Questions arising from time to time: What is the plan of the city of Washington? Have not unauthoritative alterations been made in it? How do these alterations affect the rights of individuals? It becomes necessary to review the facts on which they depend, to deduce principles from these, & to apply them to individual cases.

- Thomas Jefferson, October 12, 1803

SPECIAL FEDERAL ISSUE

WASHINGTON MONUMENT OPENS
SYMBOL AND CEREMONY ON THE MALL

THE GRAND REOPENING OF THE Washington Monument on George Washington’s 270th birthday (February 22, 2002), became an important symbolic act, in this new era of urgency, attended by officials, and hundreds of media representatives. Like so much in Washington, DC, the event was a performance on the city’s stage, a presentation enacted by members of government, for a national audience viewing through the portals of the media. The usual backdrops, in this city of display, are monumental neoclassical porticos. In this case it was the “tallest masonry structure in the world,” and, perhaps, the most recognized landmark in America.

The 555 foot tall pylon was built by the Army Corps of Engineers, finally finished in 1884, after 30 years of halted construction, stalled by events that included the theft of a symbolic stone by the anti-Catholic “Know Nothing Party,” protesting the fact that the stone had been donated by Pope Pius IX (the Know Nothings are said to have tossed the marble block into the Potomac). When it was completed, it was the tallest structure in the world. Federal law still prevents any structure in the capitol from surpassing it in height, though some see its stature as a challenge. When the state of Texas erected a similar soaring obelisk to honor Sam Houston’s victory over the Mexicans, they designed it so that the star on top of the Battle of San Jacinto monument made the structure 15 feet higher than the Washington Monument.

The monument has been undergoing four years of renovations, and has been closed to visitors for the past 14 months. The exterior masonry was repaired a couple of years ago, when the monument was encased in a grid of lighted scaffolding, designed by the postmodern architect Michael Graves. More recently, interior repairs and improvements have been made, largely funded by the Target retail store chain, including electronically-charged glass in the walls in the elevator that change from opaque to transparent as the elevator rises, so passengers can see the commemorative stones that were once viewable only to stair-climbers. New security features have also been added, and all visitors pass through scanners, submit their bags to hand inspection, and pass them through x-ray machines.

At the grand reopening ceremony on Washington’s birthday, the 50 flags that surround the Washington Monument flapped in a strong wind. “The doors of the Nation’s Capitol are open again,” the Mayor of Washington DC declared, and a ribbon was cut by a Park Service official. The camera crews then dispersed, lugging their gear through the parallel rows of concrete Jersey barricade that ring the monument.

THE BARRICADES OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT
NEW EXHIBIT AT CLUI, LOS ANGELES

“I can tell you it’s a proximity issue...Beyond that, I can’t elaborate, for security reasons.”

A NEW EXHIBIT OF PHOTOGRAPHS is on display at the Center’s Los Angeles exhibit hall, featuring images of the barricades that now flank and encircle the monuments, museums, government buildings, and other landmarks of the nation’s capitol. The images, drawn from the CLUI Photographic Archive, are all recent, taken mostly in late February of 2002.

The most public parts of the city are completely transformed by the security measures put in place after September 11th, which include miles of highway barricades, heavy planters, steel fencing, and concrete pipe sections, like those ringing the east side of the Capitol building. “The notion of a city that expresses the openness of a publicly accessible government is severely challenged by the defensive measures now in place,” said Sarah Simons of the CLUI, just returned from a recent visit to the capitol. “And those guys everywhere sitting in idling official minivans and Ford Excursions all day, watching, makes a visitor feel more and less secure simultaneously.”

continued on page 2
The barricades take many forms, but the most prevalent are the concrete sections known as “Jersey barrier,” which were originally designed for use on highways. Around the Mall, these eight foot long, free-standing “impact deflectors” are installed in such quantity as to become an almost continuous, defensive dashed line, allowing people through, but keeping errant vehicles from being able to, for example, drive up the steps into the Air and Space Museum. These measures are in place indefinitely, according to officials, but are likely to change into a more “architecturally harmonious” form, as they become permanent fixtures in the plazas and porticos of public space.

The exhibit at CLUI, Los Angeles, is on display until May, 2002.

The defensive dashed-line of Jersey barrier on the Mall marches past government agency headquarters such as the DOE...

...monuments like the Lincoln Memorial...

...and cultural institutions like the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (next to which the barricades gain a degree of sculptural integrity, perhaps).

