The revitalized gardens become an outdoor laboratory for urban ecology. They transform the gardens from picturesque to performative. The design focuses the architectural destinations to the north, positioned to capture views to the Washington Monument and Independence to the visitor experience, and to settings for dining, nature gardens, and cultural offerings. The pond is programmed year-round with recreational activity. The southwest portion of the site relaxes into a natural playscape with an ascending canopy walk. This creates a new experience on the water’s edge, capturing the essence of a museum without walls. A national audience. A national destination. A living machine.