WASHINGTON MONUMENT WELCOMES BACK VISITORS THROUGH NEW BEYER BLINDER BELLE-DESIGNED FACILITY

Merging state-of-the-art security with contemporary aesthetics and a respect for the historic fabric of the National Mall, the new entrance facility enhances the visitor experience at one of the nation’s most significant sites.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Following a three-year construction period, the Washington Monument reopens to the public on September 19, with a new visitor entrance designed by Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners (BBB).

“Our goal was to create a new welcoming entrance and a dignified portal to one of our nation’s most iconic structures. The new entrance pavilion will accommodate enhanced security protocols while streamlining the flow of visitors and complementing the overall experience of the Monument,” said Hany Hassan, FAIA, partner in charge of BBB’s Washington, D.C. office.

The new structure replaces a temporary facility that had been installed in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

BBB’s contemporary facility simultaneously meets long-term security, preservation, and operational requirements. It utilizes a geothermal heating and cooling system to minimize the visual presence of equipment. As a result, the glazed and transparent envelope affords views of the 555-foot-tall obelisk.

The complex and sensitive project required extensive coordination with a wide variety of organizations. In collaboration with the National Park Service, BBB engaged with numerous preservation stakeholders, members of the public, and federal and state agencies, including the National Capitol Planning Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the D.C. Historic Preservation Officer (State Historic Preservation Office), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

About Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners
Founded in 1968, Beyer Blinder Belle (BBB) has offices in Washington, DC; New York City and Boston. Planning, restoration, and the design of new buildings are the fundamental underpinnings of the practice. A persistent exploration of historic, cultural, and civic meaning guides the firm’s work, while its design is contemporary and reflects the materials and technologies of today. BBB’s work has been recognized with hundreds of awards, including the American Institute of Architects Firm Award, the highest honor given to a practicing firm, as well as three Presidential Design Awards and the Preservation League of New York’s most prestigious commendation, the Pillar Award. www.beyerblinderbelle.com
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