A nation on display

Feasting on the interpretive layer of the Capitol region

One curious aspect of a visit to the capitol is the sense that one is not a tourist, visiting a strange city, but rather a citizen, reporting for duty, to upload the official version of America, represented through a dizzying array of displays. Like the buffet table at an inaugural ball, the nation is served up - for free, no less - in a variety of dishes and confections. Some are bite-sized and some are meaty. There’s the largest museum in the country, with its great themed halls, spanning the architectural spectrum from neoclassical to I. M. Pei, and there are carefully crafted little exhibits installed in lobbies and visitor’s centers of government entities, private institutions, and politically-minded commercial organizations. Together, the displays of the Capitol region provide an interpretive feast for the visitor, and something to chew on long after returning to the nation’s landscape.

Most museum-going visitors to DC begin at the museum of America, the Smithsonian Institution, with its dozen display centers in the Capitol. At the Castle, the headquarters of the institution, museum-goers will find a visitor center, a sort of virtual museum-for-the-Museum, with touchscreen kiosks that provide an orientation to the museum’s various locations, an information desk, and main offices upstairs. Little remains visible from the days when the Castle housed the entire collection of the Smithsonian, when its exhibit halls were a jumble of natural history displays, terrariums, and curious artifacts, while upstairs, apartments housed the museum’s director and visiting scientists. The institution’s original benefactor, James Smithson, never set foot in America, until he had both of them in his grave. His tomb is on the grounds of the Castle.

A photograph in the vestibule of the Castle shows how that very section of the original museum used to look, with terrariums, vitrines, framed pictures, and specimens. On the wall in the image is a peacock feather fan. Above the image is the same fan, in the same place, a relic from the days when the Smithsonian was a cabinet of natural history curiosities.
From this symbolic museum and tomb complex, visitors to the Smithsonian can fan out to the themed exhibition center of their choice. Close-by, the Arts and Industries Building was the first addition to what would become the continuously expanding Smithsonian. It is a Victorian exhibition hall that contains rotating exhibits on a wide range of subjects (boxing and Margaret Mead were recently portrayed in separate exhibits) and features a model train set circling a miniature Smithsonian Castle. When this building opened, in 1881, it was called the National Museum Building. It was renamed when the natural history displays were extracted, and moved across the Mall, in 1910, into the new National Museum of Natural History.

In 1964, the Smithsonian’s 750,000 square foot National Museum of History and Technology opened next to the Natural History Museum. This museum is a modernist monolith that was among the last structures designed by McKim, Mead and White. It broke with the neoclassical and Victorian fashion favored by the builders of Important Buildings in Washington. Though its name has changed to the National Museum of American History, exhibits on technology dominate the basement level of the museum, covering the early railways, civil engineering, the Bomb, the SAGE system, computers, the internet, and even Fresh Kills landfill, as interpreted by garbageologist Bill Rathje, in an entertaining touchscreen display.

The 1970s saw two new Smithsonian museums on the Mall, the nation’s modern and contemporary art museum, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Park, and the Air and Space Museum, conceived to display aircraft after World War Two, but not built until 1976. Displays in the Air and Space museum are battle-ready, for the throngs of school kids that course through the cavernous interior. Though full-sized aircraft, space capsules, and satellites are featured, the museum is building a new, 760,000 square foot facility at Dulles airport, scheduled to open in late 2003 where, among 200 other aircraft, the Enola Gay will be able to be displayed whole, instead of in pieces as it was originally displayed in a controversial exhibit in 1995 at the Air and Space Museum. In the meantime, the Enola Gay is kept at the Institution’s Garber facility in Suitland, Maryland, a town just outside DC which, as the home of several vast Smithsonian curatorial complexes as well as possibly the largest federal records archive, can claim to have more storage space than nearly any other place in America.

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Off the Mall, the National Building Museum is a truly remarkable structure and display center, unrelated to the Smithsonian. The Victorian pavilion, built originally as an office building in 1882, features a grand interior hall, nearly 15 stories tall, with two levels of exhibit halls off balconied hallways. The focus of the museum, founded in 1885, is American architecture, urban planning, construction, engineering, and design. Among the more than a hundred exhibits it has presented over the years are such classics as Stay Cool! Air Conditioning America, On the Job: Design and the American Office, World
The Federal region, of course, extends beyond the limits of the District of Columbia, into the DC suburbs of Maryland and Virginia, where visitors will continue to find unusually instructive, entertaining, and superlative display venues of national import.

