

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE

STUCKEMAN SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

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# MATERIAL AND IMMATERIAL

Designing an Architecture of Cognitive Systems

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Spring 2012

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for a baccalaureate degree in  
Architecture with honors in Architecture

Reviewed and approved\* by the following:

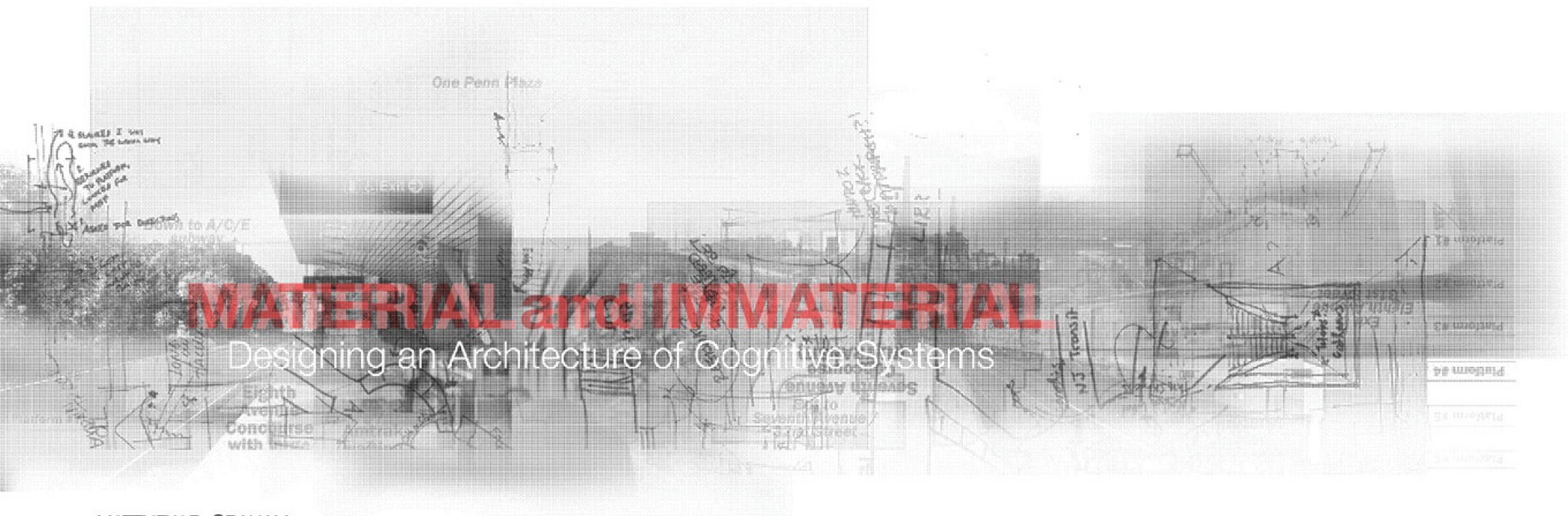
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Associate Professor of Architecture  
Honors Adviser

*\*Signatures are on file in the Schreyer Honors College.*



MATTHEW R. GRAHAM

## Material and Immaterial

DESIGNING AN ARCHITECTURE OF COGNITIVE SYSTEMS

Architecture, though initially created from the dual forces of human behavior and physical necessity, has become abstracted and separated from a psychological understanding of space, rendering the ways in which architects design buildings disconnected from the ways in which we inherently experience and use space. In the building of our environments, architecture has always been rooted in the material and immaterial, a concept that translates into space simultaneously existing in both the realm of the Res Extensa, or physical environment, and the Res Cogitans, or inhabitable mental space. Over time, however, as our definition of space has drifted toward the Res Extensa, architecture has tended toward crafting the material, treating the physical volume that we bodily inhabit superior to space shaped in our minds. This way of thinking is at odds with the ways in which we experience space and form an understanding of it as we move through it, use it, and live. Through experience, buildings are not objects, but a continuum, a series of moments distorted and rearranged in the mind in a constant play between our immediate surroundings and a greater understanding of their connections. In order for buildings to be responsive to their users, then, architecture must be viewed as a negotiator and connector between these immaterial and material elements of human experience.





# THESIS STATEMENT

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Architecture, though initially created from the dual forces of human behavior and physical necessity, has become abstracted and separated from a psychological understanding of space, rendering the ways in which architects design buildings disconnected from the ways in which we inherently experience and use space. In the building of our environments, architecture has always been rooted in the material and immaterial, a concept that translates into space simultaneously existing in both the realm of the Res Extensa, or physical environment, and the Res Cogitans, or inhabitable mental space. Over time, however, as our definition of space has drifted toward the Res Extensa, architecture has tended toward crafting the material, treating the physical volume that we bodily inhabit superior to space shaped in our minds. This way of thinking is at odds with the ways in which we experience space and form an understanding of it as we move through it, use it, and live. Through experience, buildings are not objects, but a continuum, a series of moments distorted and rearranged in the mind in a constant play between our immediate surroundings and a greater understanding of their connections. In order for buildings to be responsive to their users, then, architecture must be viewed as a negotiator and connector between these immaterial and material elements of human experience.

New York's Pennsylvania Station is a network that extends far beyond its physical location, although it has been treated as an object throughout its history. The initial McKim, Mead, and White building of 1910 was an object-signifier of the system, a symbol and head house of the vast reach of the rail network. When this building was demolished in 1963, the system remained, but the symbol was removed and replaced with unrelated objects, leaving the network disconnected from the urban fabric. By understanding Penn Station as a cognitive network of systems, a new building can be designed where these systems themselves form the building and are the building, rather than an object that merely represents the greater network. This building, composed through elements of support, user, social, and information systems are added over time as portions of the existing Penn Station and Penn Plaza complex are removed and taken into the network. This material is expanded outward to become useful in other parts of the system and signifies these distant points as a part of the continuous whole of the building. In this way, the design process of the building does not end with the creation of material, but is only complete when compressed in the mind of the system's users.



# MATERIAL and IMMATERIAL

## Designing an Architecture of Cognitive Systems

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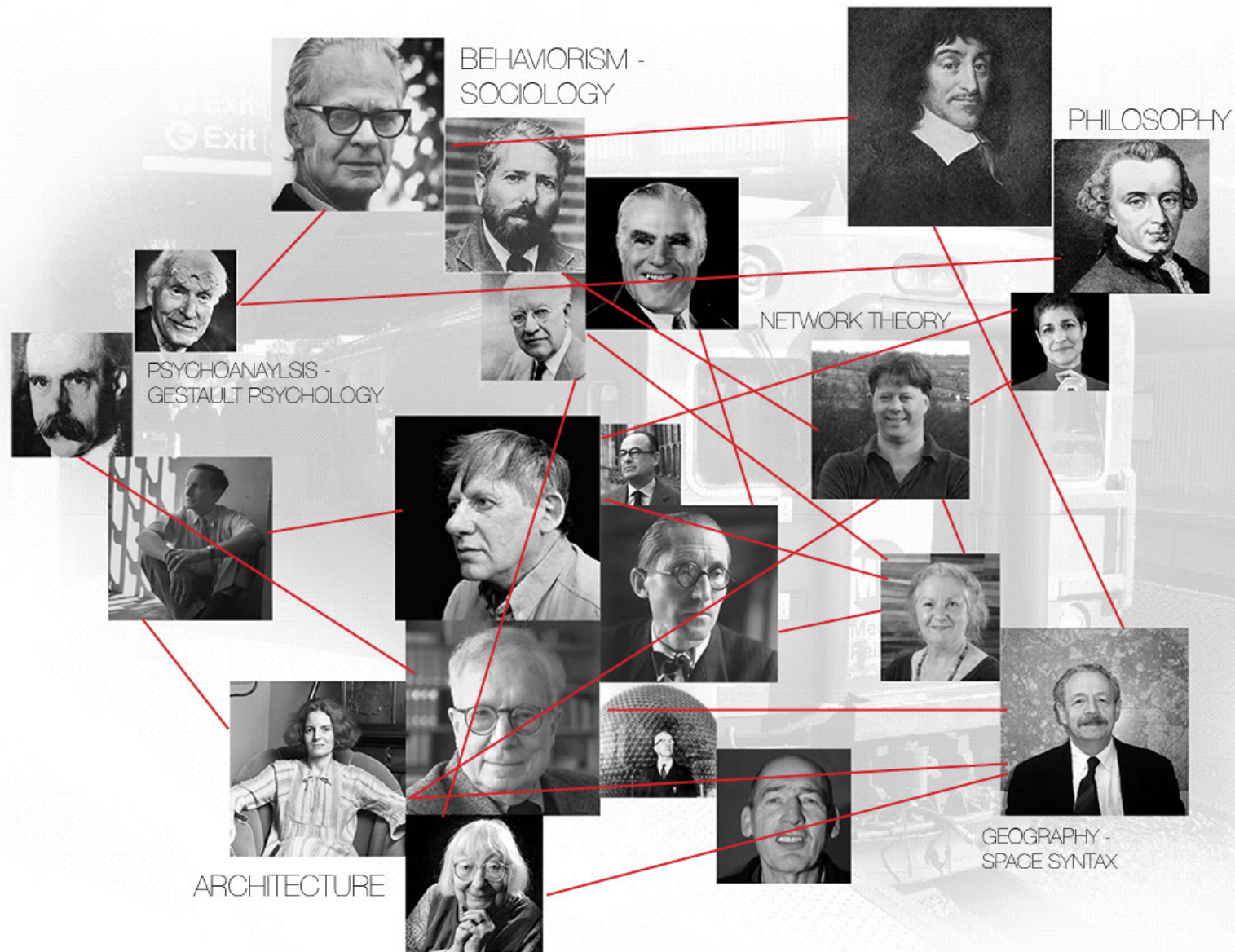
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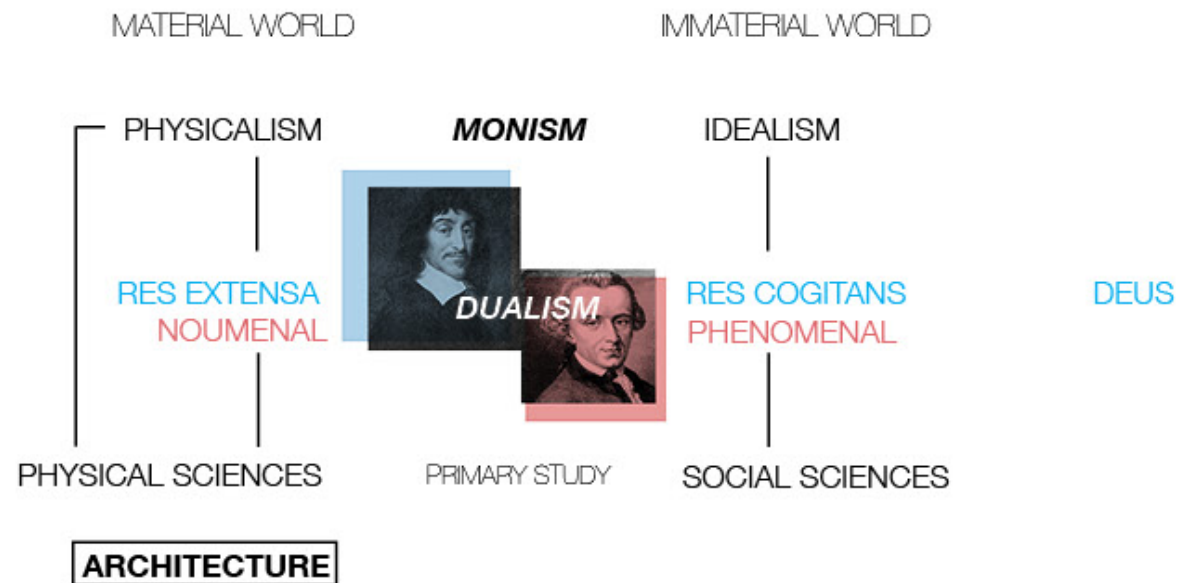
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# Body-Mind Problem

## Philosophical Foundations

BODY-MIND PROBLEM  
RES EXTENSA AND RES COGNITANS



"It was perhaps what I now think, viz., that this wax was neither the sweetness of honey, the pleasant odor of flowers, the whiteness, the figure, nor the sound, but only a body that a little before appeared to me conspicuous under these forms, and which is now perceived under others. But, to speak precisely, what is it that I imagine when I think of it in this way? Let it be attentively considered, and, retrenching all that does not belong to the wax, let us see what remains. There certainly remains nothing, except something extended, flexible, and movable. . .

I must, therefore, admit that I cannot even comprehend by imagination what the piece of wax is, and that it is the mind alone which perceives it"

