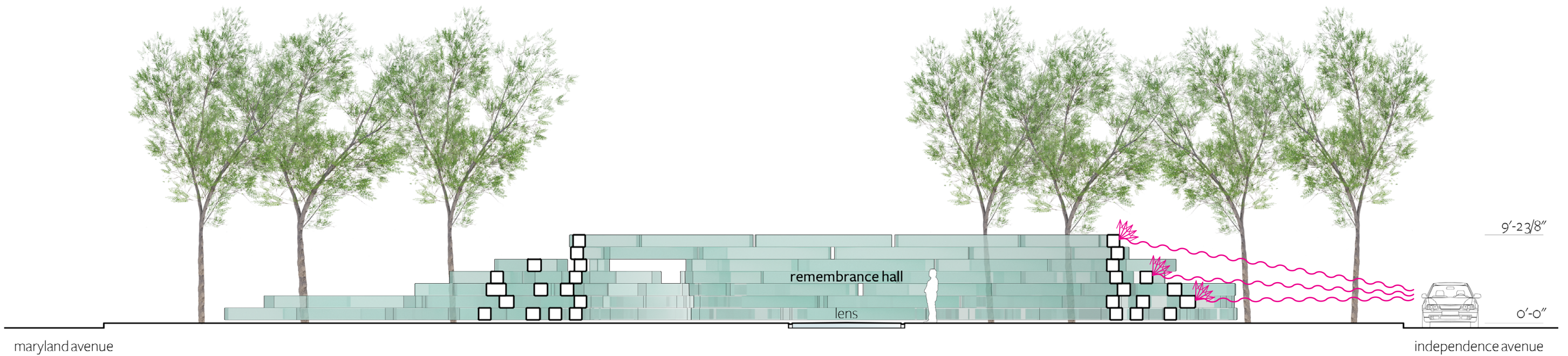
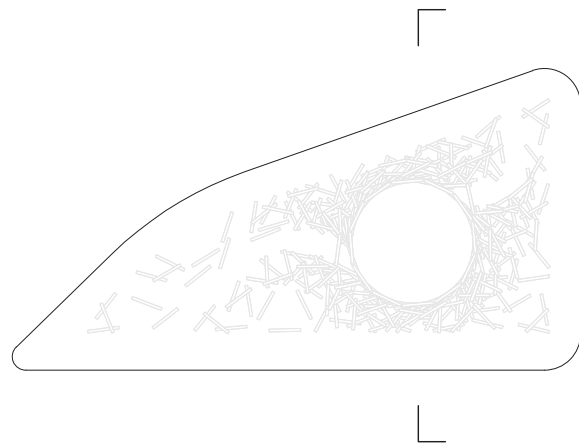
metal discs trigger digital audio content within memorial app