What must be the most elaborate and startling wildlife refuge visitor center in the country can be found at the Patuxent Research Refuge, a 13,000 acre woodland north of DC, and the largest natural area in close proximity to the city. Patuxent was the nation’s first major wildlife research station, established in the 1930’s (adjacent to the larger National Agricultural Research Center), and it has a history of research on bird migration and waterfowl habitat. The refuge more than doubled in size in the 1990’s as it absorbed some of the NSA’s Fort Meade, including several firing ranges still in use today. With the institutionalization of basic environmental principles in the 1970’s, educational outreach became part of the mission of the Center, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which operates the facilities at Patuxent, began planning a "National Wildlife Visitor Center" to reflect their programs, and as an attraction to draw the public away from the restricted areas of the refuge’s lands. The largest science and environmental education center in the Department of the Interior finally opened in 1994, though much of the alarmist environmental urgency of the 1970’s remains intact in the displays.

The visitor center is a labyrinth of highly designed display spaces, which create an atmosphere of immediate environmental doom amid a haunted and fleeting natural world. After a large, bright lobby area, visitors enter into the first darkened room and are assaulted by several kinetic displays with flashing rear screen projections, backlight image panels, and scrolling LED text displays warning of overpopulation, depletion of resources, starvation, contamination, land exploitation, and pollution, amid frantic sounds of machines grinning away at the earth. Unanswered questions leap out of the displays: "What is Happening to Our Wetlands?" "What is Happening to Our Oceans?" "How do We Feed the World?"

This initial chamber of horrors sets the tone for the rest of the displays, which describe environmental research programs by depicting field scientists with probes, head phones, and telemetry equipment, and celebrate the majesty and mystery of nature through darkened hallways with lurking surreal vitrines that resemble cryogenic alien freezers. Numerous touchscreen consoles are set up in command and control center-like rooms within rooms, and sounds of howling wolves and panicked birds fills the air. Near the exit, an immersive kaleidoscoped video display swirls phantasmagorically, presenting the option of two futures (like the Theater of Time at the Luxor Casino): environmental holocaust, or Arcadian paradise. You decide.

Next to the refuge is the USDA’s Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, a sprawling, 7,000 acre research farm with fields, woodlands, and numerous laboratory complexes. With additional off-site offices and programs in other states, BARC claims to be the largest and most diversified agricultural research complex in the world, conducting research into large-scale farming practices including beef, pig, and poultry raising, pesticides, nutrition, and other programs of interest to the American agricultural industry. An on-site visitor center explains some of what they do through image, text, and artifact displays, with titles such as "Integrated Pest Management," "Fungi in our Lives," and "Soy!"

The National Air and Space Administration operates visitor centers at most of its major production and R&D sites. In Greenbelt, Maryland, at the Goddard Space Flight Center, the visitor center overlooks the multifaceted industrial complex from the edge of the restricted area. The Goddard Center was the first major NASA R&D site devoted to space exploration, and was built immediately following the Soviet’s launching of Sputnik. Today around 7,000 people continue to work...
there, on projects primarily related to satellite and earth observation systems. The four largest contractors at Goddard are the defense and satellite companies Lockheed, Raytheon, TRW, and Hughes. Goddard also operates the Wallops Island launch and test complex on the coast of Virginia.

It is hard to get a sense of the exceedingly high-tech activities at the lab from the displays in the visitor center, which are sadly primitive and antiquated (computer displays and interfaces resemble a video arcade circa 1988). But the capacious visitor center does convey a poetic sense of the vacuity of space, punctuated by lonely, spinning tools.

It is no coincidence that not too far from NASA in Greenbelt is the headquarters for the National Security Agency (NSA), an organization that employs at least 20,000 people in the daunting task of intercepting, decoding, and classifying communications all over the world for the American intelligence community. While no public visitation facilities exist in either of the two main office buildings, an official NSA museum, called the National Cryptologic Museum, is located nearby at the edge of Fort Meade.

The museum represents an interesting display dichotomy: a display site built by an organization that would rather no one knew it existed, that describes the operations of the organization, operations that are, however, secret, and are, paradoxically, about revealing secrets. The NSA has partially addressed this problem by dwelling on well known historical elements of its story, such as the cracking of World War Two codes with the Enigma machine, which is prominently featured in the museum, with many other historic analog code-breaking instruments that look like alien typewriters.