- "SECOND MEDIATION" BY RENE DESCARTES



# Architectural Foundations

MATERIAL AND IMMATERIAL CATALYSTS  
ABSTRACTION INTO TROPES



RES COGITANS

RES EXTENSA

BEHAVIOR  
AND SOCIAL

PHYSICAL

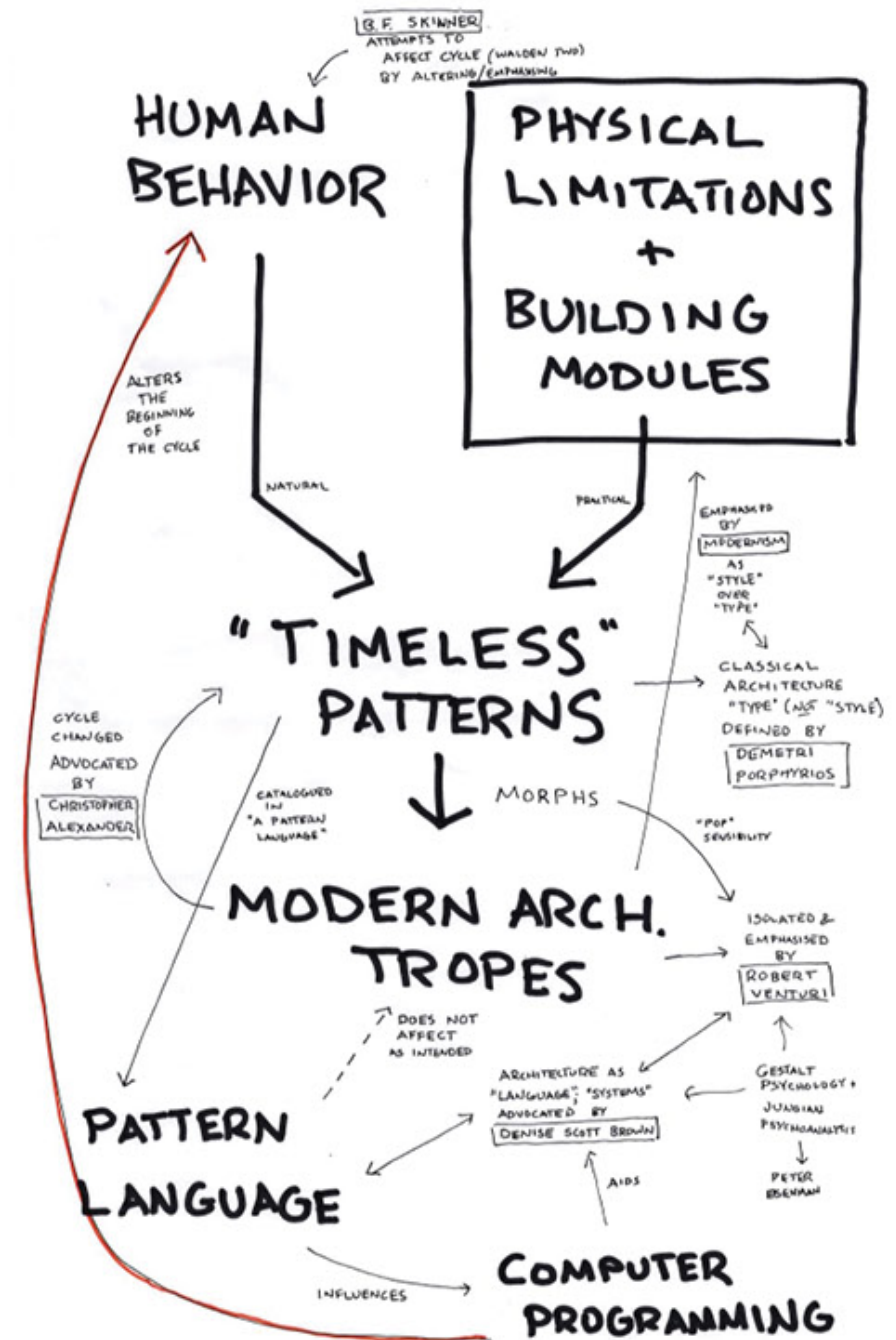
TRADITIONAL  
ARCHITECTURE

ABSTRACTION

CONTEMPORARY  
ARCHITECTURAL  
TROPES

TYPE

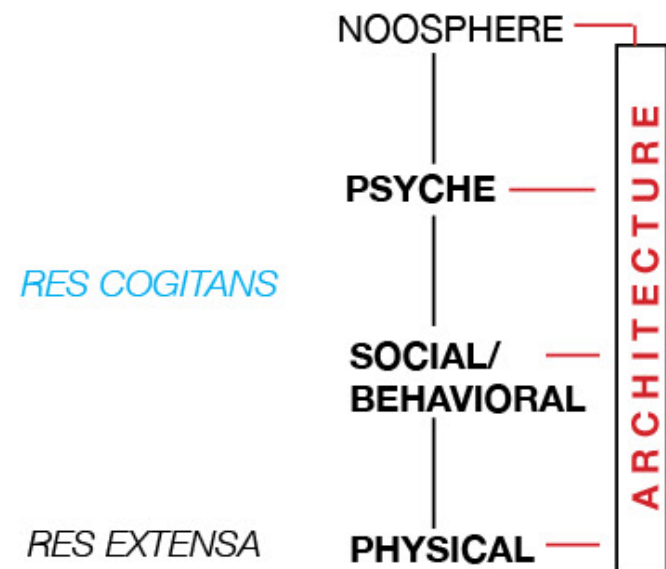
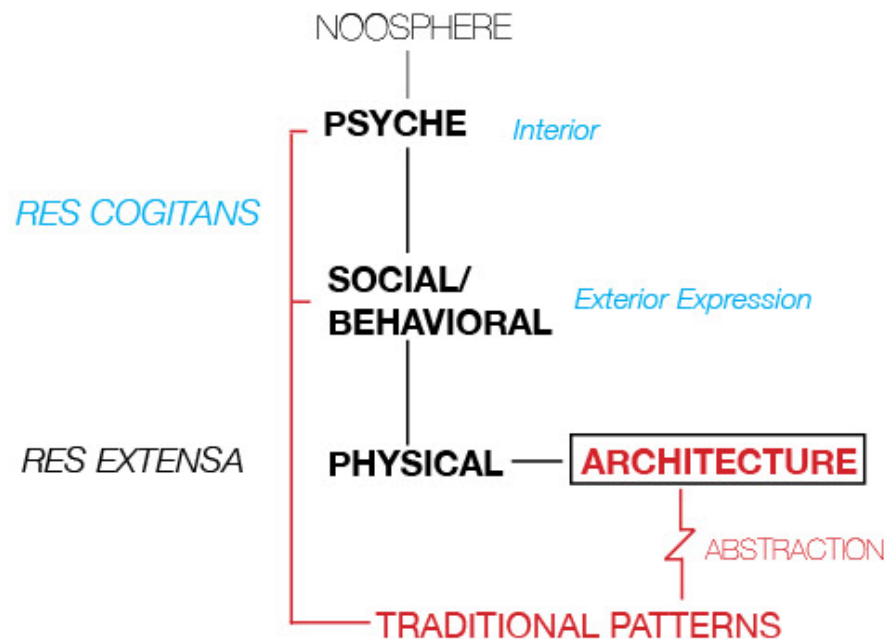
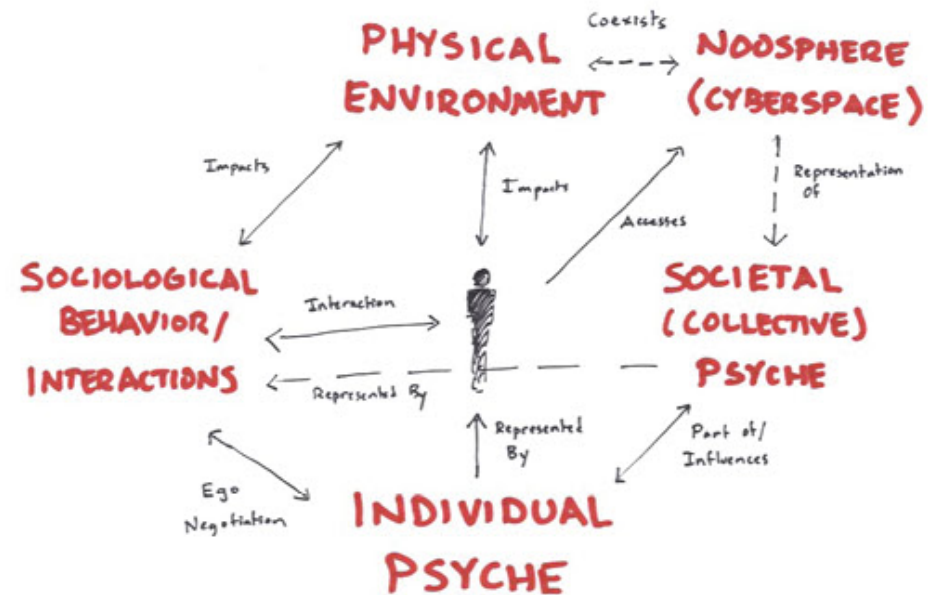
STYLE



## Psychological Concepts

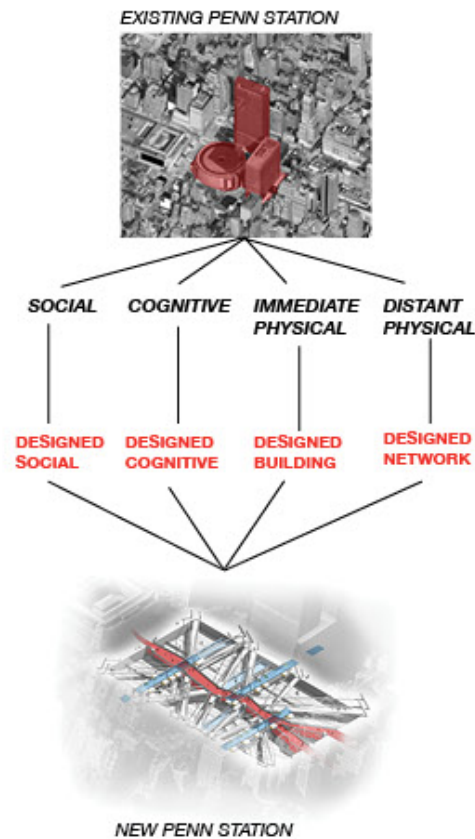
PSYCHOLOGICAL LAYERS OF SPACE

ARCHITECTURE'S RELATIONSHIP TO RES COGITANS



# Design Concepts

DESIGN PROCESS DIAGRAM  
DESIGN PROCESS COMPONENTS



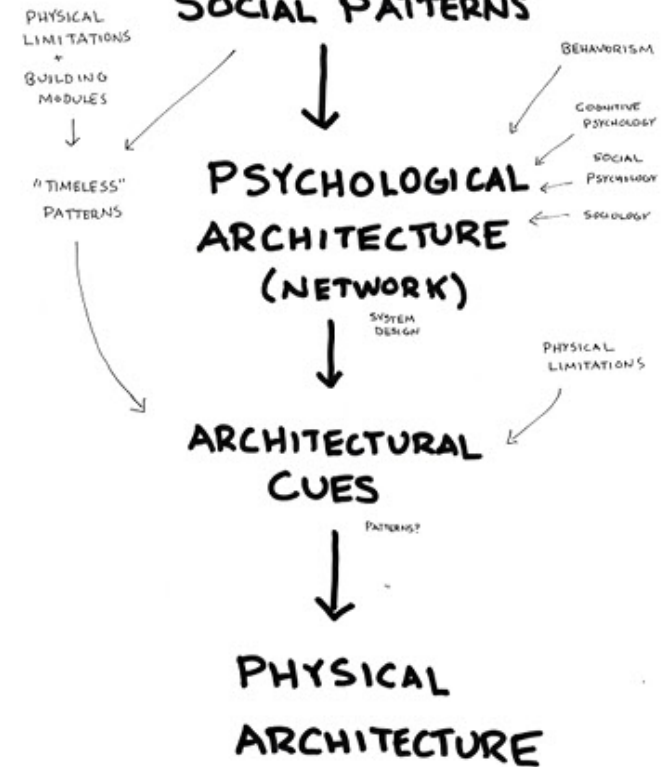
RES COGITANS

ARCHITECTURE OF  
RES COGITANS

Translation

ARCHITECTURE OF  
RES EXTENSA AND  
RES COGITANS

HUMAN  
BEHAVIOR  
+  
SOCIAL PATTERNS



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## Building as Psychological Network

EARLY BUILDING SYSTEMS IDEAS



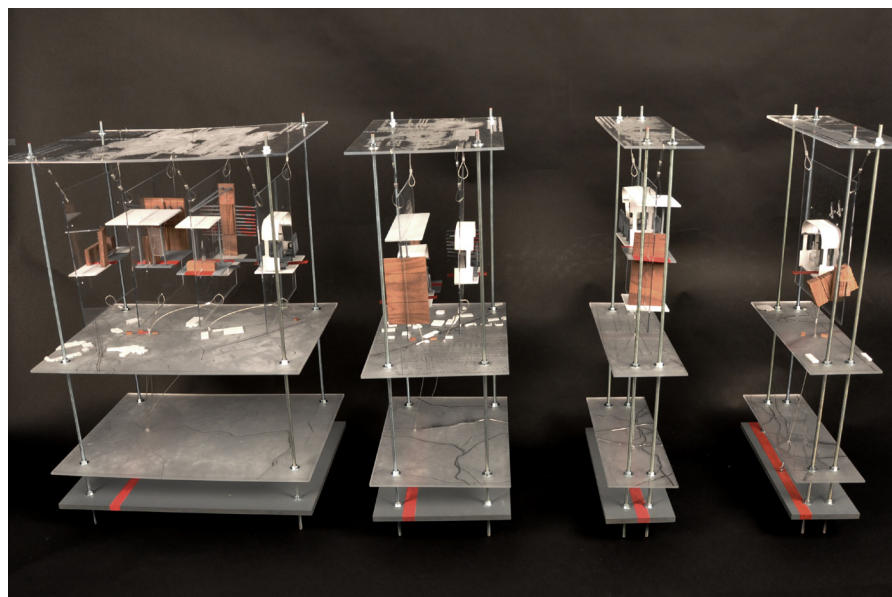
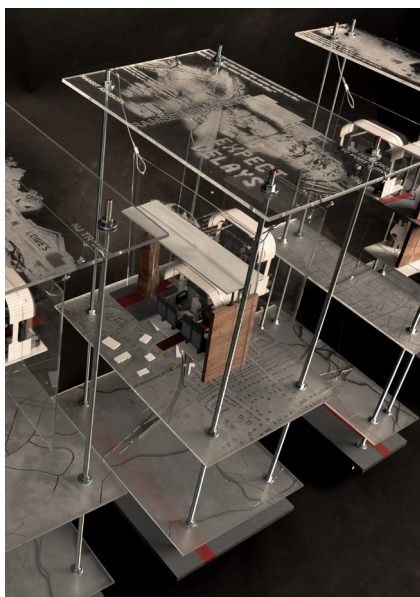
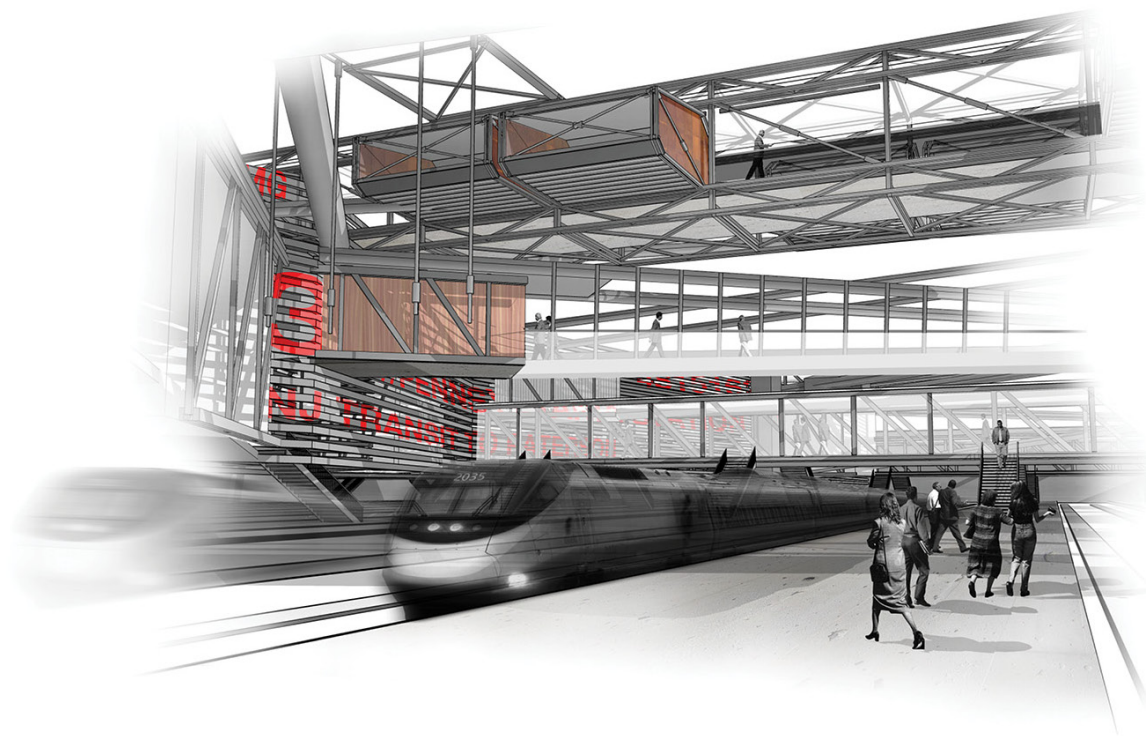
If architecture is to be a negotiator and connector between the Res Extensa and Res Cogitans elements of human experience, a form must be developed as a way of representing mental and social space in a similar method to physical space.

If a building is first treated as a network, a series of interconnected systems (as espoused by Denise Scott Brown and the space syntax movement), then it can be understood as multiple interlocking layers of spatial systems, technical systems, behavioral systems, and social systems. In this way, a building will not be designed as physical and material space first, but rather as a Res Cogitans web of mental and behavioral elements.

This network can then be translated into physical form by means of architectural cues, following traditional patterns and psychological principles. This step, the first and most extensive used in pattern language and followers of gestalt psychology (like Robert Venturi), is used as a *direct* connection between the mental understanding of space and the physical, rather than an indirect assumption.

Using the vocabulary of space syntax, this will allow mental and behavioral space to be on *either side* of the physical architecture, as it both creates the physical form and is affected by it.







# Cognitive Site Analysis

COGNITIVE MAPPING  
USER EXPERIENCE  
'IMMATERIAL' SITE PLANS

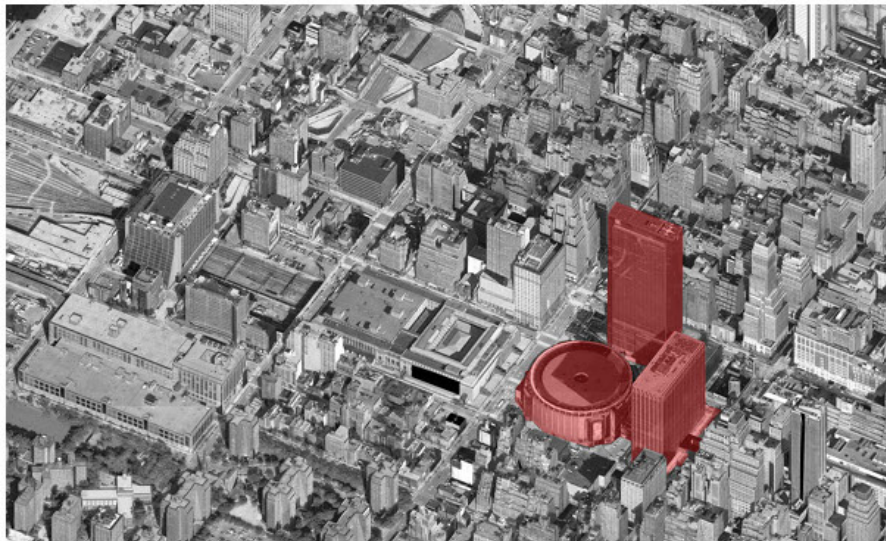






# Pennsylvania Station Site

MANHATTAN, NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
BETWEEN 31ST AND 33RD STREETS  
AND 7TH AND 8TH AVENUES



