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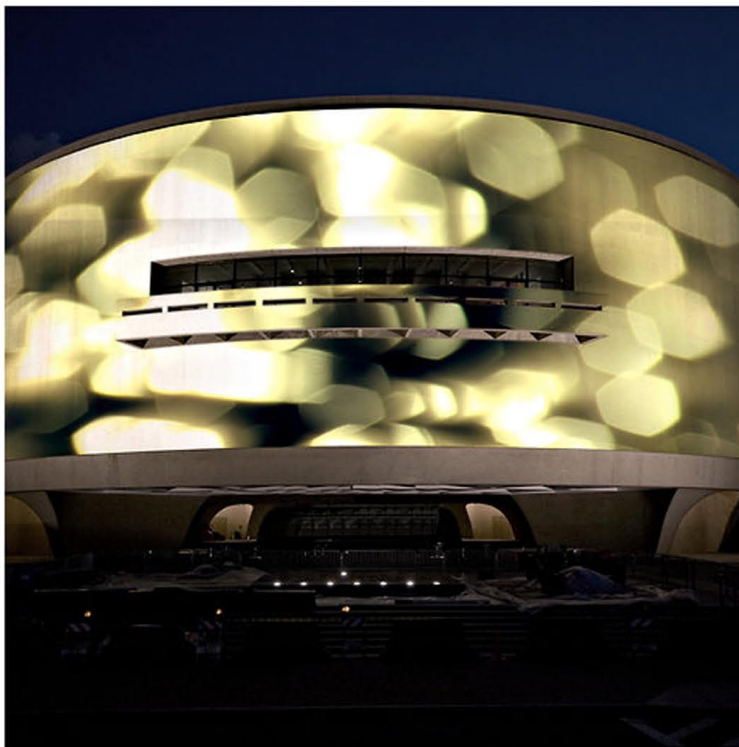
Travel

A Guide to Intelligent Travel

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On the National Mall, Art in the Round

