Title:
American Wild

Competition:
Memorials for the Future Competition
Van Alen Institute, National Capital Planning Commission, and National Parks Service

Text:
National Parks are a living memorial to a uniquely American idea of wilderness. In celebration of the National Parks Centennial, American Wild captures the majesty of the nation's landscape and brings it to its capital. American Wild generates civic pride by connecting the distinctive architecture of the Washington DC Metro to the National Parks. Video of the National Parks are projection-mapped at full scale. The memorial lasts for 59 days, one day for each park. This timeline of the National Park Service's 100-year history advocates for their next 100 years.

Project collaborators Shelby Doyle, Justine Holzman and Forbes Lipschitz.
When we look more closely at the distribution of National Parks and Wilderness Areas in relation to Urban Areas, and the Interstate Network, certain conditions are revealed. Park and Wilderness areas are predominantly located on the west coast, while urban density is more predominant on the east. - is there something more about the relationship to highways and national parks… and the relationship to Amtrak today?
While the majority of National Parks are hard to reach from Washington DC, the Great Smoky Mountains, Cuyahoga and Shenandoah are within a day’s driving distance. In selecting National Parks to project in the city, we will focus not only on the most iconic spaces, and those that may be particularly impacted by climate change, but also on those that are accessible to the DC community.
Most Visited Memorials
When we look at the DC Metro ridership we see that the most used stations sit between the concentration of memorials on Massachusetts Avenue and on the northern side of the National Mall and West Potomac Park. As a result we have selected Metro Center as an ideal site, as it is the second highest in terms of ridership and closely located to the monumental core.
When we look at that experience and that of the DC Metro rider we see two very different realities. One focused on the individual and the other on the shared experience.
Hybrid Memorial Experience