The museum does have a number of more contemporary displays, such as a fingerprint analyzing computer that visitors can rate the "quality" of their prints on, and several computer and supercomputer systems that, with little explanation of how they were used, are beautifully enigmatic icons of the age of information and intelligence. For example, a computer called the CM-5 is an elegant bathroom-sized machine clad in horizontal and vertical metal fins, like a giant architectural model of a modernist skyscraper. There is an array of flickering rack-mounted components called the Rissman Telemetry Processing System, that has a satisfying assortment of milspec switches. A Cray XMP-24 supercomputer (the kind with the built-in padded bench around its base), looks like a Stanley Kubrick film prop, but is labeled as having been in use at NSA circa 1985-1993. And a Ziegler supercomputer machine (called 'Barney' by its handlers, because it was big and purple), which weighs several tons, was cooled by a 60 ton refrigeration unit (all to process 32 gigabytes), and is labeled as having been in use at the NSA from 1993 to 2000.

The museum is a fascinating place in itself, as well as for what it represents. Docents are eager to show visitors around, and photographs are permitted everywhere except in the gift shop where the clerk says, without any sense of irony, that it is against her religion to be photographed.

With the general trend for exhibit centers and museums to integrate more interactive computer and video-based displays, it is perhaps with an eye on things to come that one would take a look at the Newseum in Arlington, Virginia, just across the river from the Capitol. This "museum of news" was opened in an existing office building in 1997. The $50 million display environment, created by the designer of the Holocaust Museum, is about as high-tech as it comes. Interactive touchscreens abound, as do video projections, and plasma screens. The introductory film "What is News" is shown on the region’s largest high definition video screen. Video news feeds come in from all over the world, and are routed to screens via the museum's central control room, which itself looks like a broadcast booth. Downstairs, have a snack in the NewsByte Cafe, while logging on to Lexis-Nexis through a highspeed internet connection.

The Newseum celebrates the first amendment, and the importance of journalism to the cause of freedom. It was built and is operated by the Freedom Forum, which itself is headed by the founder of USA Today, and the former CEO of its parent company Gannett (which owns about 90 other newspapers across the country). Based on its popularity in the first four years of its existence, the museum will soon be relocating to a new building in Washington DC. When it opens there, sometime in 2005, this "museum of the moment" will no doubt be even fancier, ushering in a new era of interconnected display technology, and providing a museumified version of the current events that are shaped by the forces of commerce and government, centered in this city of display.
Duplicating and securing the federal government beyond the beltway initiated an underground building boom that began in the 1950s, and lead to the creation of almost a hundred "continuity of government" locations within the Federal Arc, a 300 mile radius around the capitol, according to published reports in the press. These facilities were built to house representatives of nearly all the branches of government, in underground shelters, to sit out the fallout from a nuclear war, and to be able to continue the operations of a federal government once the bombardment stopped.

Raven Rock gets its name from the hill where it is located, a 650 acre site in southern Pennsylvania, next to the Maryland state line. It was first hollowed out in the early 1950’s, and went on line in 1954. Its officially stated function is as the Alternate Joint Communications Center, and a contingency relocation site for the Joint Staff Support Center, a division of the Pentagon.

For much of the Cold War, Site R is said to have had a full-time staff of 350, including representatives of the major military departments and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with space enough for an additional 2,600 people. Site R was supported by nearby Fort Ritchie, Maryland, a 638 acre Army post, with over 2,000 employees, that closed in the 1990’s. It is now administered out of Fort Detrick, Maryland. The Defense Information Systems Agency, Western Hemisphere, a military division that calls itself the "Guardians of the Rock," operates the communication and command center located in the bunker. This is the underground site that is reportedly most favored by Vice President Dick Cheney.

As important as maintaining personnel to carry out the command of government, is the ability to know what is going on in the country and the world, and to be able to communicate, internally and externally. Therefore, a lot of the effort to build back-up systems for the federal government in the event of a nuclear war involved the creation of invulnerable communications systems.

Much of this infrastructure, built in the Cold War, is still in use today, with renewed importance in the terrorism era. Some of it is operated by the Defense department, some by secretive intelligence organizations, and some is operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The two biggest and most important federal bunkers beyond the beltway are Mount Weather and Raven Rock, in Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively. Site R, as Raven Rock is often called, is the alternate command center for the Pentagon. Mount Weather is the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s primary hub. Both have somewhere in the neighborhood of 600,000 to 700,000 square feet of underground space, though Raven Rock may be slightly larger.

