

BUILDING ON THE PAST



WASHINGTON'S REMARKABLE OPENNESS IS THE LEGACY OF PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT, THE FRENCH ENGINEER WHO, WITH SURVEYOR ANDREW ELLICOTT AND MATHEMATICIAN BENJAMIN BANNEKER, LAID OUT THE CITY IN 1791. L'ENFANT WANTED HIS FLEDGLING CAPITAL TO MAKE A POWERFUL SYMBOLIC STATEMENT, SO HE DESIGNED A CITY OF BROAD AVENUES AND IMPOSING PUBLIC SPACES THAT RADIATE OUTWARD FROM THE "PRESIDENT'S HOUSE" AND THE "CONGRESS HOUSE" LIKE SPOKES ON A WHEEL. SPACE — GREAT, UNFOLDING EXPANSES OF IT — WAS A WAY TO DISTINGUISH AMERICA FROM EUROPE, AND NEW WORLD CAPITALS FROM OLD.

At the same time, L'Enfant recognized that grandeur is never enough. So where his sweeping boulevards intersected the grid of local streets, he created circles and squares and proposed for them monuments and statues to symbolize the joining of federal and state interests. These public spaces were to be the focal points of neighborhoods to encourage the mixing of big and little, grand and ordinary.

*Extending the Legacy* enlarges L'Enfant's vision by protecting Washington's open spaces and by distributing federal investment to all quadrants of the city. It increases public access to the waterfront, a key feature of L'Enfant's Plan, by creating a new network of parks, playing fields, marinas and other attractions that enrich urban life. By removing the Southeast/Southwest Freeway near the Mall and relocating the railroad tracks from Maryland and Virginia avenues, the plan allows the restoration of major L'Enfant thoroughfares, including Maryland, Virginia and Delaware avenues and South Capitol Street.

**The L'Enfant Plan of 1791 laid the foundation for modern Washington.**

---



The L'Enfant Plan laid the foundation for modern Washington. Yet in the decades that followed its adoption, many of its bold ideas were ignored or subverted. The new Treasury building cut off the view of the White House from Capitol Hill. Railroad tracks sliced across the Mall near the present National Gallery of Art. The Mall itself became a hodgepodge of informal gardens, pastures and walkways that blocked the path from the Capitol to the Washington Monument.