BIRDSEYE LOOKING NORTH  
SHOWING MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, 2 PENN PLAZA, AND 4 PENN PLAZA

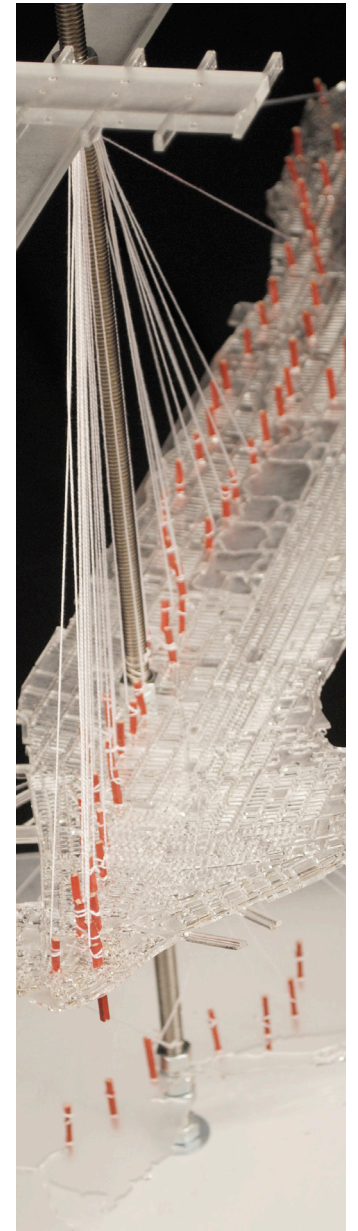
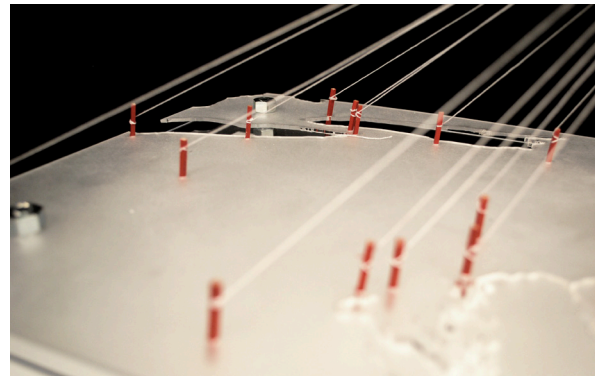
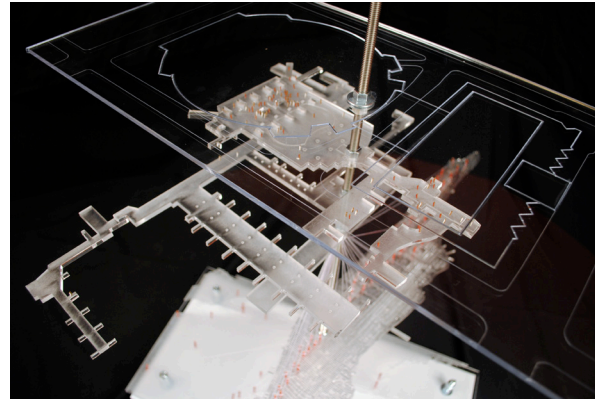
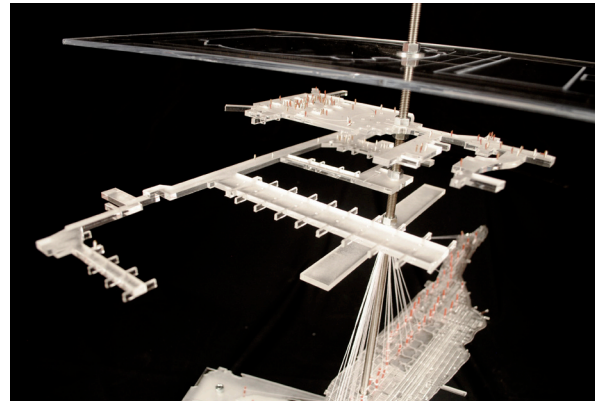
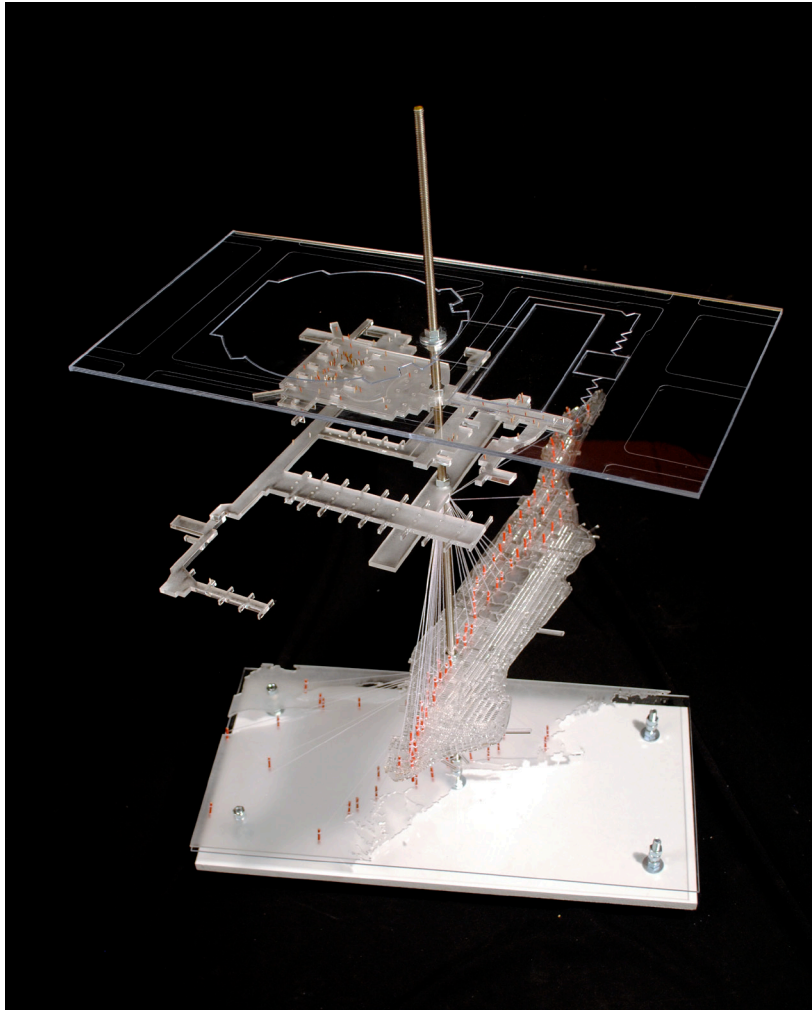


SITE PLAN  
WITH ENTIRE PENN PLAZA COMPLEX HIGHLIGHTED

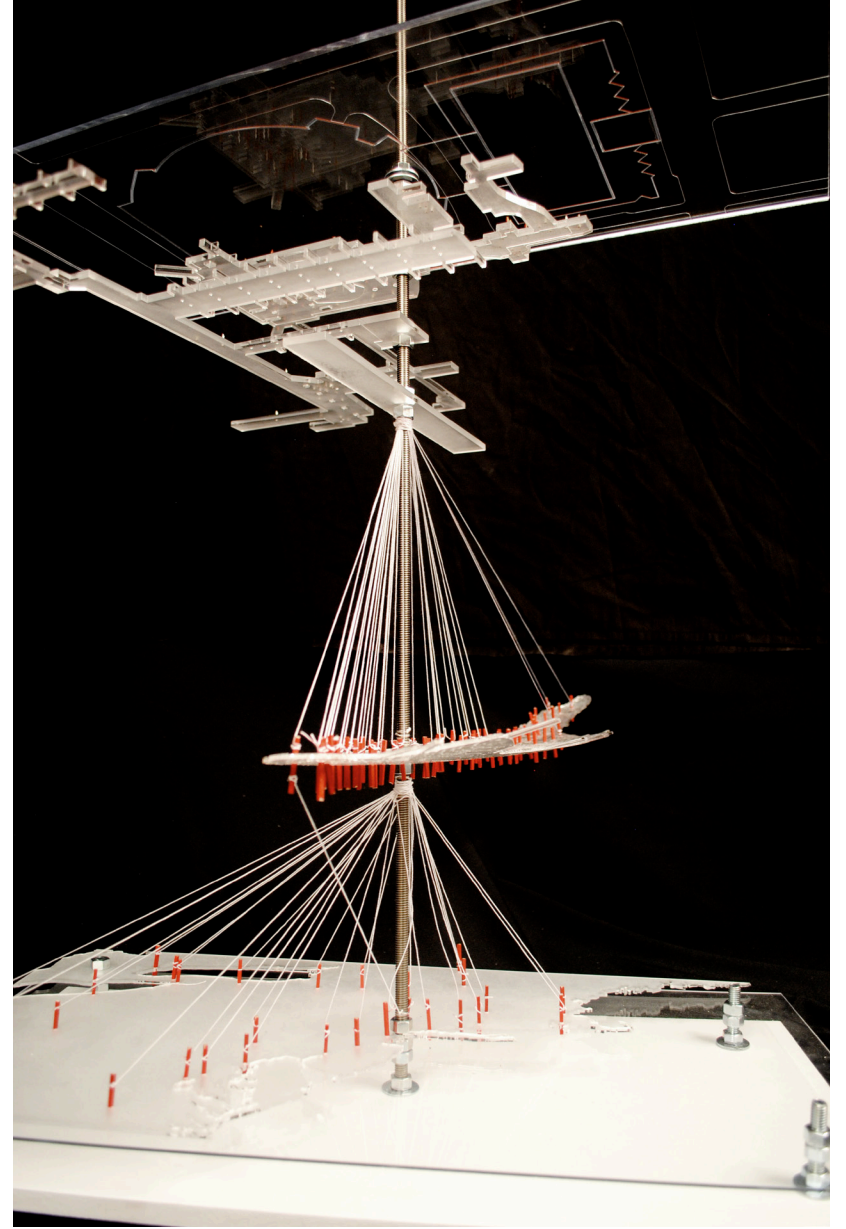
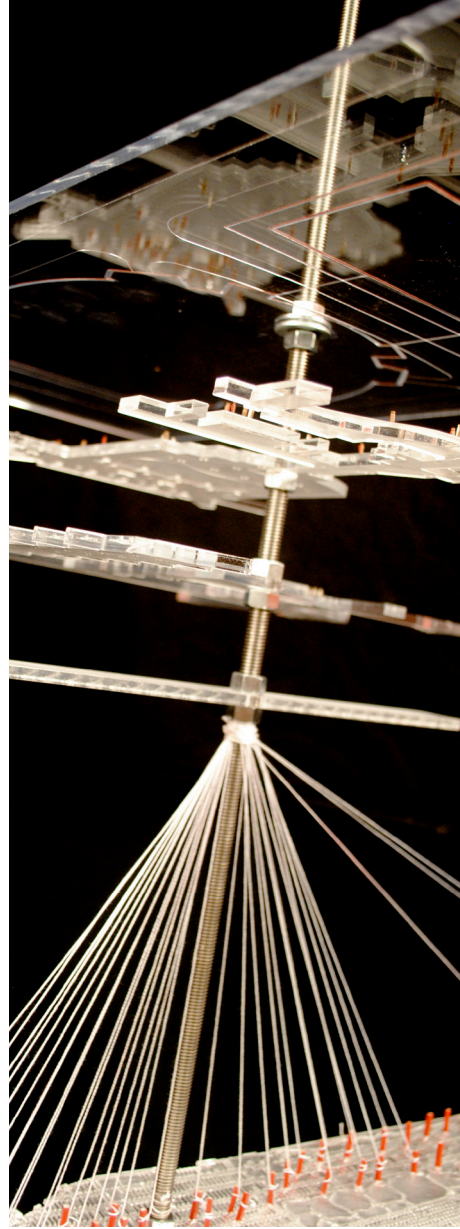
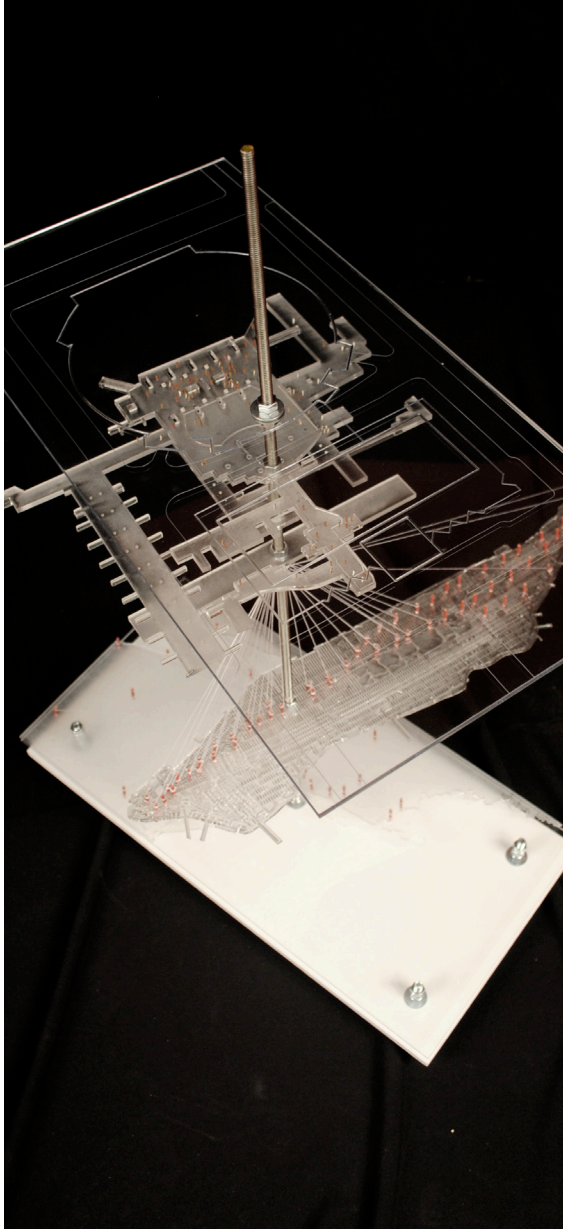


## Site Model

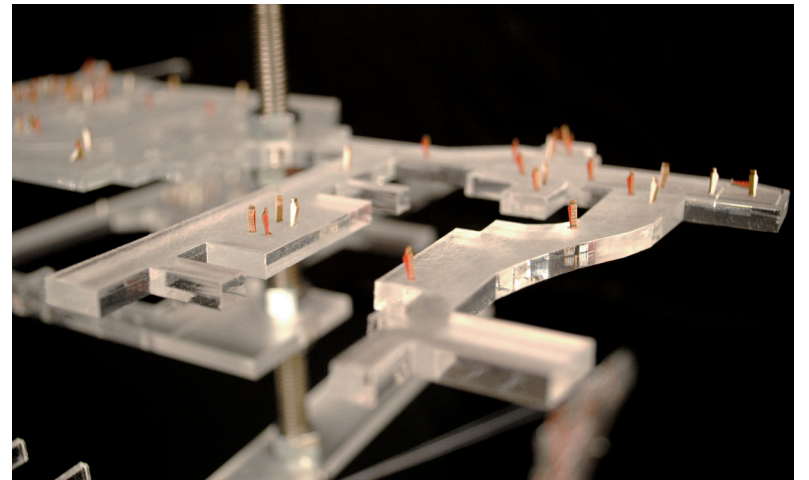
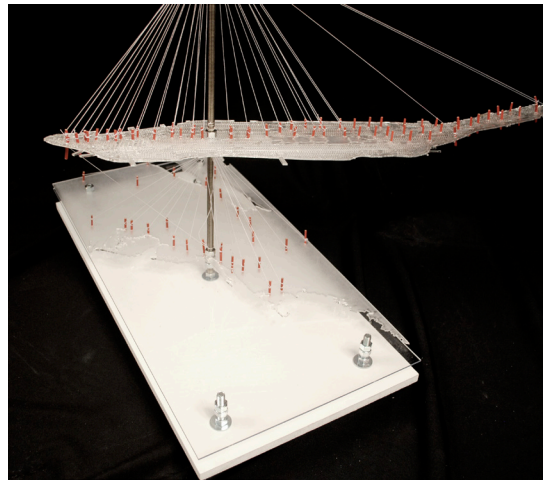
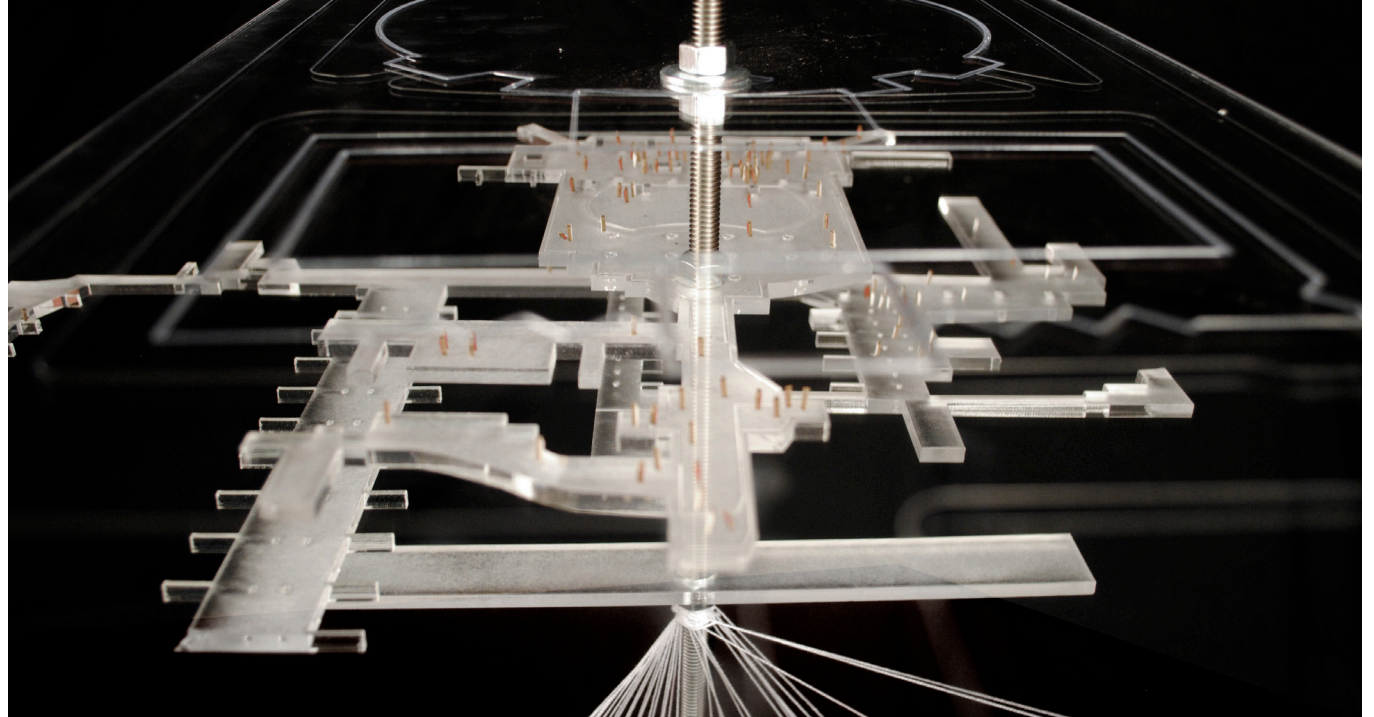
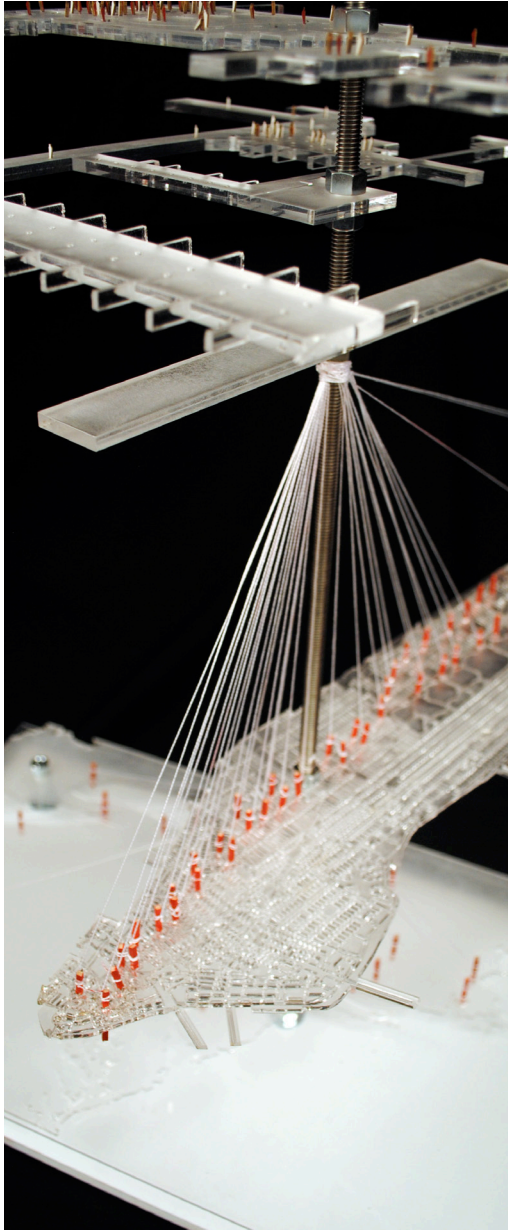
SHOWING EXISTING PENN STATION  
AND ITS DISTANT CONNECTIONS