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* A recent RAND Corporation report on recommendations for Homeland Security confirms that a 1992 Time Magazine article by Ted Gup is among the most important published reports in the national media about the federal government’s back-up infrastructure. That article, entitled “The Doomsday Blueprints,” as well as others by Mr. Gup, are among the sources used for this CLUI newsletter article. (See Preparing the U.S. Army for Homeland Security: Concepts, Issues, and Options, by Eric V. Larson, John E. Peters, at http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1251/)

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Mount Weather Emergency Assistance Center, near Bluemont, VA, 48 miles from the Capitol. This aerial view, noted by the Federation of American Scientists, shows the main surface complex, and one of two portal access roads. A second, longer road travels down the west side of the mountain.
The other major Continuity of Operations Plan site is the Mount Weather complex, in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. While Site R is dominated by its role as a Department of Defense command facility, Mount Weather is a "civilian" command facility, the center of operations for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). For its FEMA role as the National Emergency Coordinating Center, it has extensive communication facilities that link it to the nationwide network of FEMA bunkers, relocation sites, and to the White House Situation Room. Underground, there are sleeping accommodations for 2,000, including private sleeping quarters for the President, Cabinet, and the Supreme Court, as well as all the functions required to support large numbers of people underground for considerable periods, such as 500,000 gallons of water that are stored on site, a hospital and a crematorium. The blast door for the main tunnel portal weighs 34 tons and is 5 feet thick. On the surface, the site covers 434 acres, and has several large buildings, including conference and training buildings for FEMA.

The government first used the site in 1903 as a weather station. Tunnel boring began in the 1950's, by the Bureau of Mines and the Army Corps of Engineers, and cost as much as $1 billion in today's dollars. The number of people on site fluctuates from a few hundred to over 1,000, depending on alert status.

The most famous of the federal "retreats" is Camp David, located in Catoctin Mountain Park, a National Park Service area near Thurmont, Maryland, and only a few miles from Site R, and the Federal Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg. The rustic cabins at the camps have been replaced over the years with semi-rustic-looking bungalows that have the luxuries demanded of heads of state. Approximately 50 buildings are clustered around the highest point in the park, within a 125 acre fenced area, designated as Department of Defense property within the park. Reports about the extent of the underground bunkers at Camp David vary, but there is known to be an underground communications center and a VIP bomb shelter, constructed in 1959. Rumors abound about more extensive facilities, including a tunnel connecting Camp David to Site R. The surrounding park is open to the public, and has a few other "camps" with clusters of buildings, some clearly in use by military personnel, such as the sailors and marines that protect and maintain Camp David.

A few miles from Site R and Camp David, the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is a training campus for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Center was established in 1979, at a 107 acre site originally occupied by St. Joseph’s College, a liberal arts college which closed in 1973. Classrooms and some field training facilities are located on site. The emphasis is training for civilian emergency professionals, such as fire fighters, and emergency response managers and coordinators. A sample of training course titles includes: "Advanced Radiological Accident Assessment - Post-Plume Phase," "Use of Auto-Injectors by Civilian Emergency Medical Personnel to Treat Civilians Exposed to Nerve Agent," and "Mass Fatalities Incident Course." Thousands are trained here every year, and an increase in terrorist related curricula is drawing more students from all over the country.

Part of the communication infrastructure designed to support the federal government, is the mysterious and extensive complex known as the Warrenton Training Center (WTC), located in rural Virginia. Warrenton’s, Station B, the largest of the four locations that make up the WTC, is a 346 acre communications center operated by the Defense Department, with underground bunkers, of unknown extent, for the protection of federal communications infrastructure and for the personnel assigned to protect it (and possibly for other purposes as well). Officially, WTC is administered by the Army to support the National Communications System, an entity established by President Kennedy, that is mandated to provide communications for the federal government, under any circumstance, including those following an all-out nuclear attack. This infrastructure links all the federal emergency bunkers, and provides service for most of the major federal governmental departments, from Agriculture and Energy, to Defense and the NSA. Little is officially released about the function of WTC, though the Federation of American Scientists states that "there are a large number of multi-story buildings" at Station B, "including a number of buildings constructed in the late 1980's."

The National Emergency Training Center is a FEMA campus used to prepare emergency professionals for present and future disasters.

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Warrenton, Station A is an administrative, training, and residential compound, located close to the town of Warrenton. There are numerous buildings on site, from residences to brick office-type buildings. Station C and D are more remote, and seem to be primarily vast antenna sites. At least one of the two are suspected to have other functions as well, including as "numbers stations" for the CIA, transmitting coded signals for the federal intelligence gathering infrastructure.