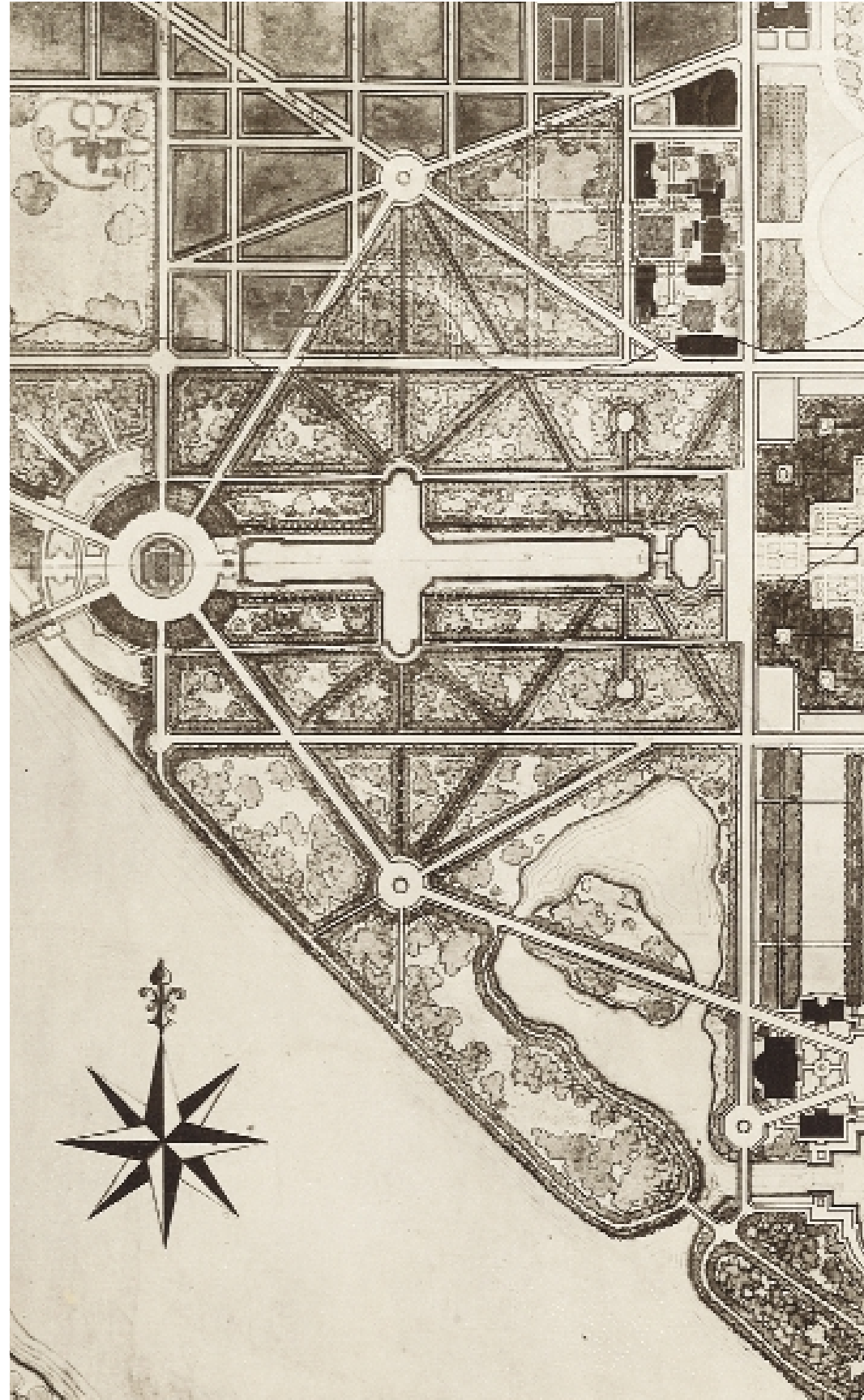
The McMillan Plan of 1901 restored the Mall's historic sweep and framed it with impressive museums and monuments that celebrate our nation's achievements. It created Memorial Bridge to unite Washington and Virginia, symbolizing the reuniting of the North and South at the end of the Civil War. By reclaiming the Anacostia River and reconnecting it to the heart of the city, *Extending the Legacy* builds on the McMillan Plan's precedents.