By SARAH WILDMAN



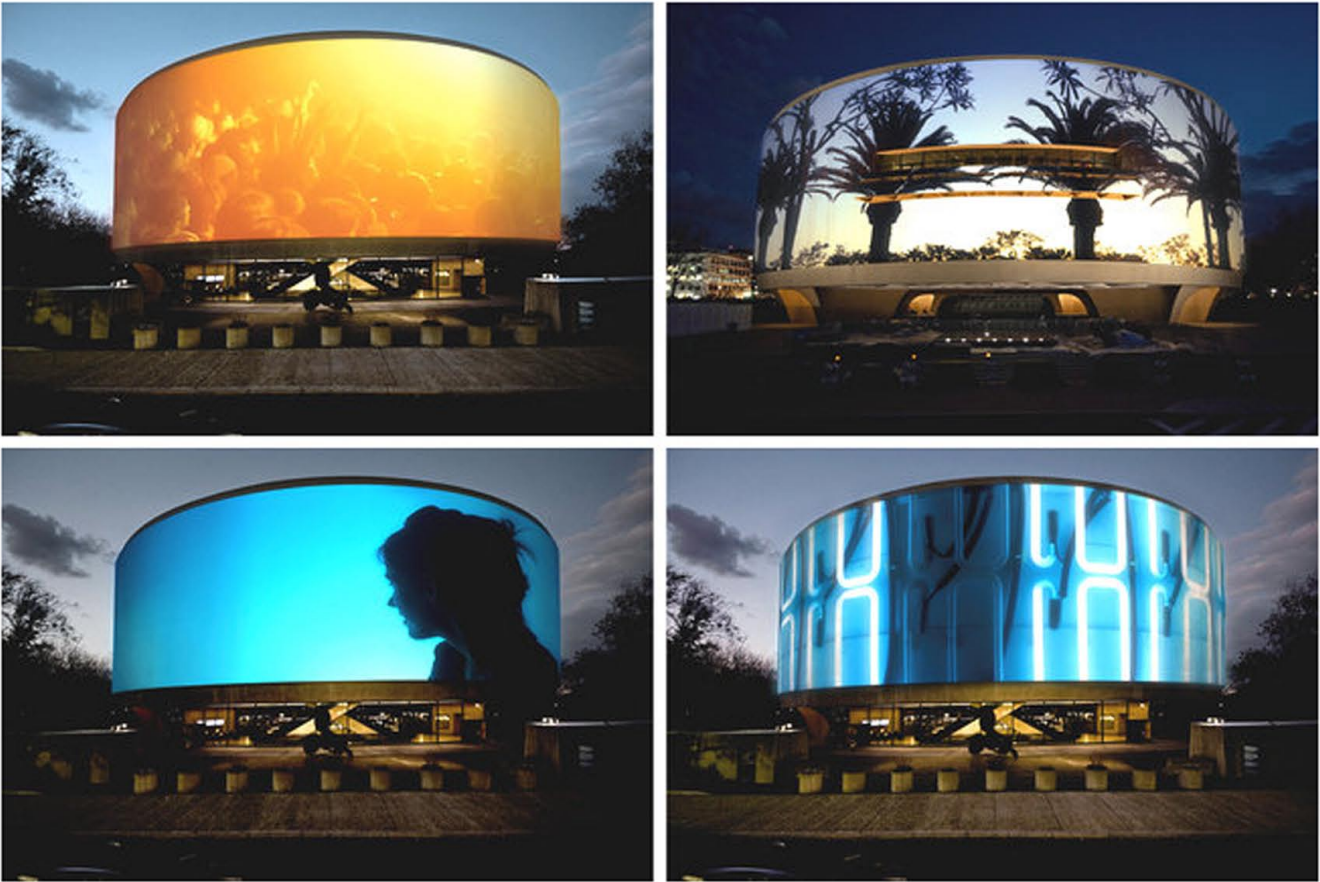
Doug Aitken

The landscape of Washington appears fixed, iconic. The Capitol building, the monuments — Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln — are all instantly recognizable and they are illuminated each evening. But this spring the skyline is changing. The Hirshhorn Museum has commissioned a groundbreaking work of what's being billed as "liquid architecture" from the artist Doug Aitken, a site-specific installation that will envelope the Hirshhorn's spherical building with 11 high-definition screens and alter the cityscape of the National Mall from March 22 to May 16.

In Mr. Aitken's installation — called "[SONG 1](#)" — 360 degrees of projections will encourage visitors to walk the perimeter of the museum; each viewing point offers a different vision, and perspective. From sunset to midnight, the screens will light up the night. SONG 1 is based around musical and cinematic interpretations of the song "I Only Have Eyes for You." Some of the covers come from musicians — Beck, James Murphy of LCD Soundsystem, Mountains, High Places, No Age, Lucky Dragons — but some are spoken word, some simply recitations by actors.

"Aitken works at the intersection of nature, the urban landscape, cinema, music and architecture," Kerry Brougher, the Hirshhorn's deputy director and chief curator, said in a statement.

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Doug Aitken

Renderings of Doug Aitken's video work "Song 1" as it will appear when projected on the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden's facade overlooking the National Mall.

THE [Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden](#)'s striking but bunkerlike circular Washington building, designed by Gordon Bunshaft, has prompted many an artist and designer to dream of intervention. Next year, if things stay on track, the museum will realize a long-planned project to cover its interior courtyard with a temporary [inflatable bubble](#), an architectural soufflé that will meld the outside and inside of the museum and provide space for installations and performances. But in the nearer term the doughnut-shaped structure will become the plaything of the artist [Doug Aitken](#), who is turning it into a movie in the round.

Between sunset and midnight from Thursday to May 13 visitors to the National Mall will be able to see **"SONG 1,"** a projected video work that will cover the building, transforming it into "a turntable of contemporary life," as Kerry Brougher, the museum's chief curator, puts it. Mr. Aitken, who created [a similar building-size video](#) in 2007 for the Museum of