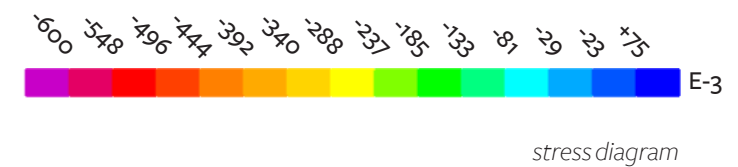
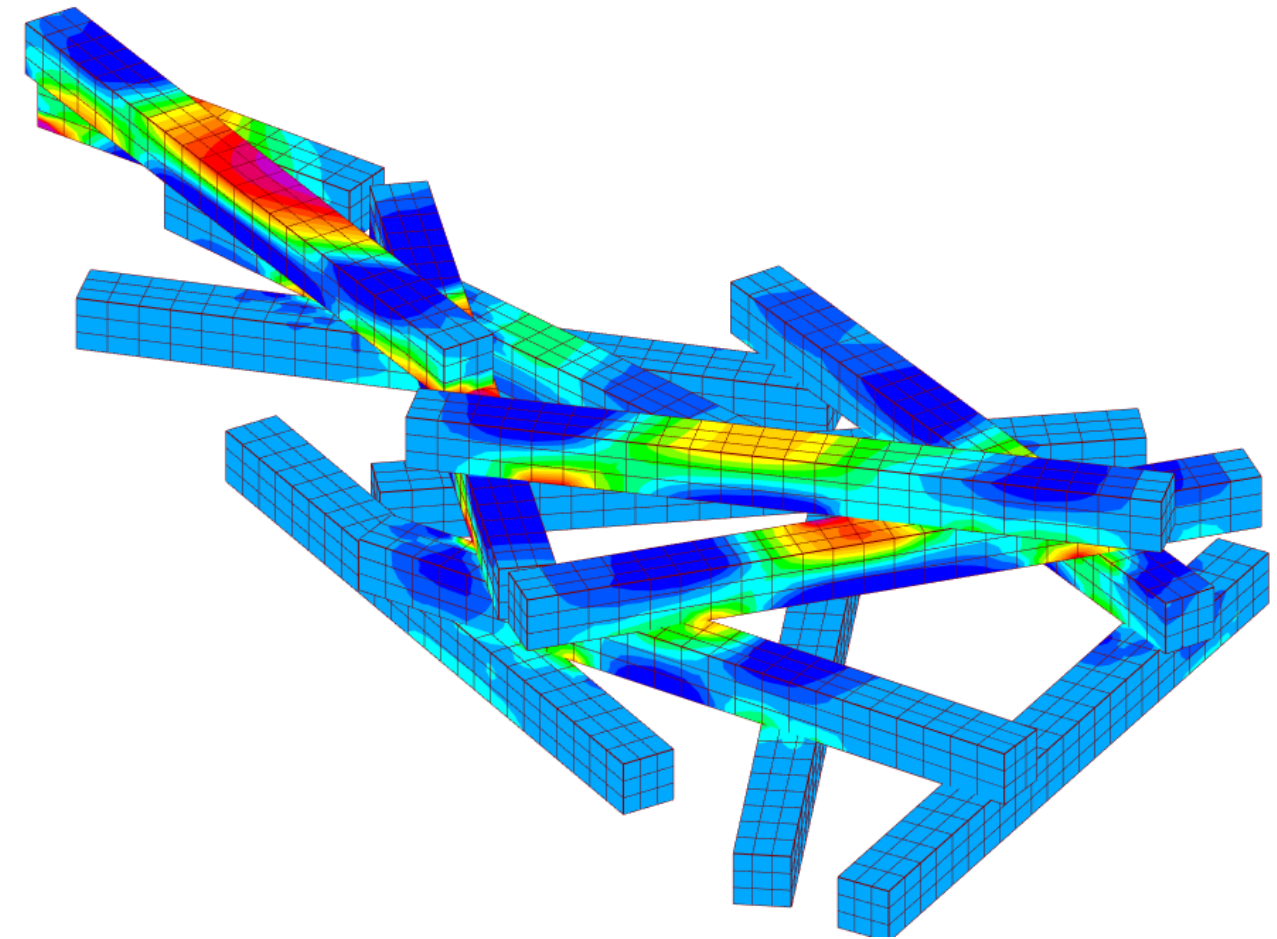
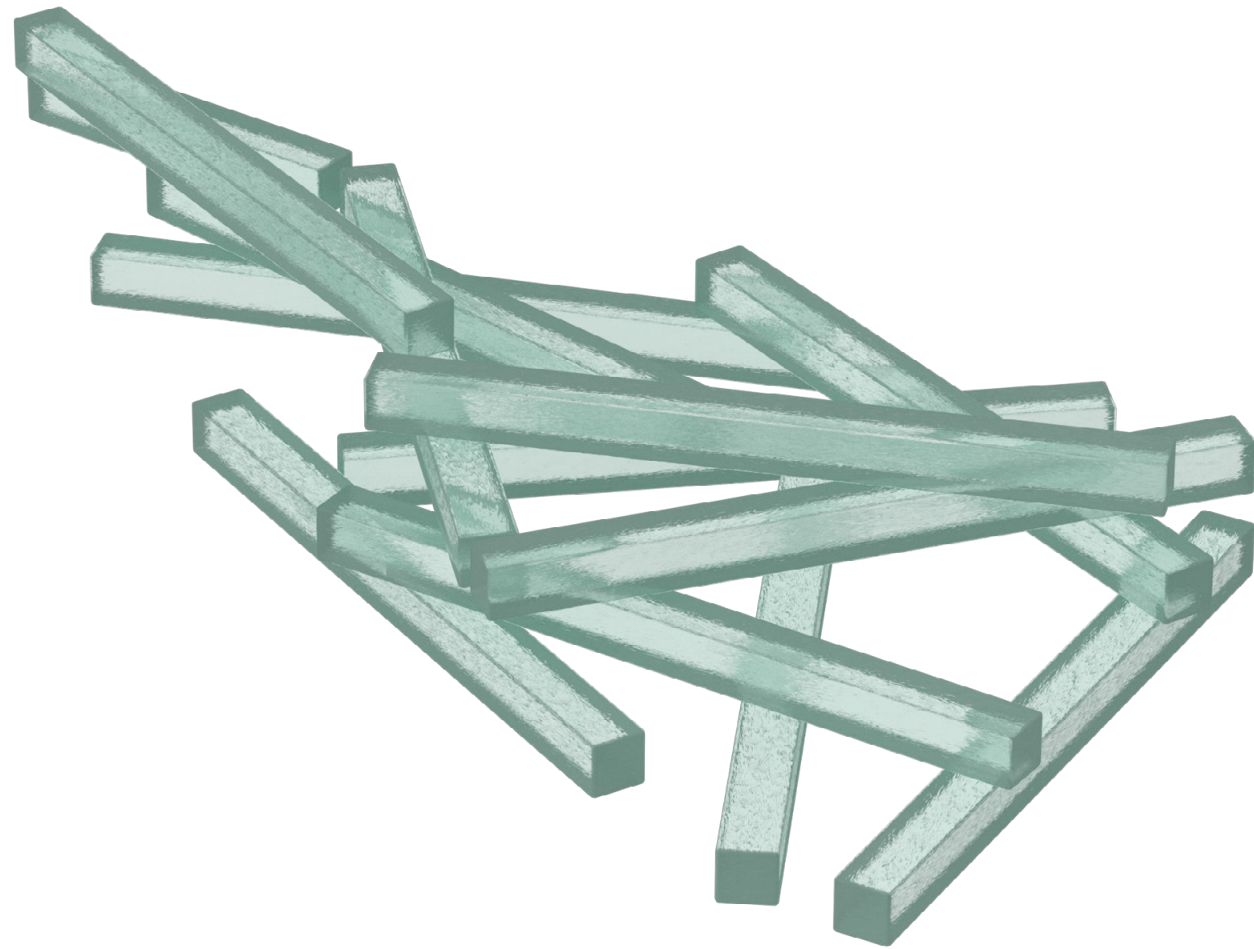
three dimensional engraved images related to journalism (printing press, camera, etc.)