The Olney Federal Support Center, near Laytonville, Maryland, is a communications and data network site, with known and unknown functions. Located at a former Nike missile base, this location consists of a vast field of antennas, with several surface buildings. It is next to a National Guard detachment, and a large landfill, which has helped fuel suspicions that extensive digging has taken place at the site (the disposal of the dirt from secret subterranean excavation projects is always an issue for the builders of these sites, according to some underground researchers). It is known to be part of FEMA’s National Radio System, a high-frequency radio network that links FEMA’s emergency operations centers. Rumors about multiple levels underground have been circulated primarily by UFOlogists and conspiracy theorists.

A number of the original continuity of government sites were closed in the 1990’s. The most well known of these secret bunkers was code-named Casser, and was kept prepared for congressional members (most of whom were unaware of its existence). This 112,000 square foot bunker, 64 feet underneath the posh Greenbriar Resort in West Virginia, opened in 1962. It had dining facilities (with landscapes painted behind fake windows), a hospital, beds for up to 1,000 people, and separate chambers for the House and the Senate. As recently as 1992 it was staffed by a crew, masquerading as a television repair company, which even kept a current supply of the prescription drugs used by the individual members of Congress, in case the site was activated, according to a CBS news story on the bunker that aired after it was officially decommissioned in 1995.

Mount Pony is another major underground federal bunker which is no longer in use as part of the continuity of government plan. This 140,000 square foot, hardened underground complex, near Culpeper, Virginia, opened in 1969, and was used until 1992 by the U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve. Until 1988, over a billion dollars in currency was stored here to resupply the nation in the event of a devastating nuclear attack, much of it in the form of two dollar bills. For many years it was also the location of the Culpeper Switch, the principal hub of the Federal Reserve’s 40,000 mile secure communications system, that routed the trillions of dollars that pass through the Fed’s electronic systems annually. (The Federal Reserve is said to have had bunkers for nine of the system’s 12 regional branches, including a 44,000 square foot bunker in western Massachusetts that served the Boston Federal Reserve Bank, acquired in 1992 by Amherst College.) Until 1992, as a government relocation center, the Mount Pony facility had a regular staff of 100 on hand to care for selected government officials who would flee to the site in the event of nuclear war. In 1997, the site was transferred to the Library of Congress for use as an archival storage facility called the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, scheduled to open in 2005.

While many of the continuity of government sites established during the Cold War were designed for existing departments and divisions of the federal government (Congress, Treasury, the Supreme Court, etc.), some facilities housed new and lesser known federal entities, that would gain importance in the event of an emergency, such as a nuclear war. A now unoccupied bunker below the basement of the Lewis Hall of Science at Western Maryland College is an interesting case in point. This 6,000 square foot chamber, accessed by elevator, and equipped with a broadcast facility connected to FEMA’s communications infrastructure, was for the leaders of the United States Office of Censorship, renamed the Wartime Information Security Program. In the event of a war, a group of eight appointed individuals, and a staff of 40, were to convene at this location to assume their duties leading the national censorship of news broadcast and print media, according to federal emergency guidelines, listed in manuals and code books stored in the bunker. One of the directors of this program was the Vice-President of CBS.

In a society such as ours, it is common to have murky alliances between the federal government and private companies that manage systems critical to defense and commerce. Corporations such as AT&T, for example, have continuity of operations plans and underground control centers of their own. If the variety and extent of known underground facilities maintained by the federal government in the Federal Arc is any indication of the pervasiveness of this form of architecture, an inventory of America’s underground spaces would be nearly impossible to compile. The depth and breadth of this subsurface layer of the built landscape will most likely remain obscure, as it was intended to be.
CHESAPEAKE BAY MODEL UPDATE
INTENTIONAL MODEL GIVES WAY TO EXPANDED MODEL FORM

The Chesapeake Bay, as represented on a 1:1,000 scale model that was the subject of a CLUI exhibit in 1998, has undergone a dramatic transformation in the past four years, breaking beyond the bounds of the miniature landscape originally constructed out of concrete in the 1970’s. 90% or so of the concrete from the model has been removed, exposing the dirt and sand that lay beneath. The original eight acres of representational surface has expanded to fill the full footprint of the 14 acre shed built to cover the model. The loose material that now covers the floor of the cavernous space has been contoured by the tracks left by demolition crew trucks, and is carved into a system of braided rivulets by the rain water that streams in through the holes in the roof. The complex network of erosional streams and elongated tire tread ponds resembles a miniature landscape of a post industrial, post glacial period of some indefinite future.

