

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Justin Wolf
115 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10003
646.225.6293
j.wolf@perkinseastman.com
www.perkinseastman.com

PERKINS EASTMAN CELEBRATES GROUNDBREAKING OF MCMILLAN SAND FILTRATION SITE IN NORTHWEST WASHINGTON, DC

Ambitious Plan for New Mixed-use Community Includes New Construction,
Landscape Architecture, and Historical Preservation

Washington, DC (December 7, 2016) Top international design and architecture firm Perkins Eastman is pleased to share the news of today's groundbreaking ceremony for [McMillan](#), the new mixed-use community on the 25-acre rectangular site formerly occupied by the McMillan Slow Sand Filtration Plant. Scheduled for completion in 2018, McMillan will comprise a mix of uses and introduce more than 2 million sf of development devoted to medical office buildings, multi-family housing, row houses, retail, and a grocery store. Perkins Eastman served as the Urban Designer and Master Planner for the revitalized McMillan site.

In addition to new construction, the McMillan plan is defined by its historic preservation and resilient landscape architecture. The parcel's most notable feature is the rows of cylindrical towers—previously used as sand storage bins—that cut through the site. Rather than doing away with these relics, all 20 will be preserved and stabilized, as will the site's four brick regulator houses and two underground sand filtration beds, recalling a time when works of civic infrastructure were considered integral to the urban aesthetic. The neighborhood will also include more than six acres of publicly accessible parks. McMillan is designed to achieve LEED-ND Gold.

The McMillan Slow Sand Filtration Plant, constructed at the turn of the 20th Century by the federal government, was the first large-scale water purification facility in the District of Columbia. This critical infrastructure was eventually complemented by a landscape design, led by Frederick Law Olmstead, which transformed the elevated, plinth-like site into a popular destination for recreation and public enjoyment, including a walking path along the plant's perimeter. By the time the U.S. entered World War II, however, McMillan was closed to the

public and has been inaccessible ever since, even after plant operations ceased in the 1980s. Today all that changes and this storied industrial site begins its new lease on life.

According to Principal Matthew Bell FAIA, who led the design and planning of McMillan, “Together with the District and Vision McMillan Partners, we are beyond pleased to have played a role in designing the future of this unique and historic parcel in Northwest DC, and help create a vibrant, sustainable and timeless neighborhood that residents can be proud to call their own.”

This morning’s event took place at the site’s northeast corner, at the intersection of Michigan Ave. NW and North Capitol Street NE, and was hosted by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development ([DMPED](#)). Mayor Muriel Bowser, Deputy Mayor Brian Kenner, and several DC-based Perkins Eastman team members involved in the design and planning of McMillan were in attendance.

For a comprehensive history of the McMillan site, click [here](#).

About Perkins Eastman

Perkins Eastman is among the top design and architecture firms in the world. With almost 1,000 employees in 15 locations around the globe, Perkins Eastman practices at every scale of the built environment. From niche buildings to complex projects that enrich whole communities, the firm’s portfolio reflects a dedication to progressive and inventive design that enhances the quality of the human experience. With work in 46 states and more than 40 countries, the firm’s portfolio includes high-end residential, commercial, hotels, retail, office buildings, corporate interiors, schools, hospitals, museums, senior living, and public sector facilities. Perkins Eastman provides award-winning design through its offices in North America (New York, NY; Boston, MA; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; Pittsburgh, PA; San Francisco, CA; Stamford, CT; Toronto, Canada; and Washington, DC); South America (Guayaquil, Ecuador); North Africa and Middle East (Dubai, UAE); and Asia (Mumbai, India, and Shanghai, China).

Images available.

###