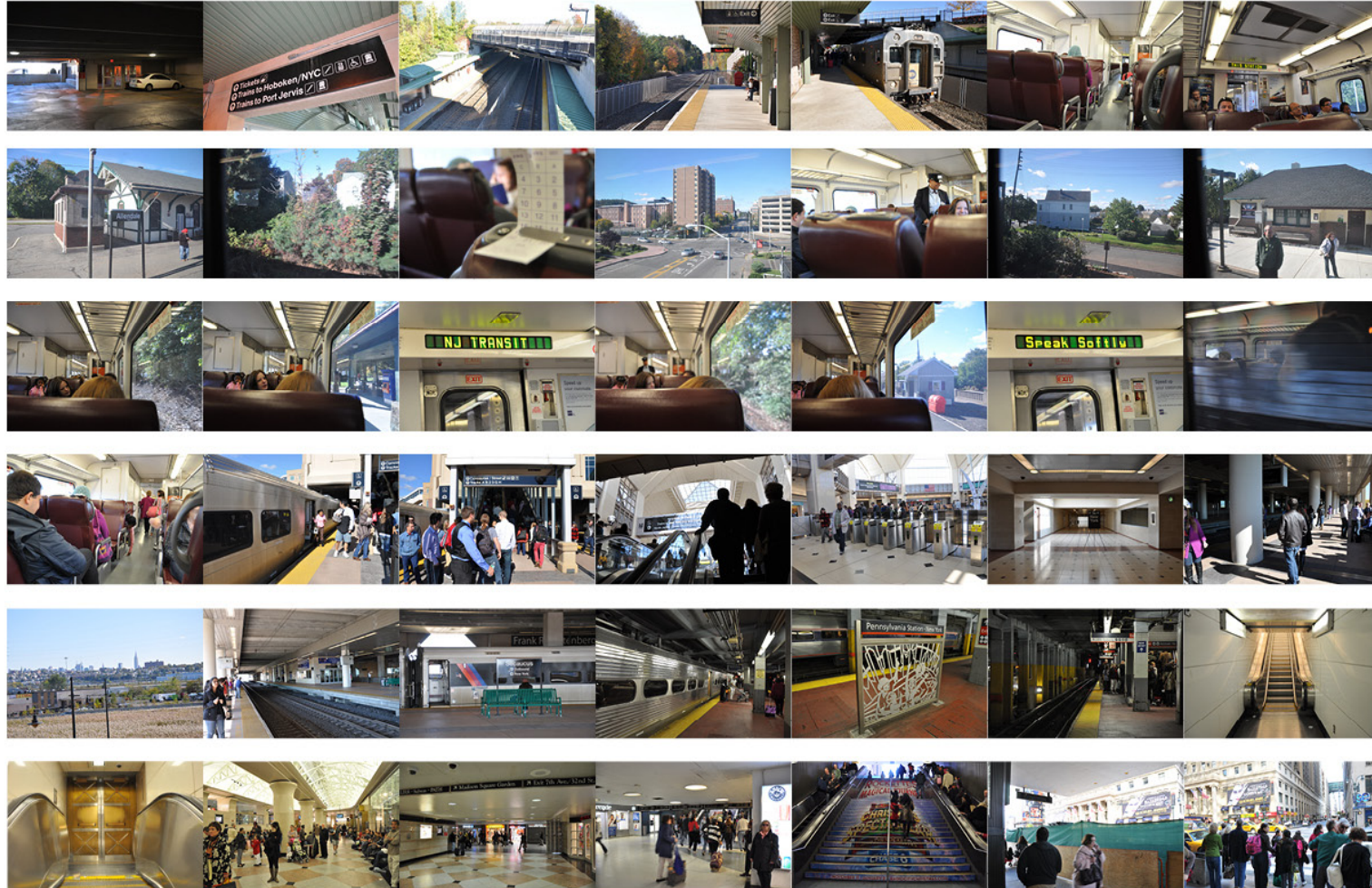




# Penn Station as Pathway

ANALYSIS OF TRAIN FROM RAMSEY RT 17 STATION TO PENN STATION

## Ramsey, NJ



7th Ave & 32nd St, New York, NY



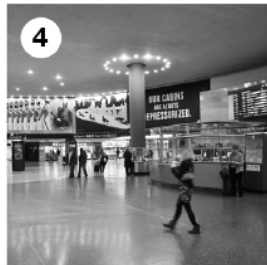
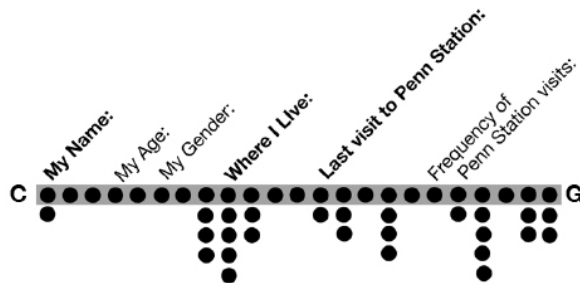
# Cognitive Mapping Exercise

IMMATERIAL AND MEMORY MAPPING  
USER UNDERSTANDING OF STATION

## Penn Station

### Cognitive Guide

Know something, Share something



**1** On a separate piece of paper, draw a map of Penn Station (your understanding of the station's layout)

**2** As a separate map, draw the location of Penn Station

**3** Again as a separate map, draw your typical route to Penn Station and from Penn Station to your final destination

**4** Write directions to the NJ Transit area from both of the locations pictured at left. If you don't know how, state that you don't know.

**5**

*An attempt to develop a representation of the subject's Res Cognitas understanding of the space. Drawing and memory are utilized to avoid physicalist bias.*

*This step attempts to ascertain the subject's understanding of Penn Station's connection to its surroundings and the urban fabric*

*This drawing shows the station's connections to various distant spaces and attempts to clarify's the subject's understanding of the station as part of a greater system and sequence. It can also show the relative importance of the station in the subject's system.*

*This exercise attempts to show the difficulty of navigating the station and most subject's lack of understanding of how the parts of the station are connected to its greater whole.*

See Next Page



# Penn Station

## Cognitive Guide

Know something, Share something



**6** Number these pictures in a sequence that makes sense to you



*This exercise attempts to see what connections subjects can draw between the locations pictured to the left and the significance of the sequence they select. Will the subjects group locations that are located near one another? Will they put them in the sequence that they experience through the station?*

# Cognitive Mapping Analysis

## HAND-DRAWN USER MAPS



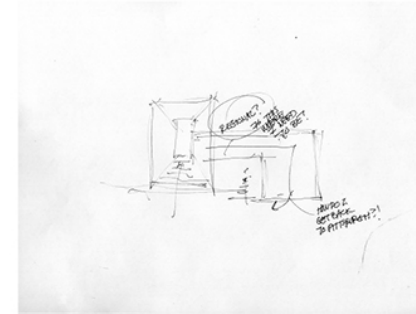
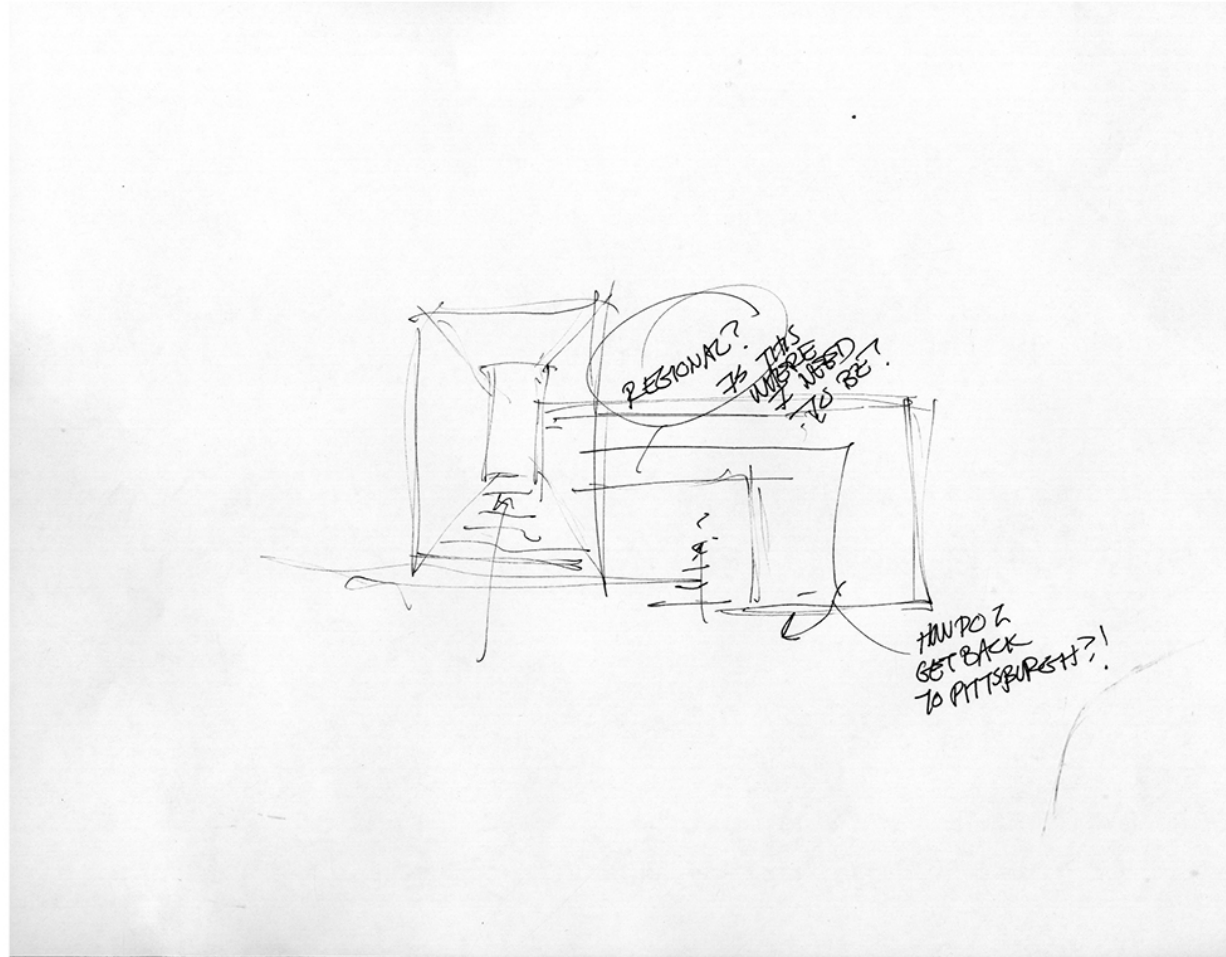
*Subjects often expressed confusion while in the station. All drawings, even the few that are fairly similar to the station's actual layout, only express a small portion of the building, and the greatest moments of error occur between systems. A few subjects drew perspectives of moments within the station.*



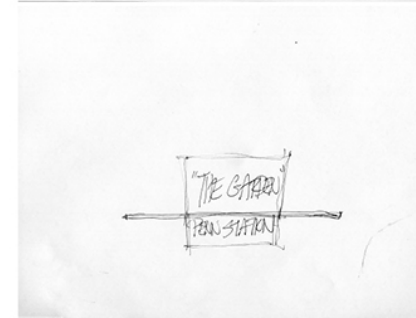
*Most subjects drew Manhattan although a few drew more local maps and one drew a more experiential location map. A majority of subjects either located Penn Station in the wrong part of the city (at Grand Central in multiple instances) or drew landmarks in the wrong locations relative to the station.*



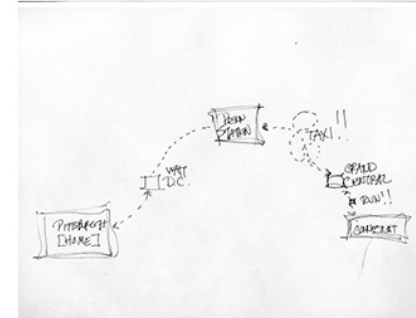
*Subjects drew and expressed both material/physical networks (buildings, taxis) and immaterial ideas (speed, emotion, time).*



1



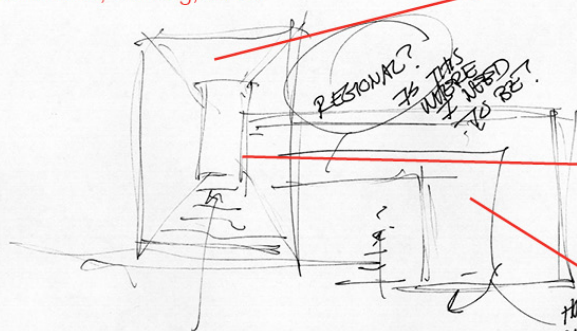
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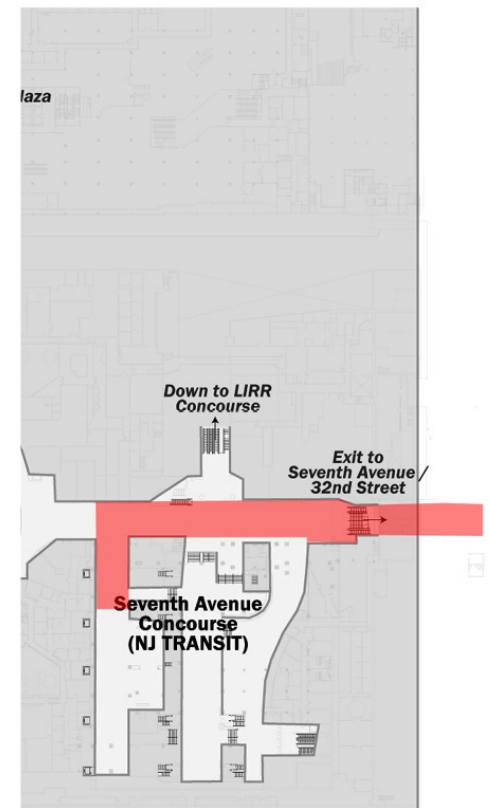
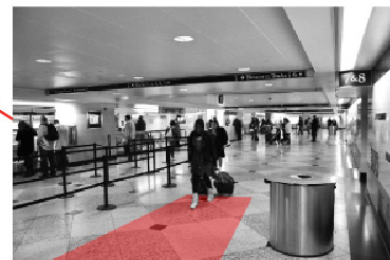
Just the entry portal -  
no facade, building, street