The contemporary, incidental model now can be seen, even, as having expanded beyond the shed, into the unfrequented park in which it resides, where a depositional mountain has formed, built out of the ground-up concrete of the model, a mountain over one thousand feet tall at the model’s scale (applying the model’s 10 times vertical exaggeration to the 1:1000 scale). Apparently, the future will continue to be extrapolated at this remarkable, “Modeled Earth” site.

CLUI TOUCHSCREEN DEPLOYMENT
THE NEXT GENERATION OF ELECTRONIC AMBASSADORS

Another CLUI touchscreen kiosk was deployed in February to the Southern California School of Architecture (SCI-Arc), as part of an exhibit about alternate mapping approaches to the City of Los Angeles. The exhibit, called Genius Loci, was curated by CLUI members Lize Mogel and Chris Kahle, who had teamed up to produce the exhibit for the Municipal Art Gallery of Los Angeles. Genius Loci is a conceptual geographic term that translates as “spirit of a place.”

The kiosk’s program, created by the CLUI’s programming wizard Steve Rowell, featured a touchscreen map, connected to images and text about components of the City of Los Angeles that extend far into the landscape beyond the city. The title for the program was 15 Los Angeles Places and their Distance from the Hyperion Treatment Plant.

A symposium was held at SCI-Arc as part of the exhibit, with presentations by geographers Denis Cosgrove, Denis Wood, Glen Creason, and Morgan Yates, the map archivist at the Southern California Automobile Club, as well as Valerie Tevere, Norman Klein, Eddo Stern, Jason Brown, and Gustavo LeClerc. Matthew Coolidge represented the CLUI at the symposium, as he often does, until this function too can be replaced by an interactive device.

UPDATE ON THE FRESH KILLS COMPETITION
LANDFILL TO LANDSCAPE TO LIFESCAPE

In December and January, the CLUI’s Bulletin Board series of timely presentations featured an exhibit depicting the proposals of the six semifinalists in the design competition for the redevelopment of New York City’s Fresh Kills Landfill. While the exhibit was on display at CLUI Los Angeles, the selection committee in New York was reviewing and deliberating, and finally selected the winner of the competition (retaining two of the original six teams as back-ups). The winning proposal was the “Lifescape” plan’s team, headed by James Corner’s and Stan Allen’s Field Operations group. The two “runners up” were the JMP Landscape team, and the Rios Associates team (which included the CLUI as a member). Though some sort of redevelopment will take place at the closed landfill, said to be the largest in America, funding priorities in New York City have shifted, due to the terrorist attacks of 2001, and the Fresh Kills project no doubt will move forward at a reduced pace.
Lay of the Land

Spring 2002

Page 10

OF BOOKS NEW TO THE SHELVES OF THE CLUI LIBRARY

Supermarket, by Rudy Vanderlan, Gingko Press, 2001

A large format photo book of the author’s driving trip through the desert of southern California, looking at “ephemera:” signs, gas stations, roadside this and that, where nearly every image looks like it was taken without getting out of the car (and the rearview mirror is often casually part of the shot). A simple, elegant, and stylish book that effectively evokes the place through the extended glance of the alien tourist, with a romantic and European perspective.

Guardians of the Parks: A History of the National Parks and Conservation Association, by John C. Miles, Taylor & Francis, 1995

The National Park Service is one thing, and the National Parks and Conservation Association is another. Many books exist on the former, only this one on the latter. Yet both entities work together in the establishment and management of America’s 360+ national parks.

A brief review of each:

A summary of the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action project (UMTRA), a federal program to clean up mine waste and radioactive contamination from the most polluted uranium mining sites, mostly in the western United States. UMTRA was active from 1978 to 1998, and was one of the largest earth-moving projects in America, that created a network of trapezoidal radioactive waste mounds, capped with coarse rock, and composed of tailings and the bulb-dozed refineries, that stand as permanent landform monuments to the nuclear era.


This classic academic guide for the tourism industry has been updated (for the 1994 edition), and continues to provide insight into the structure and mechanisms of the tourist realm.
NEW!!

