

Joyce Kozloff: National Airport, Washington DC

Floor, Washington National Airport, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority; Cesar Pelli & Associates, Inc., New Haven, Architects; fabricated by Trivisanutto Mosaics, Spilimbergo, IT; photos Isaac Campbell

Visitors pass through a grand, light filled terminal, which feels almost like an art gallery if you look down while you walk. This 18' circular floor piece was one of a series by a wide range of artists. It is divided into 4 equal quadrants. Each sector contains a map of the Chesapeake Bay area from a different time period: the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Based on antique charts, the separate wedges indicate immense changes which emerged in the United States over those years. Traversing the circle and examining it closely, there are native American villages in the earliest section; later one can discover British settlements; and finally one notices the counties that surround the nation's capital, the District of Columbia. One can observe the increasing population density of the region, as well as the greater accuracy of the cartography. This is an airport piece which "travels" the viewer back through time. Marble mosaic is an ideal medium for mapping, as stones are the natural earth tones found in nature. There are passages of great delicacy, a feat of the craftsmen.