

AIA Virginia Prize

Background

The 2021 prompt is inspired by the [Equal Justice Initiative's Community Remembrance Project](#):

The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) is a private, nonprofit organization that challenges poverty and racial injustice, advocates for *equal* treatment in the criminal *justice* system, and creates hope for marginalized communities. EJI opened [The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration](#) and [National Memorial for Peace and Justice](#) in Montgomery, Alabama in 2019.

[The National Memorial for Peace and Justice](#) includes over 800 steel monuments, or pillars, one for each county in the United States where a racial terror lynching took place, with the names of the lynching victims engraved on the pillars. A field of identical monuments is in a park adjacent to the memorial. EJI's [Community Remembrance Project](#) invites counties across the country to claim their monuments and install them in the counties they represent. In addition to installing the pillars, EJI encourages participating communities to place a historical marker and to collect soil from the site of the lynchings, to "allow communities to gain perspective and experience that we believe is crucial to managing the monument retrieval process wisely and effectively."

Competition Challenge

Design a pillar installation for the City of Alexandria's Market Square. [Background](#), [site plans](#) and [photos](#) are provided.

Submission Requirements

One 24" x 36" board, landscape or portrait orientation. **Digital files should be no larger than 15 MB.**

Eligibility

Entries should represent the **work of an individual (rather than a team)**. Entrants must be students enrolled in one of the accredited schools of architecture in Virginia.