Back to the Bay:
Exploring the Margins of the San Francisco Bay Region
A catalog and guidebook of the 2001 CLUI exhibit, at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco.
110 pp., Illustrated. $15.00

Around Wendover: An Examination of the Anthropogenic Landscape of the Great Salt Lake Desert Region
A guidebook to points of interest in this remarkable American landscape, with maps and directional information.
(out of stock) 64pp., Illustrated, maps $12.50

The Chesapeake Bay Hydraulic Model
An illustrated history of this remarkable engineering accomplishment, the largest indoor hydraulic model in the world, now abandoned. $5.00

Commonwealth of Technology: Extrapolations on the Contemporary Landscape of Massachusetts
Sites in Massachusetts with an emphasis on the role of technology in the landscape. From the 1999 exhibition presented at the List Center for Visual Arts at MIT. 64pp., Illustrated. $12.50

5th Avenue Peninsula Tour
An in-depth tour of a historic peninsula in California’s industrial waterfront. 4pp., Illustrated. $5.00

Hinterland: A Voyage into the Booze Southern California
Catalog of 100 sites featured in the 1997 CLUI exhibition. (out of print) 112pp., Illustrated. $12.50

The Nevada Test Site: A Guide to America’s Nuclear Proving Ground
The only book available that describes in detail the nation’s foremost weapons and R&D test facility. Praised by both antinuclear activists and Department of Energy officials!
64pp., with fold-out map and over 100 illustrations. $12.50

Nuclear Proving Grounds of the World
A report on the primary nuclear test sites across the globe, and the hundreds of other sites where single nuclear blasts took place on, under, and above the earth, in the former USSR, USA, Africa, Australia, Pacific Ocean and elsewhere.
64pp., Illustrated. $7.50

One Hundred Places in Washington
100 exemplary land use sites in Washington state. From the 1999 exhibition presented at the Center on Contemporary Art in Seattle. 64pp., Illustrated. $15.00

Points of Interest in the California Desert Region With VisitMat Information
Over 100 interesting places in the California desert.
64pp., Illustrated. $7.50

Route 58: A Cross-Section of California
Illustrated roadbook to this remarkable, 210-mile roadway. A perfect weekend-long trip from Los Angeles. Revised Edition.
64pp., Illustrated. $15.00

Subterranean Renovations: The Unique Architectural Spaces of Show Caves
Examine underground built structures and see some of the best tourist cave environments in the United States, with contact and visitation information. From the CLUI exhibit. 64pp., Illustrated. $5.00

N O V E L T I E S

Suggested Photo Spot Post Card and Tour Book
Full-color, full-page post card with 20 Suggested Photo Spot post cards, depicting the sites with the Photo Spot sign in the foreground. Also contains a directory and directions for the Photo Spots across the United States.
64pp., Color Illustrations, spread bound. $14.95

Stalacpipe Organ Tape
A recording of the "World's Largest Musical Instrument," the Great Stalacpipe Organ, in Luray Caverns, Virginia. Hymns and traditional plays by the creator of the wondrous instrument, Mr. Leeland W. Speckle (deceased.) Music generated by the earth itself Complete with dripping sounds. 25 minutes cassette tape, produced by Luray Caverns. $3.99

H O W  T O  O R D E R

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Please make check or money order payable to the Center for Land Use Interpretation. Sorry, we do not accept credit cards at this time. Shipping and handling charges: $5.50 for the first item, $.50 for each additional item, and $1.00 if ordering in CA. International shipping: $10.00 for the first item, $1.00 for each additional item.
Reading the landscape in Washington DC is especially instructive, as so much of it represents something larger, by both intent and incident. Pierre L’Enfant’s 18th century design for the city, a city built from scratch to be the Nation’s Capitol, was an expression of the basic principles of freedom and access to government that are fundamental to the United States, manifested physically in the layout of the Capitol. Like a civics lesson played out through urban planning, the city’s hubs and radials were intended to describe the function of government: The executive branch represented by the White House node, and the legislative branch anchored on the Capitol Hill node. But just as the judicial branch in L’Enfant’s design fell by the wayside (the Supreme Court held sway in the Capitol Building until its courthouse was built behind the Capitol in 1935), unforeseen influences and events intervened, reality settled in. As the influence of commerce became fused with the execution of government, the city became dense with not only the vast offices of the expanding departments of government, but also with the headquarters of the national trade organizations, lobbying groups, advocacy organizations - all seeking proximity to the corridors of power, and to be part of the decision-making process. Unlike, say, the Kremlin, with its physical walls containing and isolating the government, all Washington could do was grow outward into the suburbs of Maryland and Virginia, becoming a sprawling conglomerate of representatives of the entities that rule or seek to rule the American land. Within this capitol region is a sort of condensed version of America (a headquarters of headquarters), and its denizens are supremely aware of the importance of how they are perceived. They go out of their way to present their image and their view in a controlled and mediated manner - the essence of politics. This landscape is then a sort of public-relationscape, a place of display and representation. What better place could there be to take a view of the current state of affairs, if this is a new era, or not, than in the landscape of the capitol region, where the interpretive layer is as thick as it comes. -Lay of the Land Editors