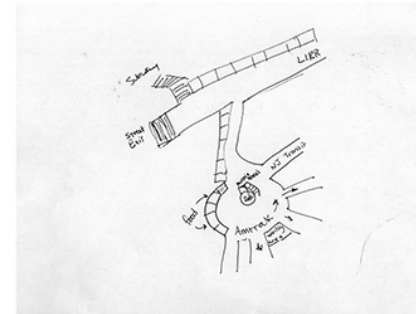
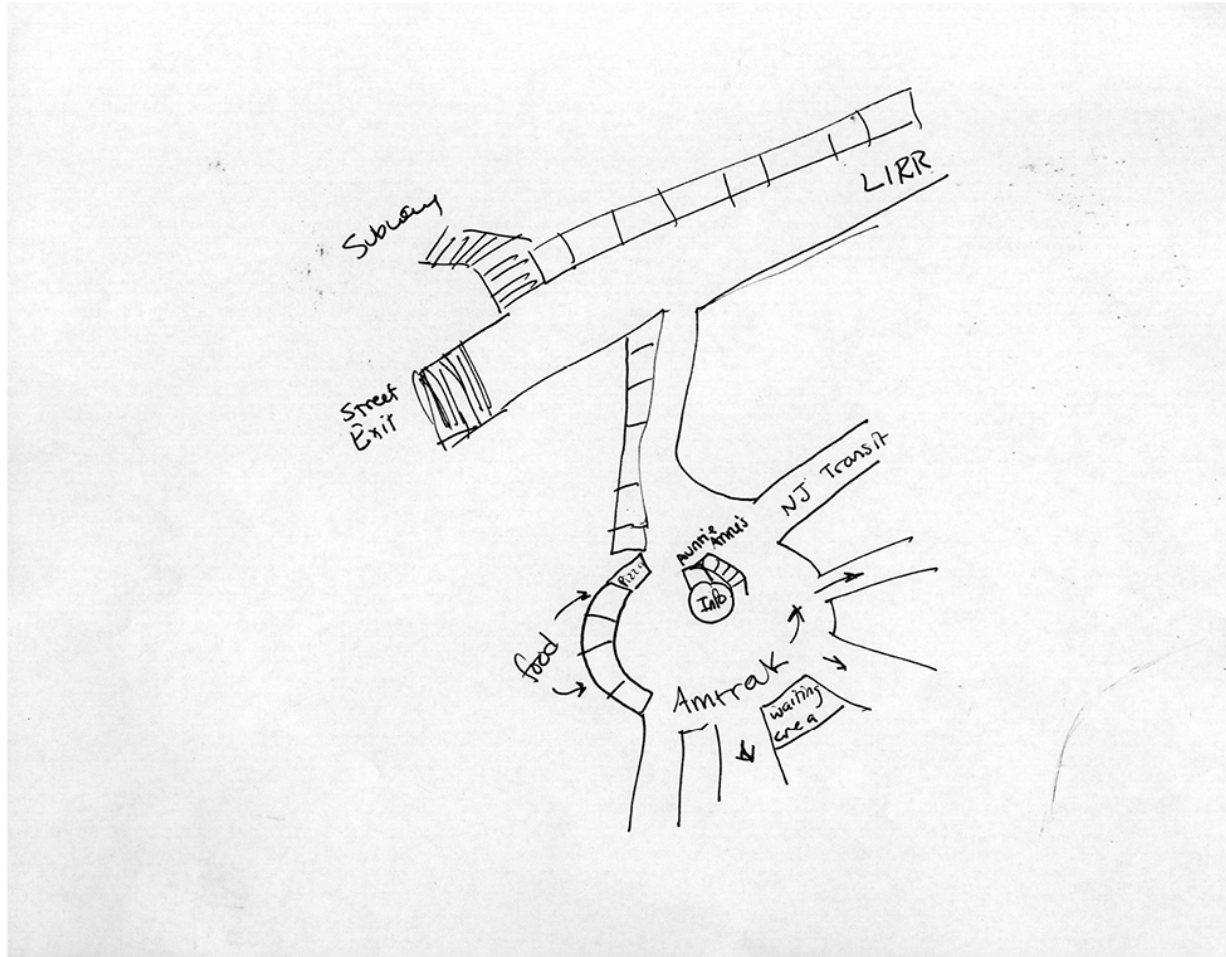


Noted confusion, twice

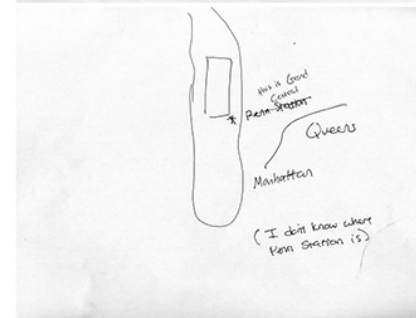
Turn toward "REGIONAL?" -  
NJ Transit concourse

Right turn drawn,  
but actually a left turn

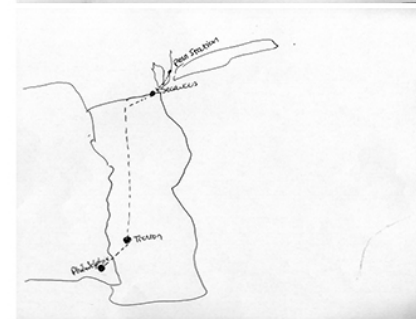




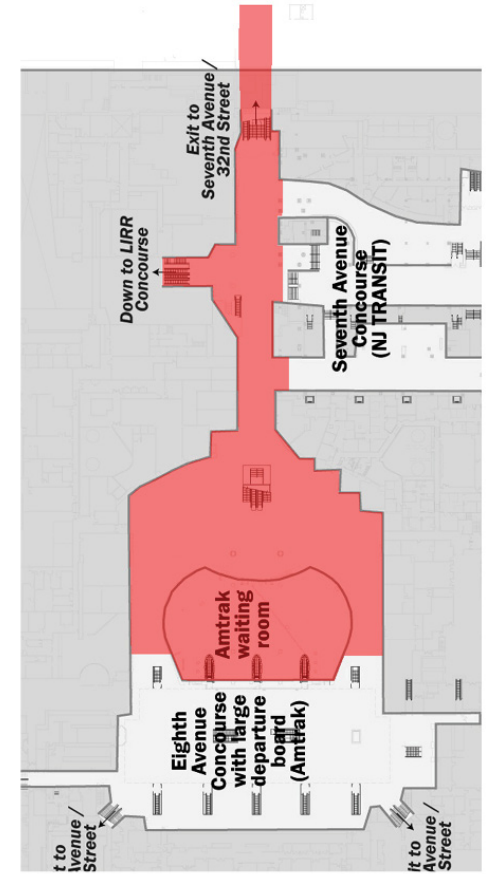
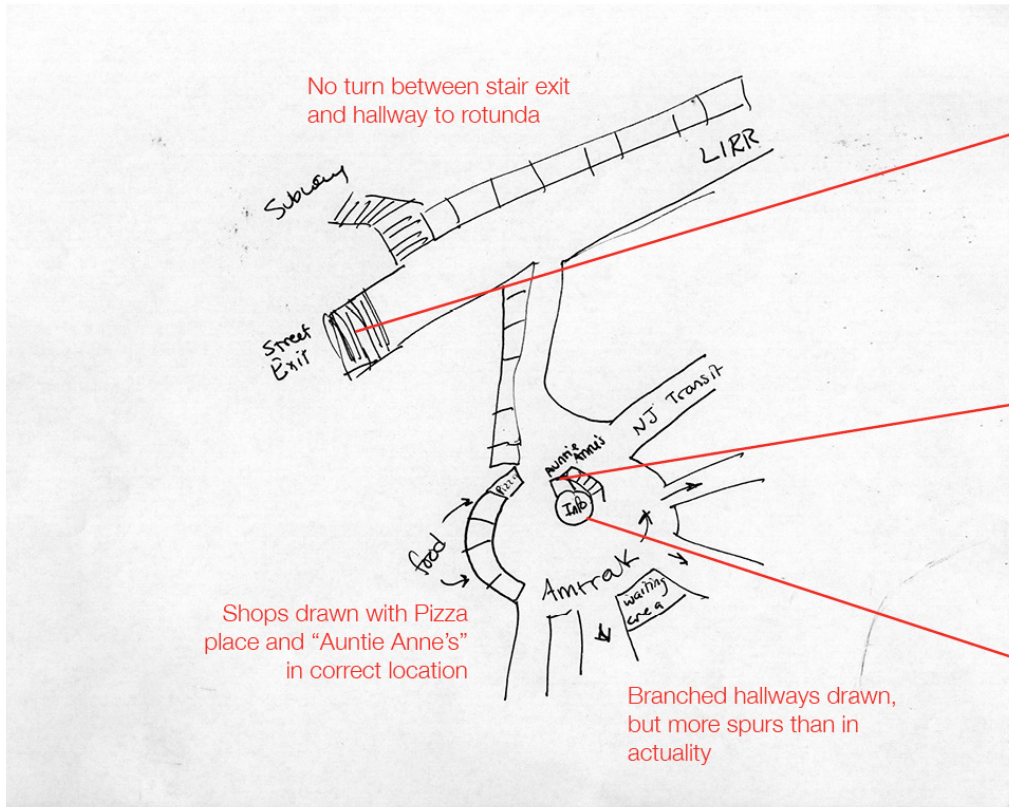
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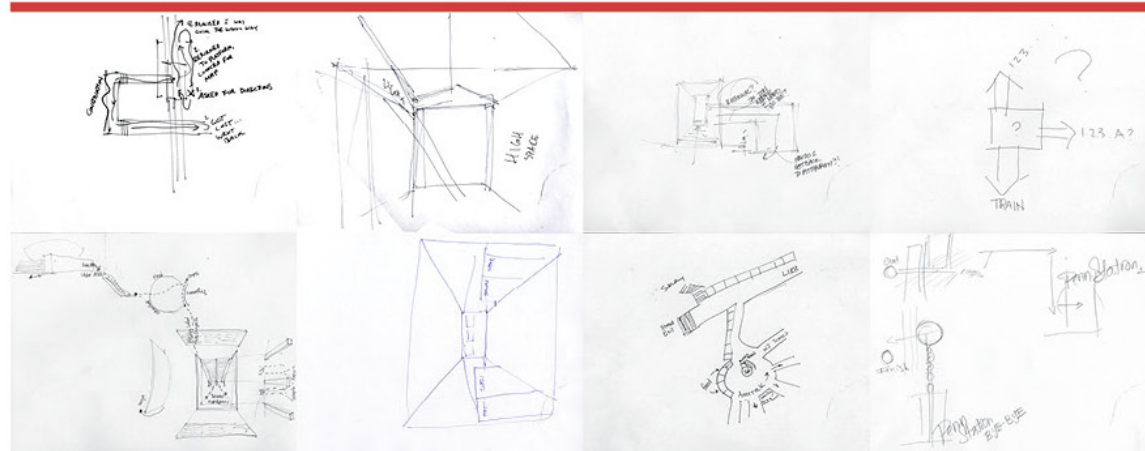
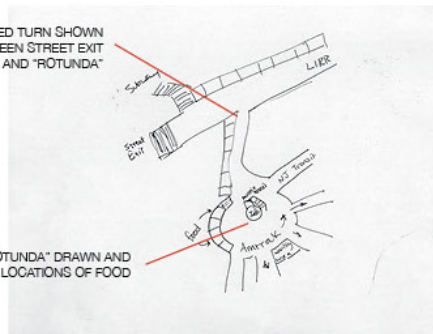
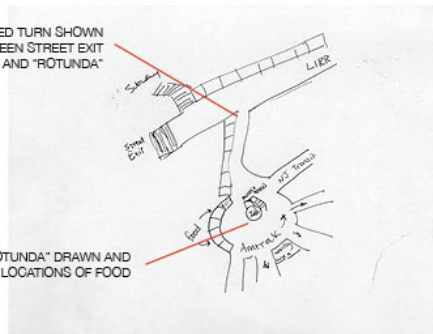
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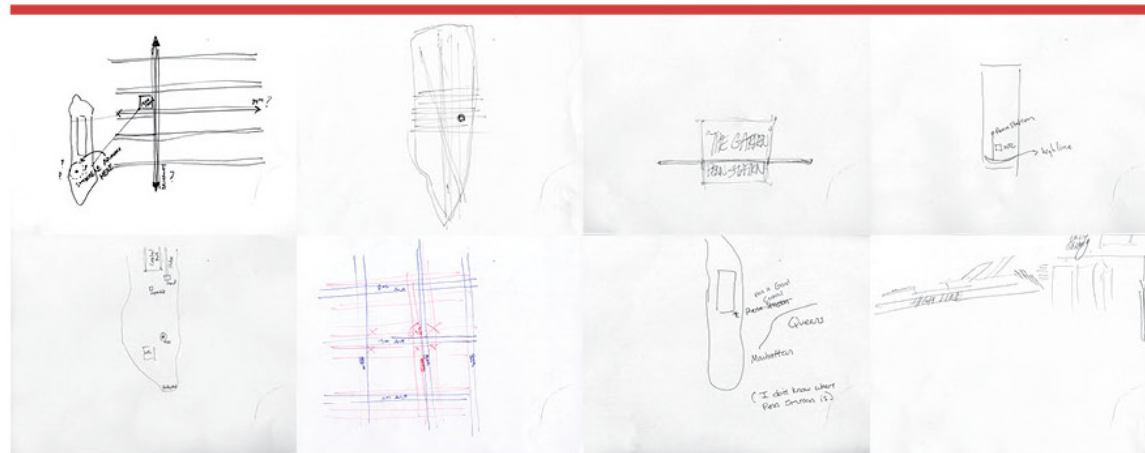
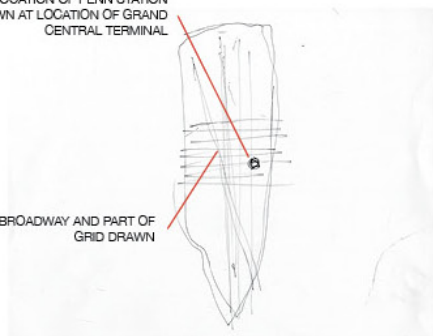
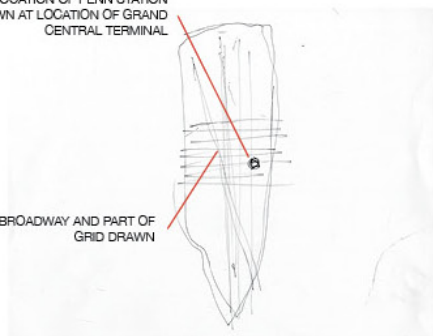
## 01 UNDERSTANDING OF STATION LAYOUT

PORTIONS OF BUILDING UNDERSTOOD AND IN RELATION TO SPECIFIC MOMENTS ALONG PATHS



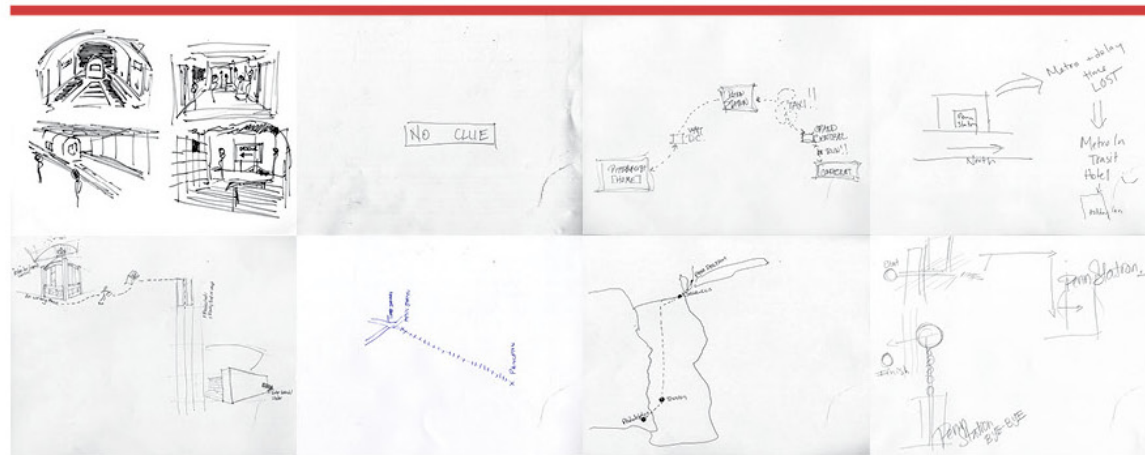
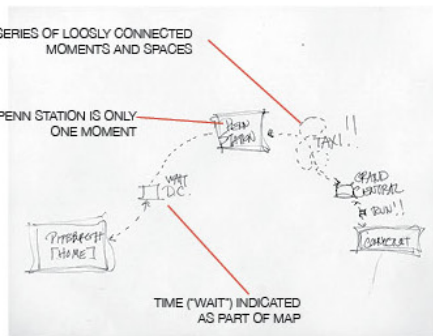
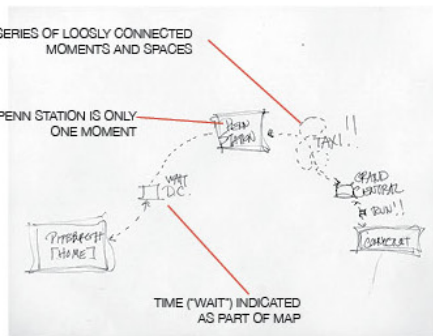
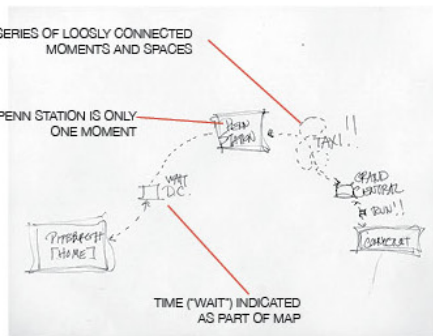
## 02 CONNECTION TO URBAN SYSTEM