quotes engraved in ends of elements



Like a journalist works to filter out the distracting noise of false information, the glass walls of the Remembrance Hall block the visual and auditory noise of the urban environment to create a place of quiet contemplation.



Glass elements are simply stacked and self-supporting. A structural analysis model was developed to assess stresses occurring within glass sections at representative areas of the memorial. The image above demonstrates flexural stresses, positive values indicating regions of tension in the glass and negative values indicating regions of compression. The resulting stresses were all found to be within standard limits for glass materials compared to accepted standards particularly with regards to the critical tension stresses.

**trees**  
*deciduous trees provide shade for human comfort and support wildlife habitat*

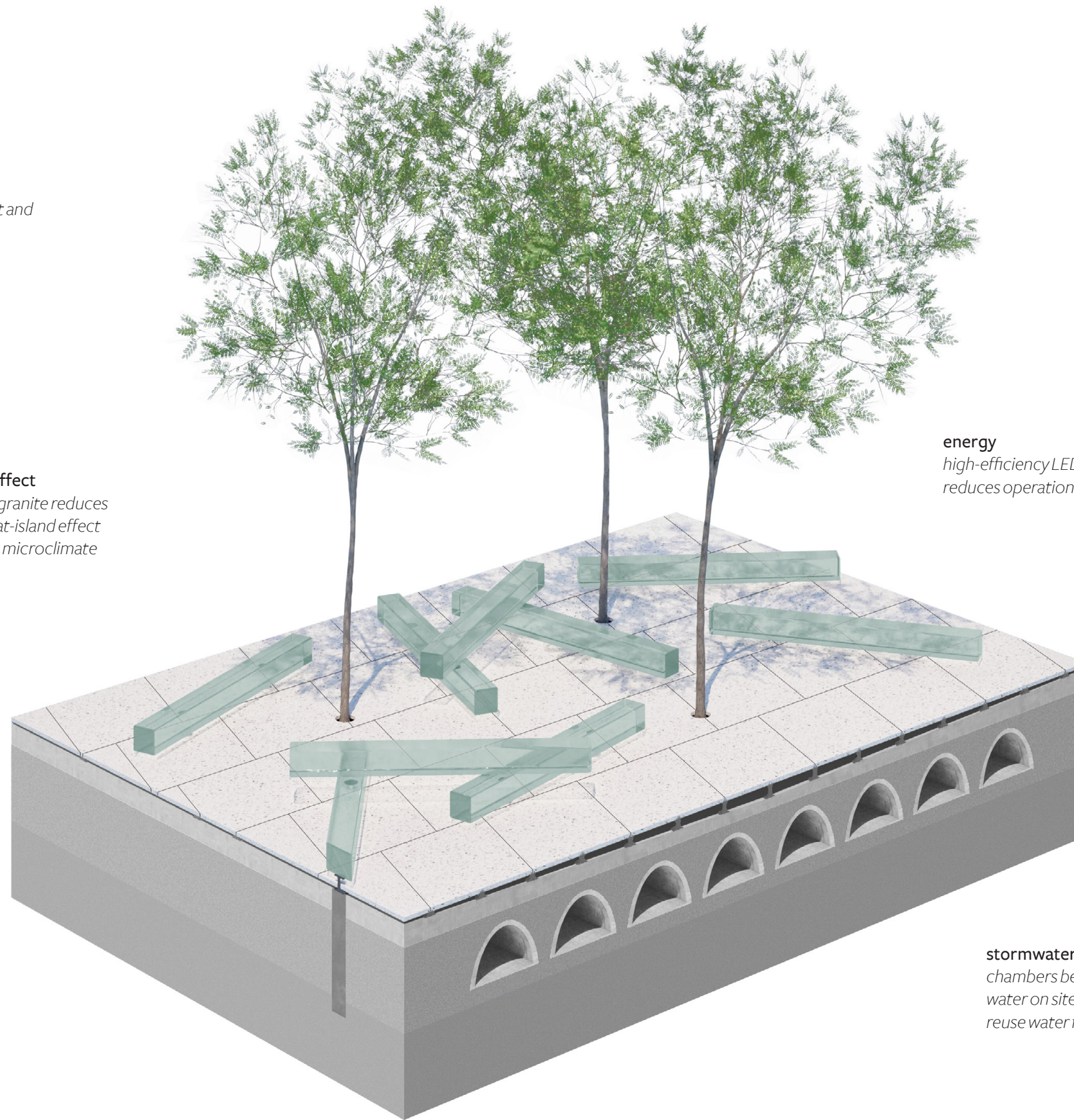
**heat-island effect**  
*light colored granite reduces the urban heat-island effect and improves microclimate*

