

## PROTECTION OF PROPERTIES OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (1983, R1984, R2001)



### Policy Statement

In accordance with its responsibility to promote and protect the quality of the public environment, the American Society of Landscape Architects believes that the quality of designed projects of national significance is of concern to the Society and the profession. Responding to national design issues is a long-standing responsibility of the profession of landscape architecture. In keeping with the tradition of service by landscape architects to our nation's public spaces, ASLA believes that the profession must express a unified voice on designed projects of national significance.

### Rationale

Constructive, intelligent critique of designed projects is one of the best methods for advocating and supporting quality design in projects of national significance. Design opinion should recognize both the complexity of design-related factors and the ultimate public benefit, while it objectively addresses basic design quality, suitability, and effectiveness.

A project is nationally significant if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. The project affects sites, buildings, objects, or areas that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the cultural, historical, or natural heritage of our nation.
2. The project is to be a major publicly accessible facility constructed on federal property.
3. The project is a part of the nation's capital or has a direct visual or social effect on it.
4. The project is sponsored by an organization or group of national scope or interest.
5. The project reflects a significant contribution to or identifies prominently with people, events, or great ideas of the American people that are nationally significant to the history and culture of the United States.
6. The property is on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Excellence in design encompasses beauty, environmental integrity, efficiency, sustainability, and economy. The nationally significant built environment often survives a civilization and is, therefore, a lasting reflection of society. Thus, it should be designed to reflect the best of our culture.