### DISCONNECT BETWEEN UNDERSTANDING OF URBAN LAYOUT AND STATION LOCATION



### 03 SEQUENTIAL UNDERSTANDING OF SPACE

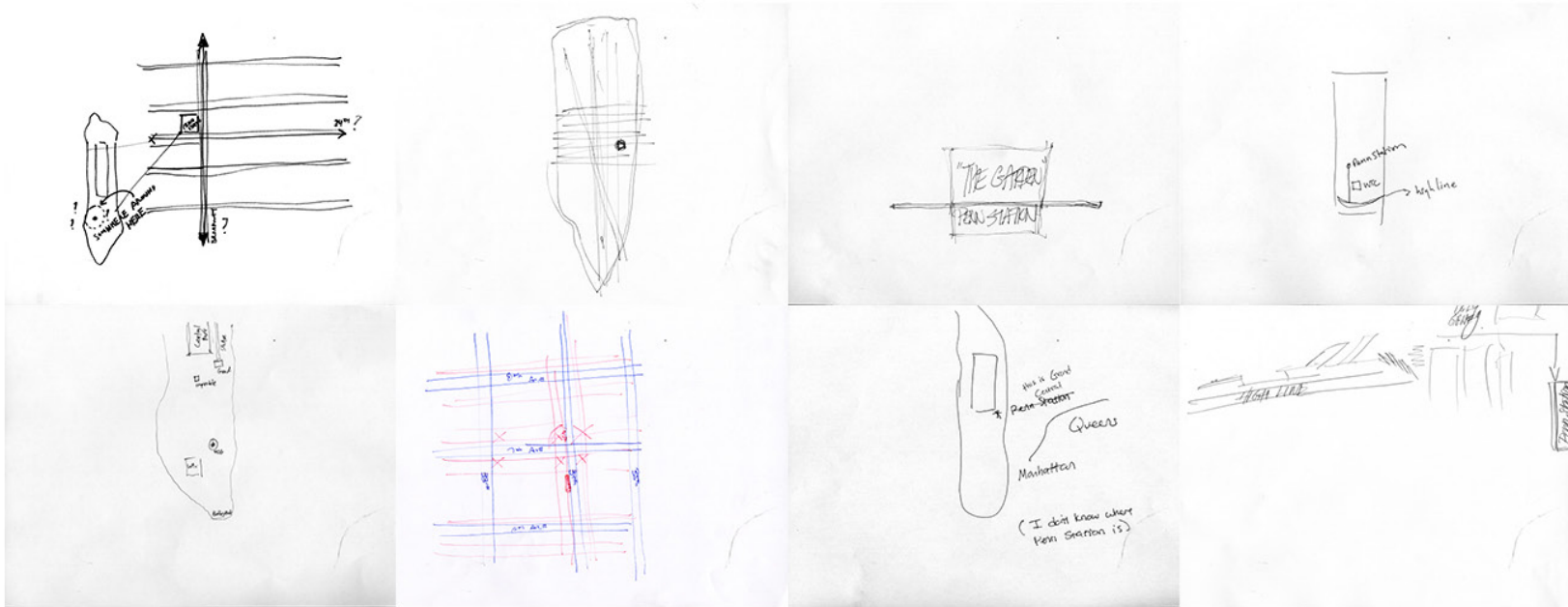
STATION UNDERSTOOD AS A PATHWAY AND AN IN-BETWEEN SPACE CONNECTING DISTANT LOCATIONS





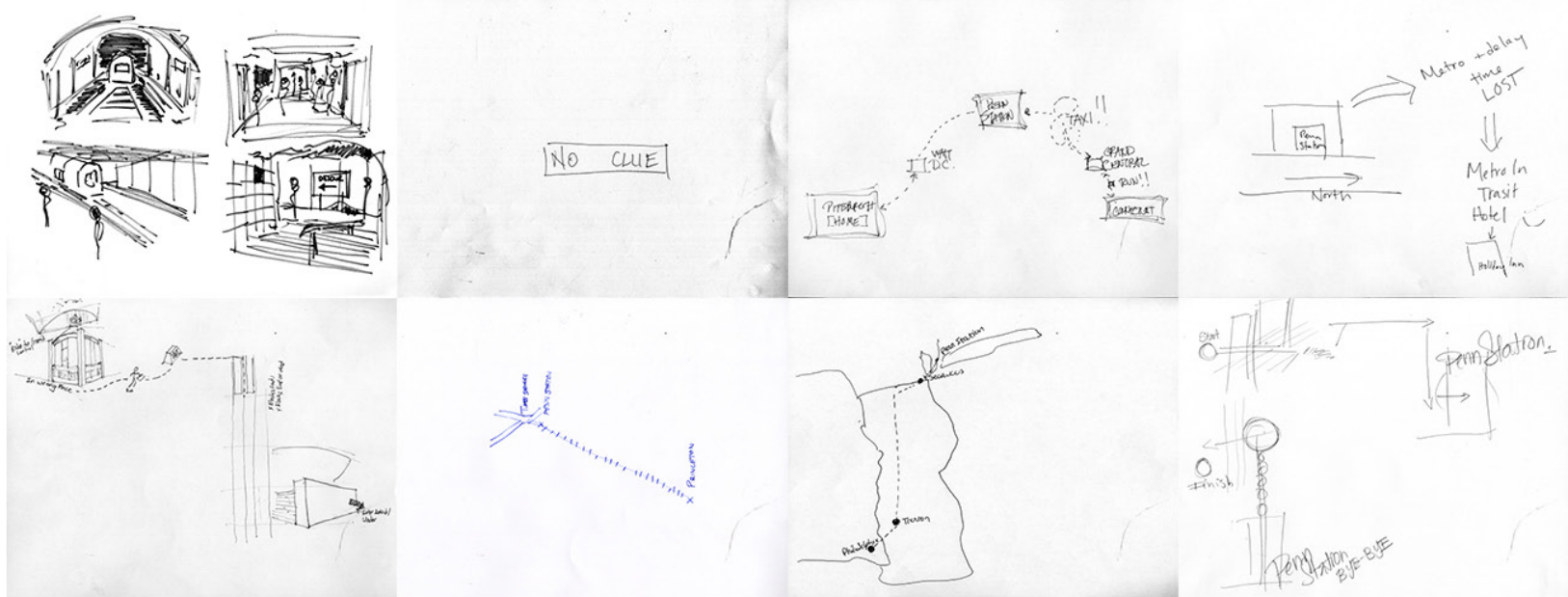


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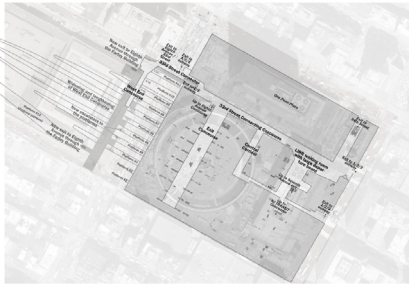
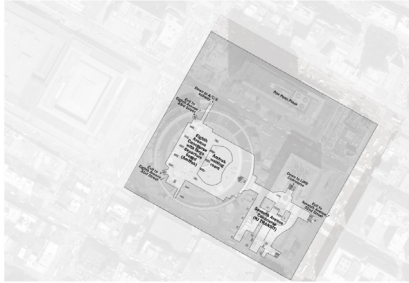
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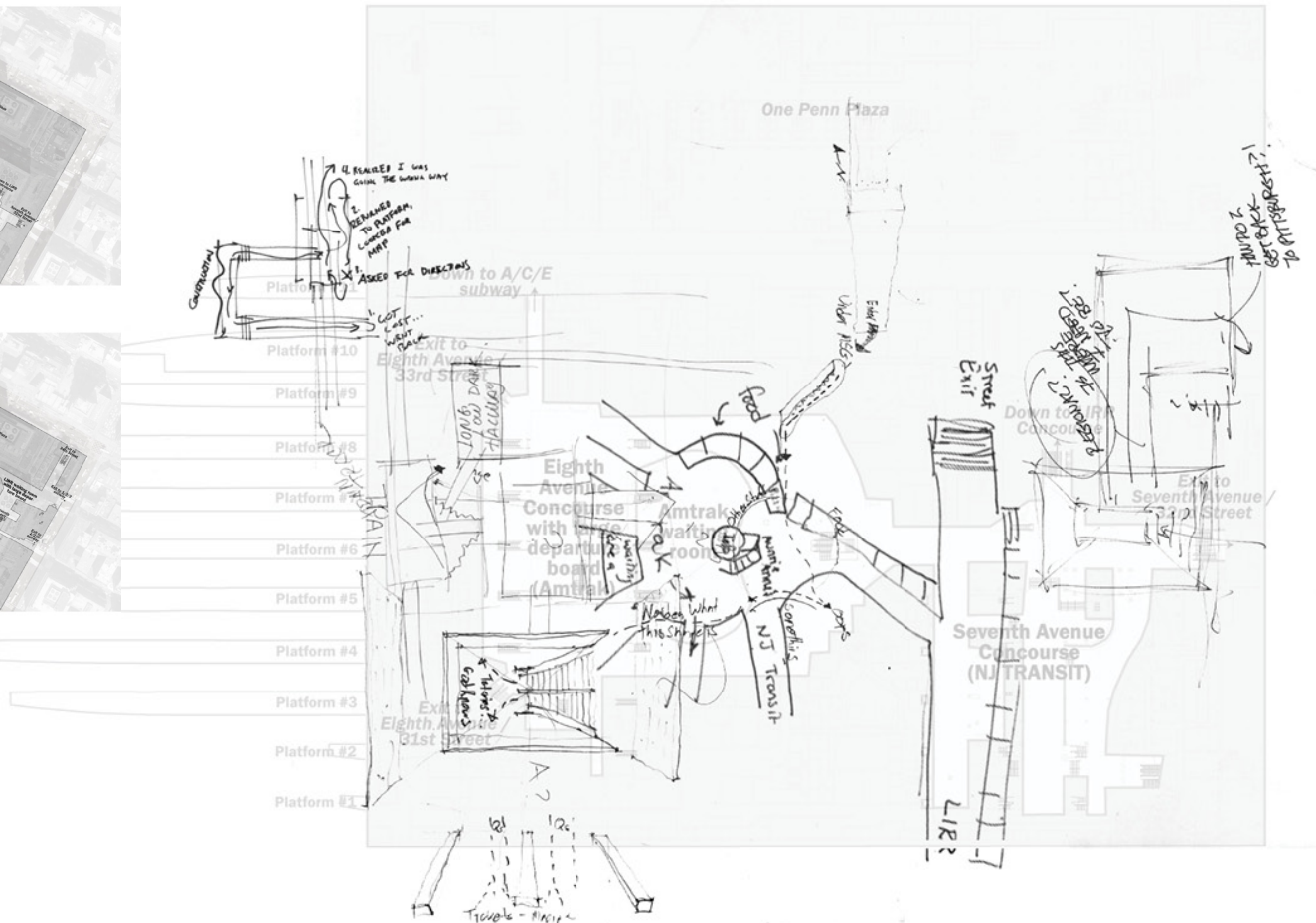


# Collective Cognitive Map

USER COGNITIVE MAPS COMBINED  
AND COMPARED TO ACTUAL STATION LAYOUT

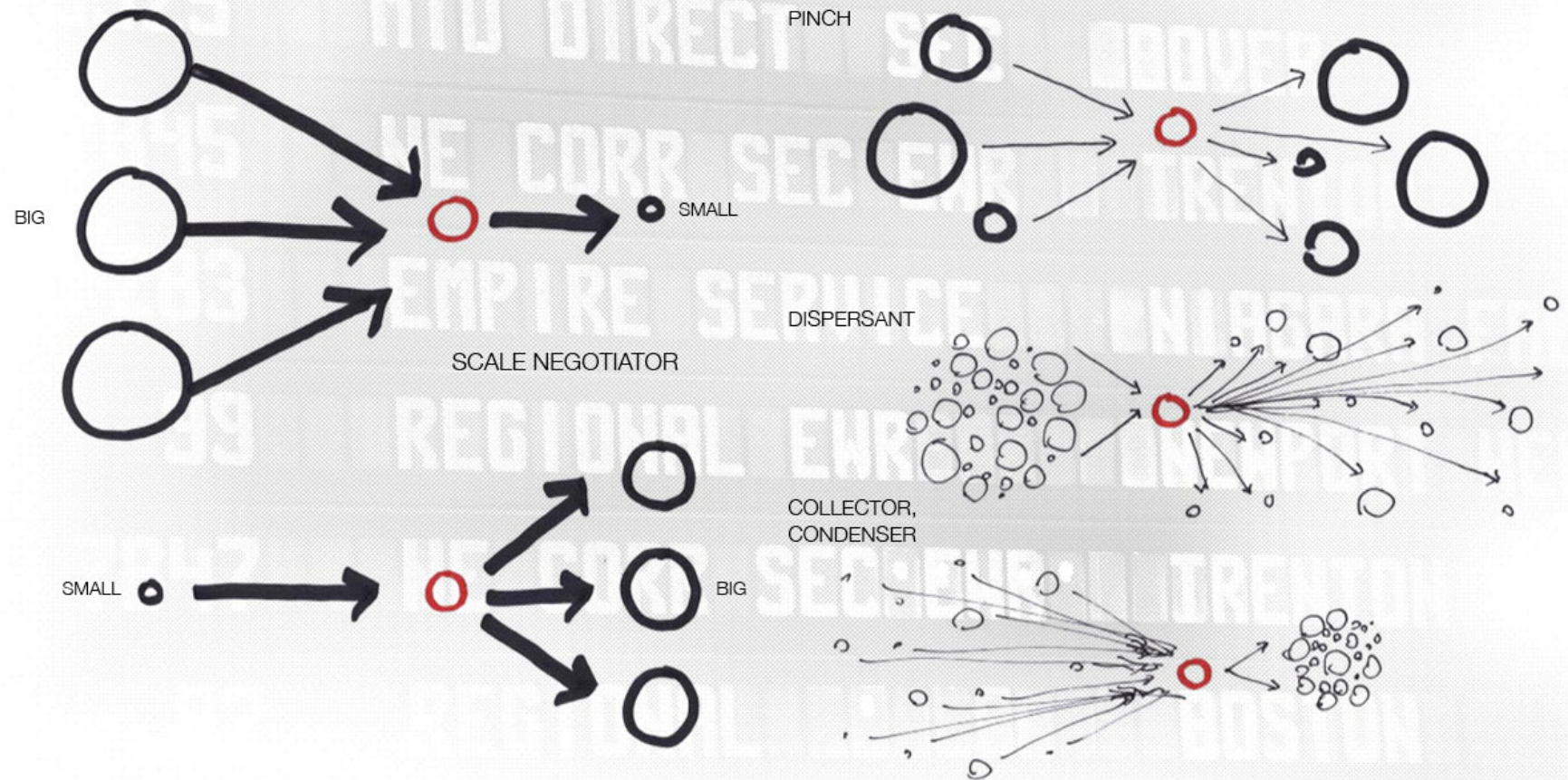


Actual Station Layout



# Existing Station Analysis

EXISTING SYSTEMS AND TYPOLOGIES  
ECONOMIC FACTORS  
ARCHITECTURAL POSSIBILITIES





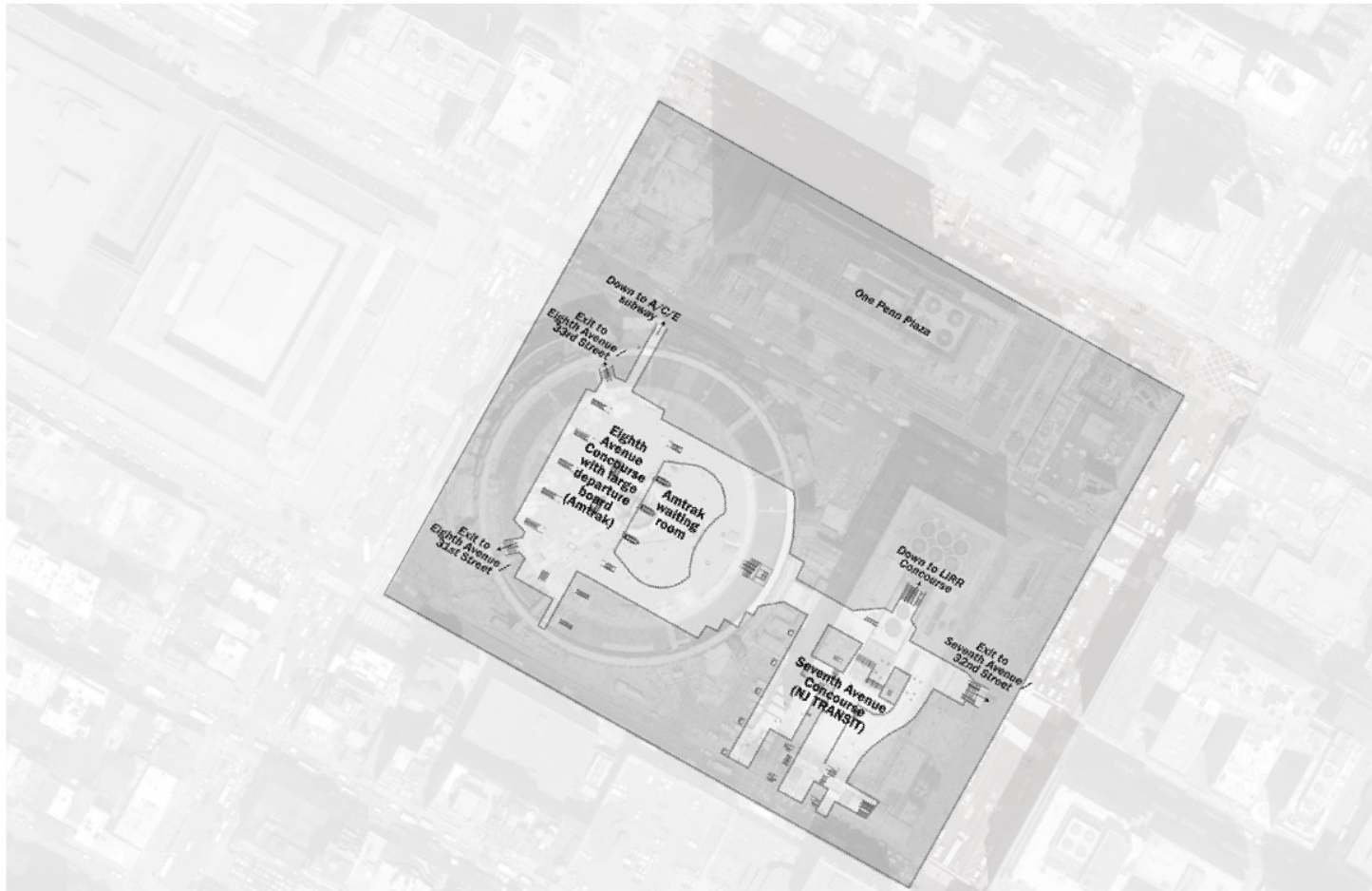
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## Existing Penn Station Layout

