

THE LINK: WEST POINT HUMANITIES CENTER



West Point
READY 
READY TO SERVE. READY TO LEAD.



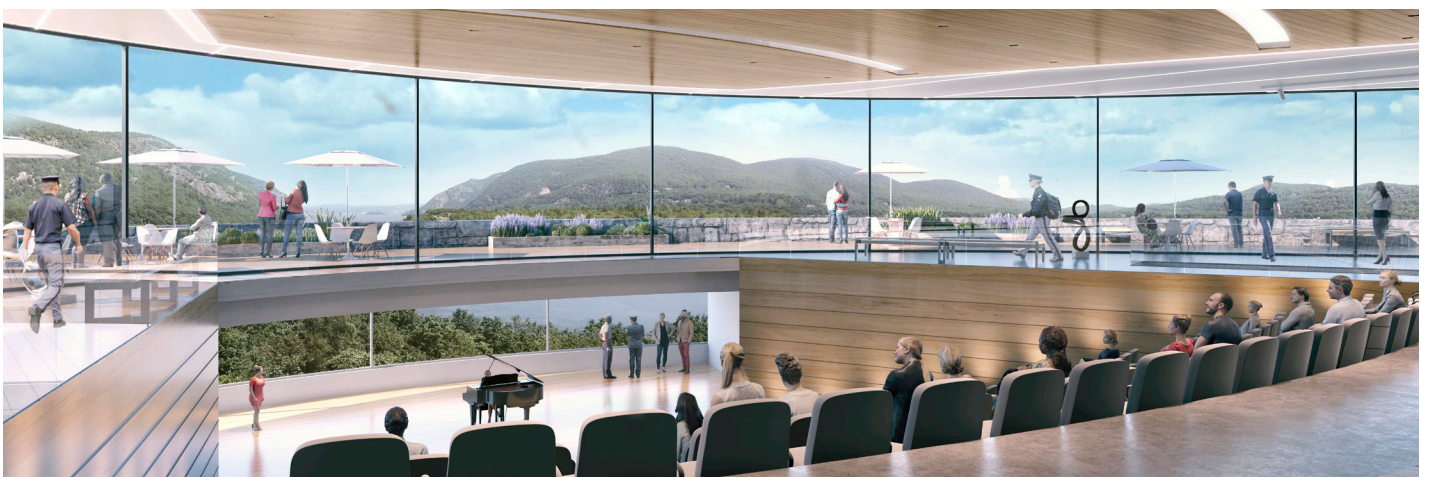
Renowned international architect Rafael Viñoly has been selected to work with the Academy to develop a facility worthy of West Point. Rafael Viñoly Architects projects include the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Reem-Kayden Center for Science and Computation at Bard College, the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts in Philadelphia, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Marble Arch Place in London.

▶▶▶ PUBLIC PORTAL

Just steps away from the Great Chain, whose links once stretched across the Hudson, this strategically located facility on Trophy Point will link West Point with the Army, the nation, and the world. Established as a strategic post during the Revolutionary War, West Point continues to serve at the forefront of our national defense in its development of leaders of character for our Army. In revealing the landscape of Trophy Point, the Link will symbolize this critical strategic role of West Point's mission while also answering the need of the Academy's deficit in its educational and programming space. As one of the public portals for visitors to West Point, the Link will tell the story of the institution's historic, Revolutionary past; showcase the academic depth and commitment to study of the human dimension of warfare; provide much-needed cadet and faculty interdisciplinary collaboration and conference space; and engage senior leaders in the Army, policymakers, and professionals in higher education with each other and the Academy. Nestled between iconic sites of the bend in the Hudson River and The Plain, the Link will be home to the Office of Admissions Welcome Center as the first stop for cadet candidates and their families.