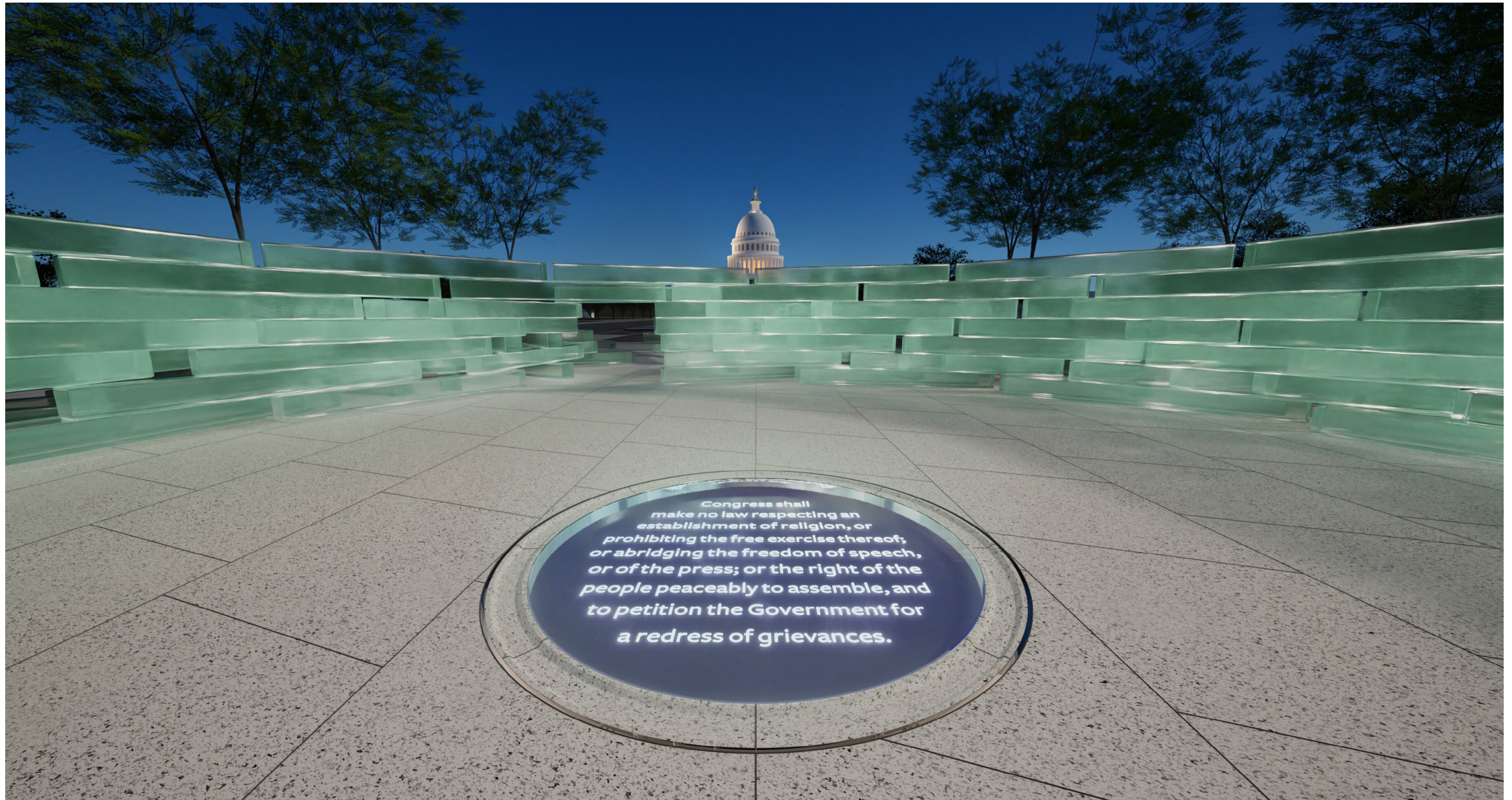
**energy**  
*high-efficiency LED lighting reduces operational cost*

**recycled material**  
*glass elements include recycled material*

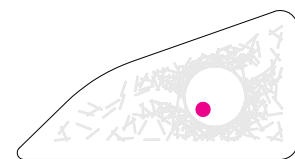
**embodied energy**  
*concrete pier foundations use recycled aggregate and fly-ash to reduce embodied energy*

**stormwater management**  
*chambers below paving detain water on site with potential to reuse water for site irrigation*





The First Amendment text is oriented on axis with the Capitol Dome, signifying the watchdog role that journalists play in a democracy.



At night, a soft glow emanates from the up-lit glass elements, creating an atmosphere of quiet reflection where those who have sacrificed their life in pursuit of the truth are honored, and First Amendment rights are celebrated.