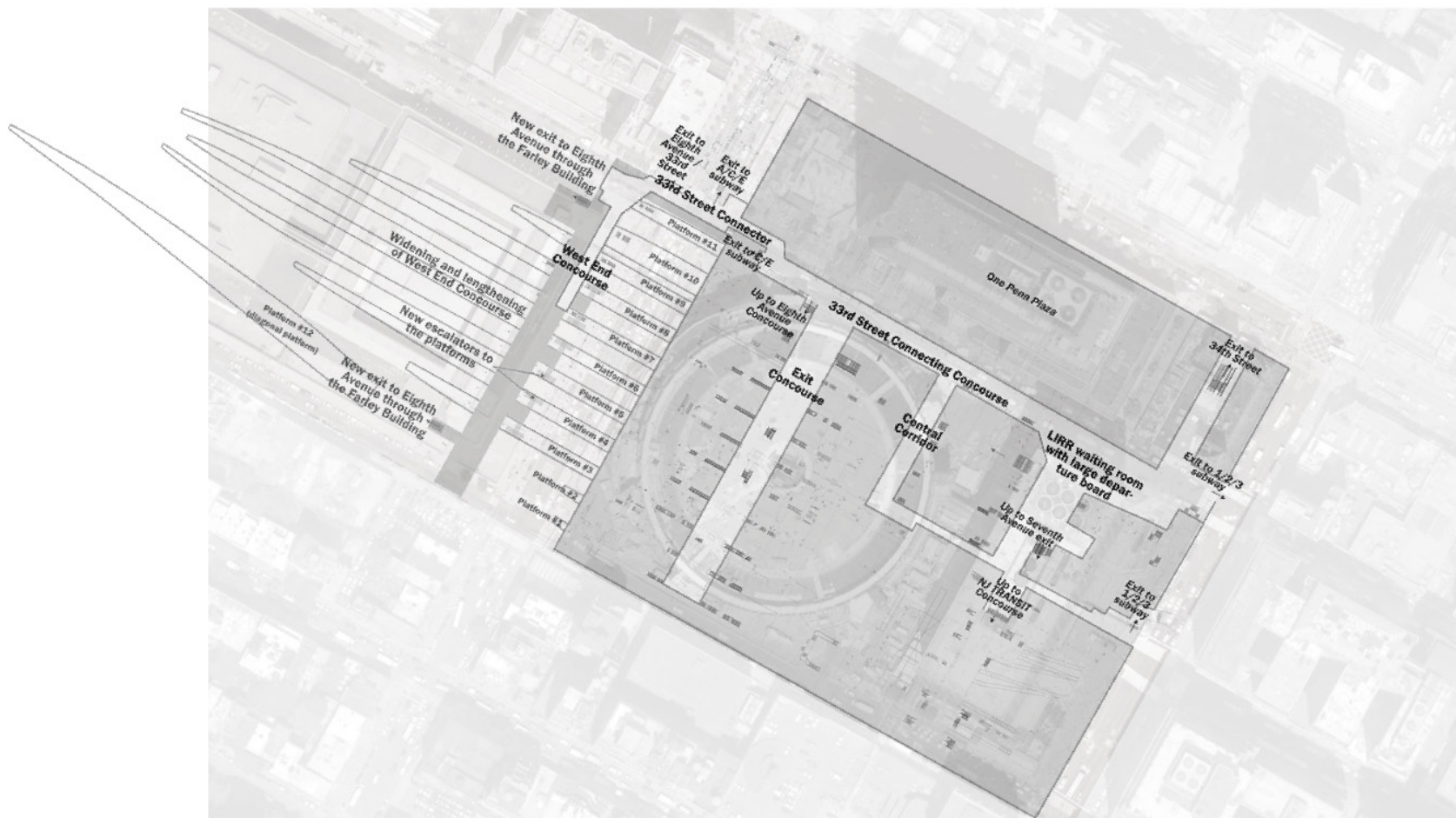


AERIAL VIEW





UPPER LEVEL  
AMTRAK AND NJ TRANSIT



LOWER LEVEL  
LIRR AND SUBWAY

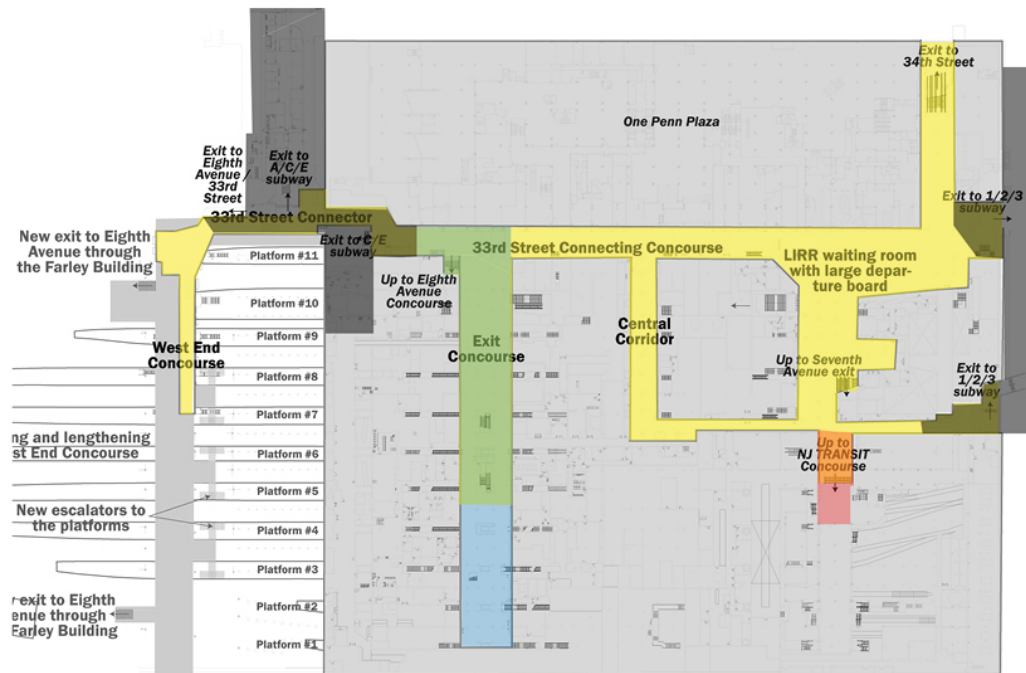
# Existing Station Rail Systems

OVERLAPPED COMPETING SYSTEMS

## A/C/E SUBWAY

(MTA New York City Subway)

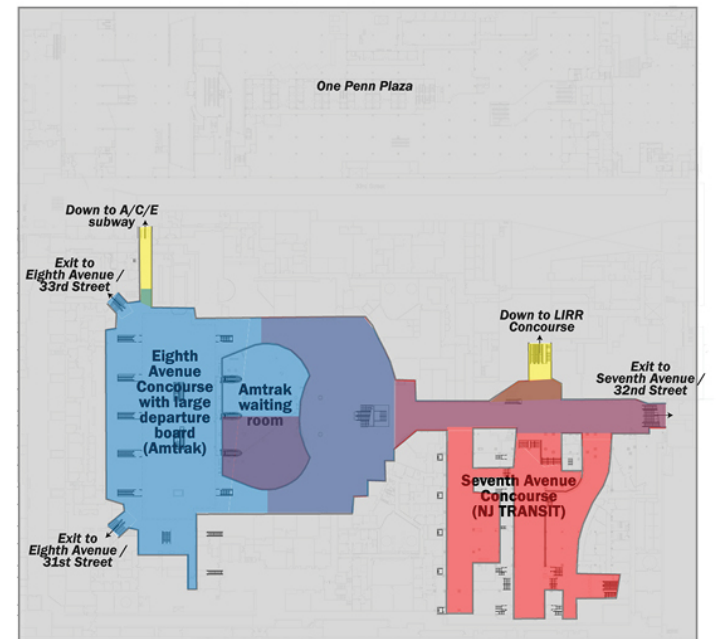
Operated by The Metropolitan Transportation Authority of the State of New York (MTA) - A Public Benefit Corporation



## 1/2/3 SUBWAY

(MTA New York City Subway)

Operated by The Metropolitan Transportation Authority of the State of New York (MTA) - A Public Benefit Corporation



## LIRR

(MTA Long Island Railroad)

Operated by The Metropolitan Transportation Authority of the State of New York (MTA) - A Public Benefit Corporation

## AMTRAK

(National Railroad Passenger Corp.)  
Government Owned Corp.

## NJ TRANSIT

(New Jersey Transit Corp.)  
State Owned Public Benefit Corporation



# Station Entrances and Exits

LOCATIONS AND CONDITIONS

7th AVE & 34th ST



7th AVE & 34th ST



34th ST



8th AVE & 34th ST



8th AVE & 34th ST



34

7th AVE & 33rd ST



8th AVE & 33rd ST



8th AVE & 33rd ST



K-MART



1 PENN PLAZA



33

PENN PLAZA



PENN PLAZA



MSG



MID  
BLOCK

7th AVE & 32nd ST



32

7th AVE & 31st ST



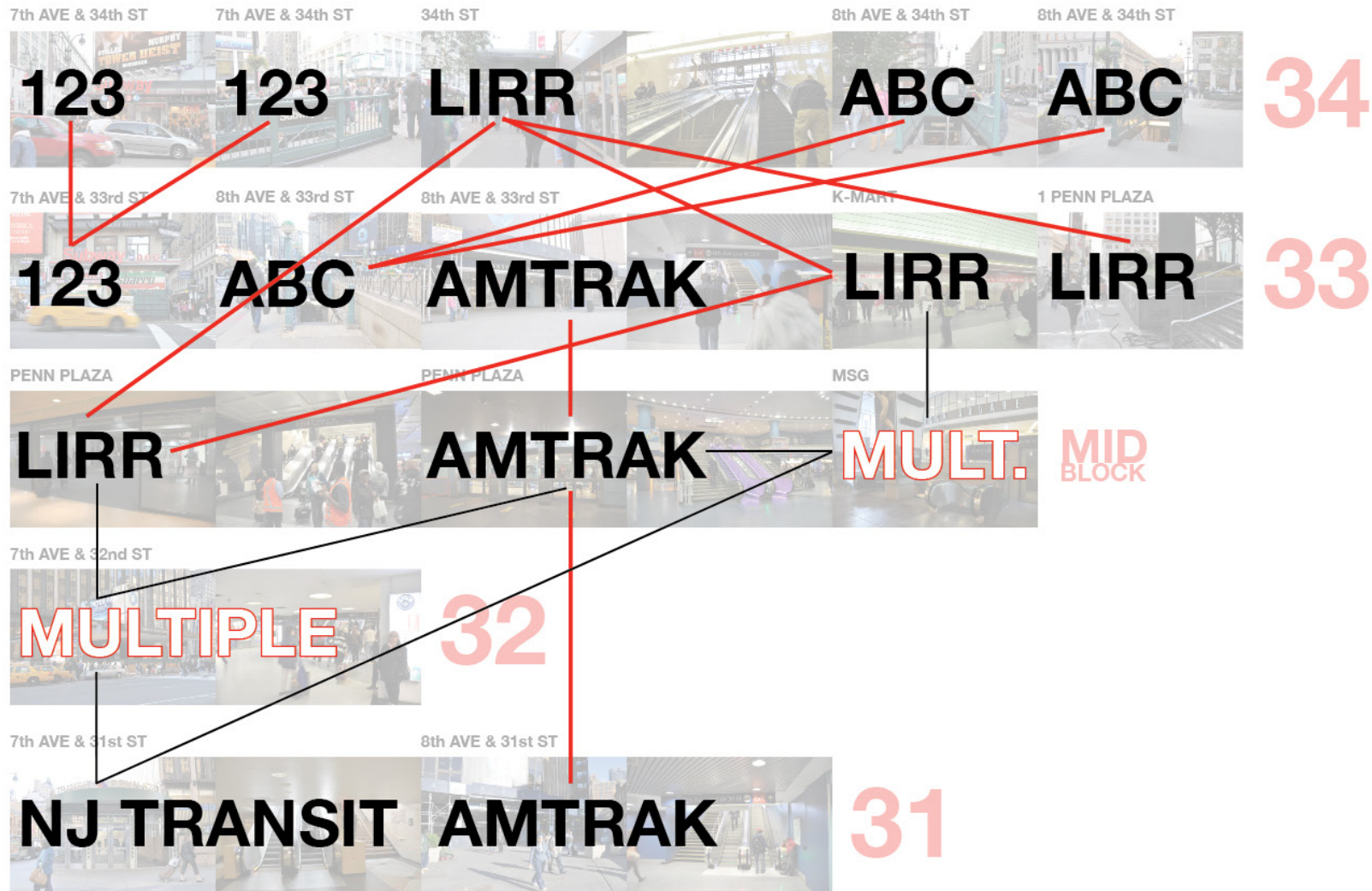
8th AVE & 31st ST



31

## Station Entrances and Exits

INTERSECTING UNDERGROUND CONNECTIONS











"To modern eyes it makes no sense: the era where social divisions were keenly felt gave us a space so vast that all distinctions dissolved in its great stone heaven; **the egalitarians, by contrast, gave us a space whose equalizing impulse was best expressed as the desire to oppress everyone's spirit.**

I usually cooled my heels in the Amtrak First Class club, which was a parody of a sham of a travesty of First Class, at least in the 90s. You got a scratchy seat and a battered magazine and translucent coffee. If I didn't have a first class ticket I went to the bar on the north side of the room, where you could smoke. It stank. Aside from rush hour, it was empty, and had a sad battered quality that made you feel like a rude sack of meat slumped over a ration of intoxicants. **And I never knew which track I should take. It never seemed clear. Even though they had signs and names it always seemed as though they were leaving out some key detail. Like your destination.**

No, I hate Penn Station. I'd like to go back in time, drag the architects into the present, and ask them: what, you thought we would all be wearing George Jetson jumpsuits, queuing patiently for the Atomic Express? **The reality is a waiting room with insufficient signage, a great hall that isn't, and a Hudson News thronged with balding guys, ties askew, furtively paging through battered porn mags."**

- James Lileks

**"One entered the city like a god;  
one scuttles in now like a rat."  
-Vincent Scully**









*Every Store*



**Starbucks**



**Duane Reade**



**Hudson News**

**“When shopping was still connected to the street it was also an intensification and articulation of the street. Now it has become utterly independent - contained, controlled, surveyed.”**