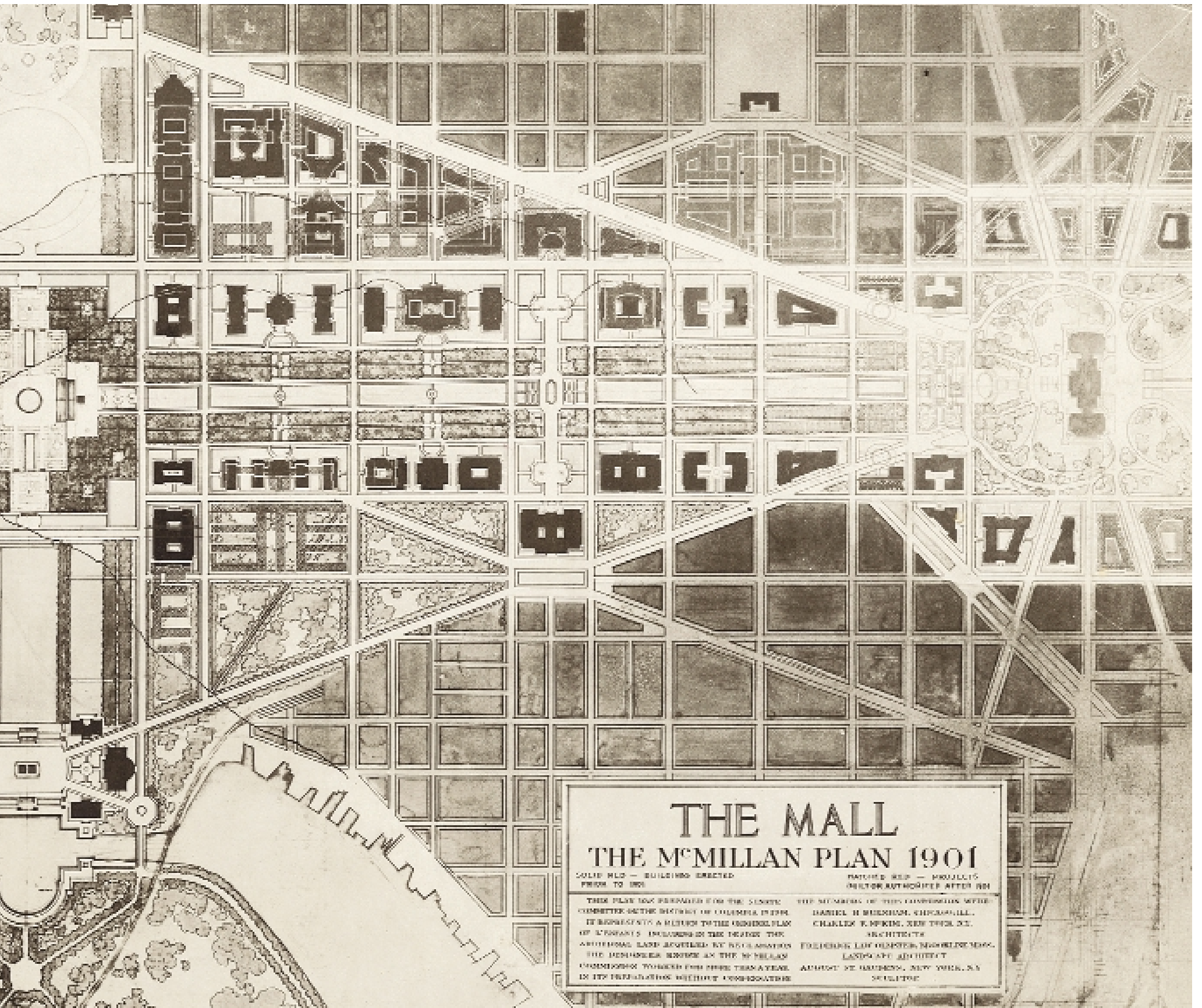
# SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT



**Washington's revived waterfront will sparkle with cafés, boating and street life.**

~  
*The McMillan Plan has  
guided development  
of the Monumental Core  
in the 20TH Century.*  
~





# THE MALL

## THE McMILLAN PLAN 1901

SOLID RED — BUILDINGS ERECTED  
FROM 1850

PINKED RED — PROJECTIONS  
ULTIMATELY ANTICIPATED AFTER 1901

THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED FOR THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN 1901. IT REPRESENTS A RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL PLAN OF McMILLAN'S, INCLUDING IN THE DESIGN THE ADDITIONAL LAND ACQUIRED BY THE COMMISSIONERS THE YEAR BEFORE IN THE McMILLAN COMMISSION. THROUGH THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS IN ITS DEVELOPMENT RECEIVED COOPERATION

FROM MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION WITH DANIEL H. BURNHAM, CHICAGO, ILL., CHARLES F. MCKIM, NEW YORK, N.Y., ARCHITECTS. FOREMAN LEE CLARK, BOSTON, MASS., LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT. ALBERT W. GRUNDY, NEW YORK, N.Y. SCULPTOR.



*Clockwise, from upper left:* South Capitol Street • New bridge linking Anacostia and East Capitol Street • North Capitol Street at New York Avenue • Possible Supreme Court site on South Capitol Street