HUMAN ENDEAVOR OF WARFARE

The hub of the center will be the West Point Humanities Center, dedicated to the principle that the human dimension lies at the core of both the Army's identity and war itself. In a 21st-Century world of technology and geopolitical complexity, one truth endures: war remains a human endeavor. In order to prepare graduates for the near term crucible of ground combat as well as for a future full of strategic challenges, West Point must equip them with a thorough understanding of war's human dimension. The West Point Humanities Center at The Link will provide the physical and intellectual space to help the Academy do precisely this for the long term. The center will harness the vitality of the humanities (English, foreign languages, philosophy, history, law, art history, music, and geography), disciplines that seek to understand and encourage innovative research at a time when the methods and modes of making war continue to multiply. The Link will provide a home for fellowship and research programs focused on a series of themes linking the humanities with the social sciences and STEM disciplines in service of the national good.



WHY A HUMANITIES CENTER AT WEST POINT

As West Point looks to the future, our educational programs and facilities are expanding to encompass new ways of looking at the world: cyber, biotechnology, autonomous systems, quantum computing, to name only a few. It is critical to invest equally in initiatives that explore the human impact of cutting-edge technologies on the battlefield and society, in war and peace. History is replete with examples of the destructive application of technologies without due consideration of their ethical, cultural, and social, and political consequences. A commitment to the balanced strategic growth of West Point's academic programs and facilities will ensure that we educate and inspire graduates who understand the contexts as well as the technologies themselves. Dedicated to the study of those contexts, the Center will expand West Point's capability and sustains its relevance while its multi-use academic programs and facilities will showcase, for internal as well as external audiences, the academic program's depth, rigor, and potential for creative interdisciplinary collaboration.

Like its analogues at near-peer institutions, the West Point Humanities Center will pursue excellence in interdisciplinary research through two-year themes inviting participation from all disciplines. Themes will serve as the link between the core humanities disciplines and STEM and the social sciences. Broad, dynamic themes—e.g., pandemics, cities, borders—will integrate the work of cadet, faculty, and visiting experts. The themes will also serve as an umbrella for exhibits, academic conferences, public lectures, and performances hosted at the center, with the goal to enrich the Academy and the Army's understanding of crucial ethical, leadership, and national-security challenges.

"The most distinguishing characteristic of the land domain [of war] is the human element."

—Army Doctrinal Publication 1, The Army, July 2019

LINKING PAST AND FUTURE

The subterranean design and grass roof reclaim the currently obscured, and even improve upon, the iconic Trophy Point viewshed. The Link's two floors span 42,000 square feet and are surrounded by an outdoor terrace that hugs the building embedded into the hillside. Flexible gathering and seminar spaces will give cadets and faculty new options for collaboration and study, while cadet humanities and fine arts clubs will have dedicated modern studios with the technical specifications required to rehearse and create works of art. The 200-seat, state-of-the-art lecture and performance space will fill a need currently not met by existing auditoriums and, combined with multi-use seminar rooms, provides a venue to host academic conferences and other gatherings. Galleries will host permanent and rotating exhibits that tell the story of Trophy Point and illustrate humanities at West Point. Exhibitions will reinforce the center's theme and feature military and veteran artists. A café and gift shop will cater to the public as well as to cadets and faculty using the space. The orientation theater will allow Admissions to meet prospective cadets and their families in a modern, vibrant academic space. [MORE ON ADMISSIONS](#)

Housed in a state-of-the-art building that anchors the Trophy Point redesign, the Link will be the strategic hub of West Point's past, present, and future: a link to the historic study and practice of the arts and humanities at West Point that also contributes to the preparation, discipline, and resilience of tomorrow's warriors. The site has long been the central focus of the visual arts at West Point: the location of drafting, drawing, and cartography classes since the days of nineteenth-century Drawing Master Robert W. Weir. Trophy Point also has a cultural significance beyond the academy. Weir was a member of the internationally recognized Hudson River School of painting, and the view of the Hudson from this particular spot is its iconic subject. The center's design, created by the internationally recognized firm of Rafael Viñoly Architects, is inspired by the bedrock upon which it is built and rooted in West Point history and tradition. The building honors our past by recalling a Revolutionary War redoubt and merges seamlessly with the natural terrain. The proposed building features facilities currently unavailable at West Point in a footprint that minimizes environmental impact, maximizes aesthetic potential, and harmonizes with the current landscape and view shed. The proposed building will be the most aesthetically appropriate and least disruptive structure ever built on this site.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Link at Trophy Point \$62 million

MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE



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