**-Rem Koolhaas**



# Commercial Typology

ORGANIZED BY STORE TYPE

MARKET, STAND



NEWS, BOOKS, CARDS



HEALTH



TOURIST GIFTS



CHAIN MARKET



CHAIN FAST FOOD



CHAIN COFFEE, SMOOTHIE



RESTAURANT



PIZZA



SANDWICH, CAFE, DELI



BAR



SUSHI



BANK



CELL PHONE PROVIDER



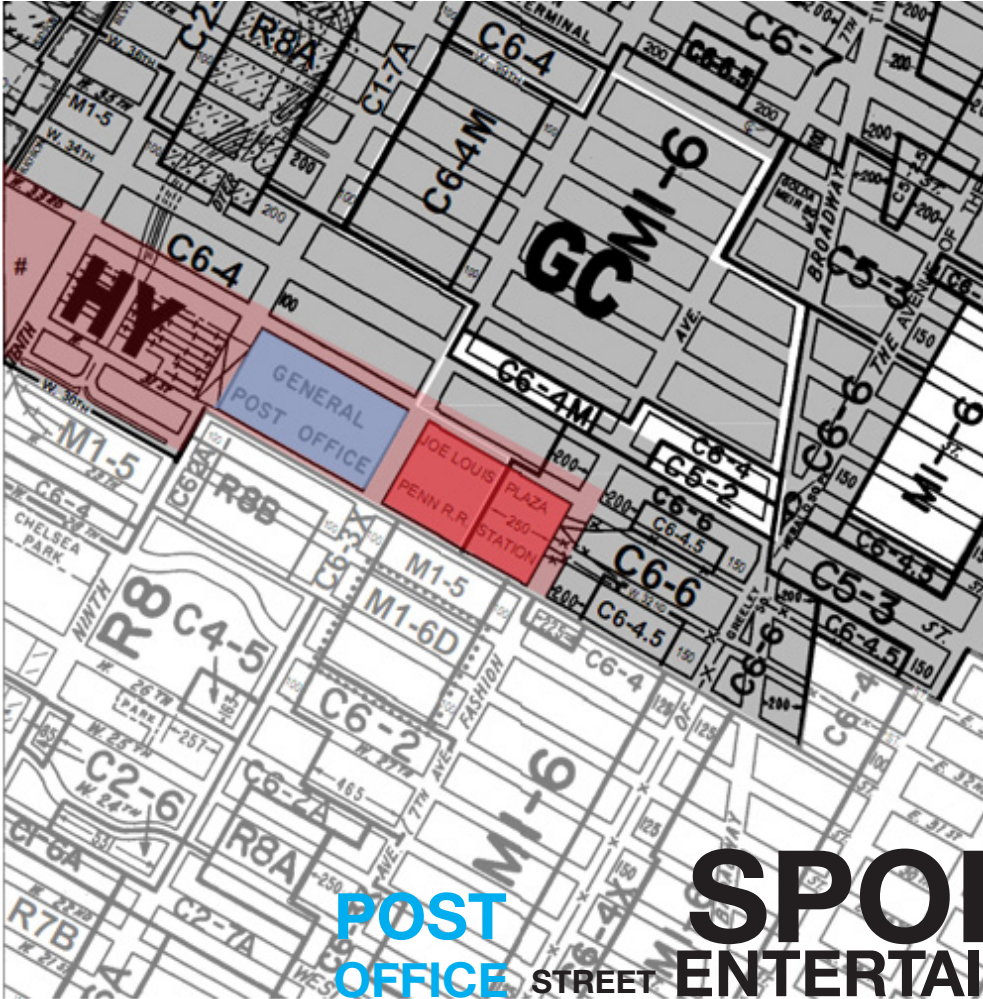
CLOTHING, PERFUME, FLOWERS



SHOE REPAIR



\_\_\_\_\_



# ZONING MAP SHOWING SPECIAL HUDSON YARDS (HY) DISTRICT AND GARMENT CENTER (GC) DISTRICT

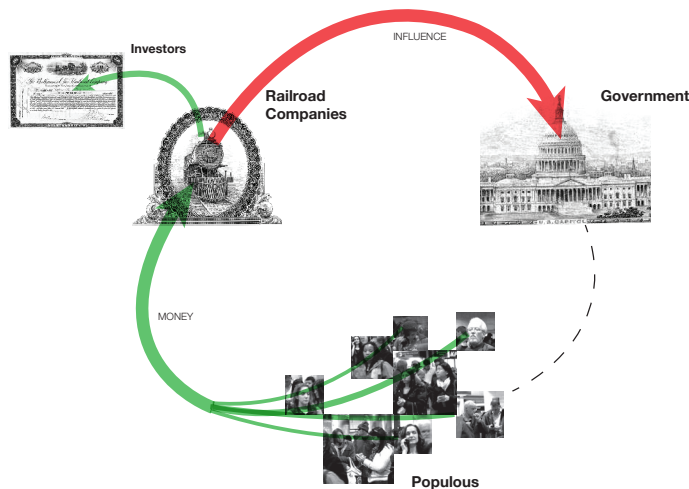
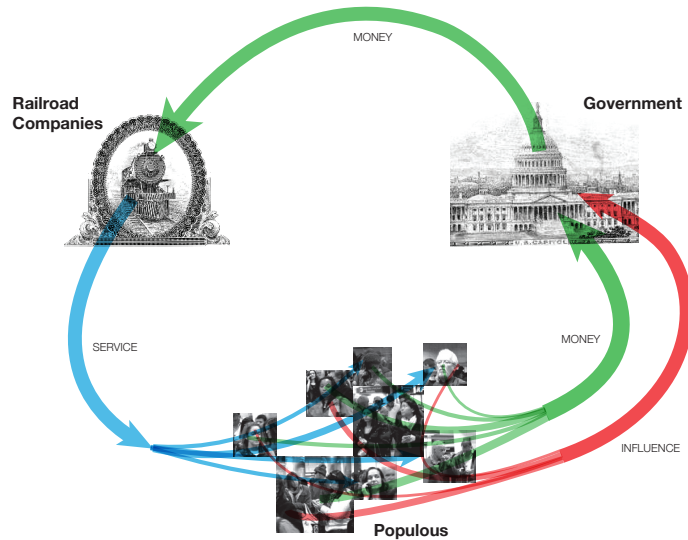
# RAILYARD

# TRANSIT CENTER

# OFFICE BUILDING

# OFFICE BUILDING

## Game Theory Economic Analysis

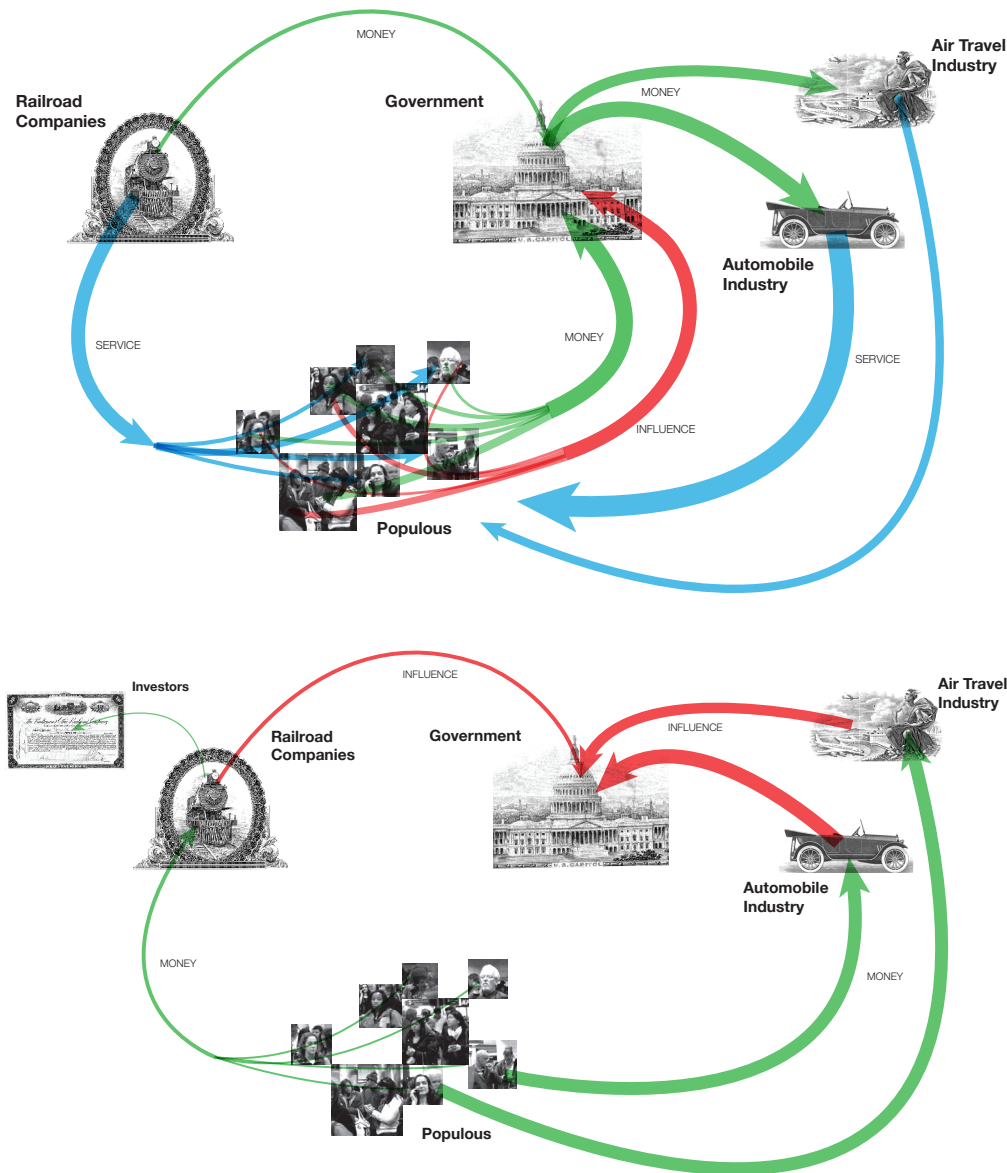


## GAME ONE

Between 1855 and 1871, the federal government operated a land-grant system wherein rail companies were given thousands of acres of federally controlled, unsettled, Western land to sell or to give to bondholders in their company (who would use the land for profit or to sell themselves), in exchange for the development of a national rail infrastructure. Throughout the 19th century, subsidies like this encouraged the growth of countless small and medium rail companies throughout the continent that owned varying lengths of track and operated numerous passenger lines independently. **(1.1)**

The late 19th century and early 20th century brought about the consolidation of many of these independent companies due to inefficiency and duplicate services, which, in response, led to the Interstate Commerce Act to restrict monopolies and trusts. With the increasing affordability of both air and automobile transportation, and the increased influence of their commercial shipping lobbies, the government began to shift federal funding away from rail projects toward the development of the national highway system and air traffic infrastructure. The private rail companies, losing income from both decreased freight and passenger services in addition to diminishing federal funding and influence, began to seek new sources of revenue to remain solvent. Many rail companies then defected from their understood agreement to provide transportation services to the public in exchange for profit (from these services and, mainly, freight shipping) due to the changing atmosphere and the government's defection. They did this by discontinuing less popular lines and selling tracks and the air rights to their property in major cities. Although these companies were private, they operated public services, in many cases as a monopoly despite government regulation, and their stations acted as important public structures within their urban settings.



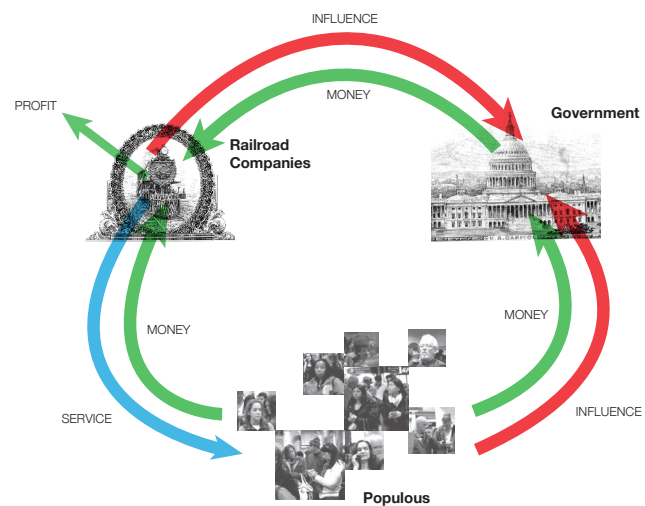


This series of defections, caused by the changing nature of the transportation commons with the interjection of new players (auto and air), led to a shift of equilibrium by the government away from rail, which caused, in desperation, the defection of the rail companies from a public-private agreement that the government still maintained but did not support.

In other words, when the government was forced to spread its spending to air and auto infrastructure in addition to rail, the rail companies considered this a defection, although the government expected the companies to continue offering the services of the agreement (public benefit) without as much of a reward (profit). This can be seen as the government still expecting the public benefit to be '10' while the sum benefit to the rail companies was reduced to '5.' **(1.2)**

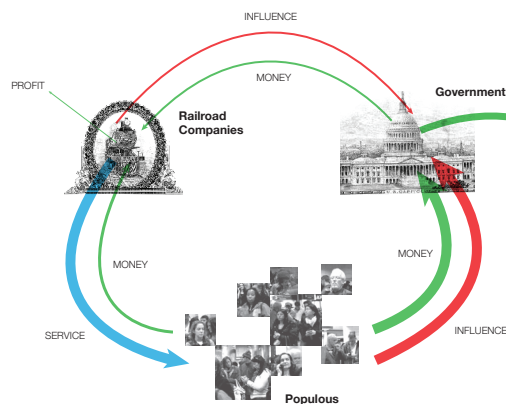
This led to the defection of the rail companies by not offering its full services (public benefit) to match its loss of profit, bringing both players down to '5.' The sale of air rights to stations changed the outcome again, with the public at '3,' and the companies at '8.' **(1.3)**

Ultimately, as in most defection games, the efforts by the rail companies to maintain profit failed, and most were forced into bankruptcy, bringing the outcome for the companies to '0' and, with the expected complete loss of service, the public to '0' as well.

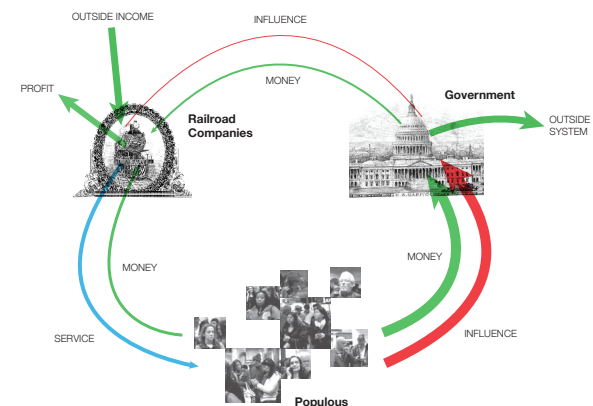


## 1.1

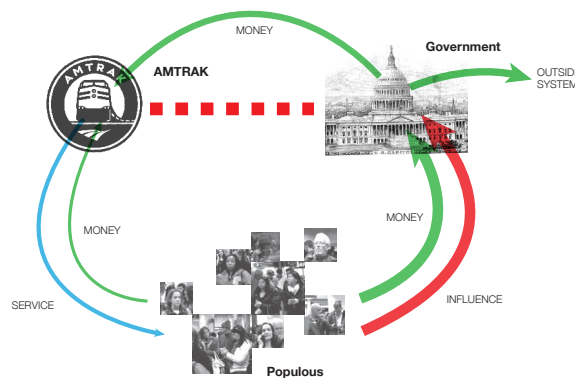
Money flows to the Railroad Companies and Influence flows to the Government.



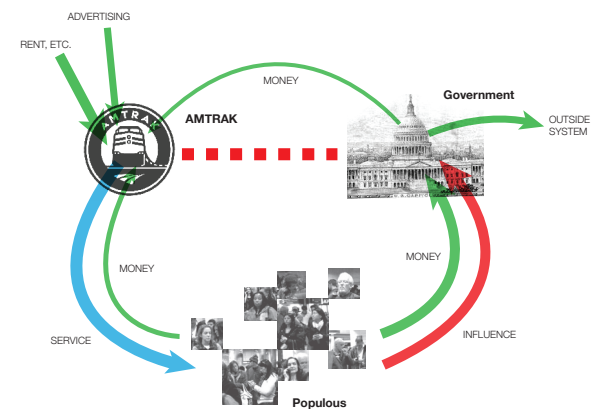
## 1.2 *New elements to the system and less money from users leads to less influence and decreased profits.*



**1.3** To maintain profit, service is cut; new and outside income (sold air rights) is introduced to the system.



### 3.0 *The influence cycle falls apart as Rail and the Government become tied and all money stays within the system.*



**4.0** *Still working within the same system, new income sources are needed to expand service and, with decreased money flow from the government, outside sources inject money into the system.*

## GAME TWO

With the potential loss of a public benefit due to the failure of its private facilitator, the government could not allow a loss of service to occur. To respond to the events of game one, the government then created two entities to fully consolidate the previously independent, private rail systems. With the passage of the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (NRPC, operator of passenger Amtrak services) was created, followed in 1976 by the Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail, owner of rail track and rights), two hybrid public-private companies backed by the federal government. Many within the government expected the companies to fail and dissolve within a few years as ridership continued to decrease.

A defect by the government (for example, privatizing the company) would allow it to save a portion of its investment, albeit with public outcry, for an outcome of '9,' while the public, due to the insolvency and inherent unprofitability of the business, would most likely completely lose service, in addition to government faith and their tax dollars, for an outcome of '-1.' A complete loss of ridership after the government's intervention could have created a double-defection scenario with the government's outcome at '-2' due to loss of money, trust, and reputation, and the public at '-2' by losing a service and sharing the government's loss.

## GAME THREE

In a perfect version of Game two, the government would fully support the new entities due to the potential damage of a defection by either party. Many within the government, however, saw a defection by the public as inevitable and sought to distance their investment so that damage from a failure would be minimized (for them but not the general public). Because of this, Amtrak's funding was set and remained low compared to operating costs, even with limited and poor quality service. With this low quality, few new riders were encouraged to use the service and, thus, new income did not come from the public. The government saw this as validation for their lack of investment. Even with the loss of a player (the Rail Companies), the introduction of a straw man (Amtrak acting as the rail companies on the government's behalf), keep the system as status quo.

In this game, a mutually beneficial situation of both parties investing minimally would only gain each '9.4.' A defection by the government (defunding and cutting ties) would allow them to save face and would not have cost them much for a gain of '9.6' while the public, with loss of service, some tax dollars, and government faith, would have an outcome of '-1.6.' The government also protected itself from defections by the public by not fully investing in the service, so that both parties would have an outcome no less than '-1' in that instance.

## GAME FOUR

In order to increase the quality of rail service and ridership while working within the established system, Amtrak needed outside investment and new sources of income. By looking back to the private sector, Amtrak continued the rail companies' system of selling and leasing property and drastically increasing advertising and sponsorship in stations and on trains. In this manner, new money was injected into the system and, instead of leaving it as profit as it did under the rail companies, it was absorbed as service. What had started as a mutually beneficial system between public and private interests facilitated by corporations and supported by the government became a system completely operated by the government and supported by corporations.

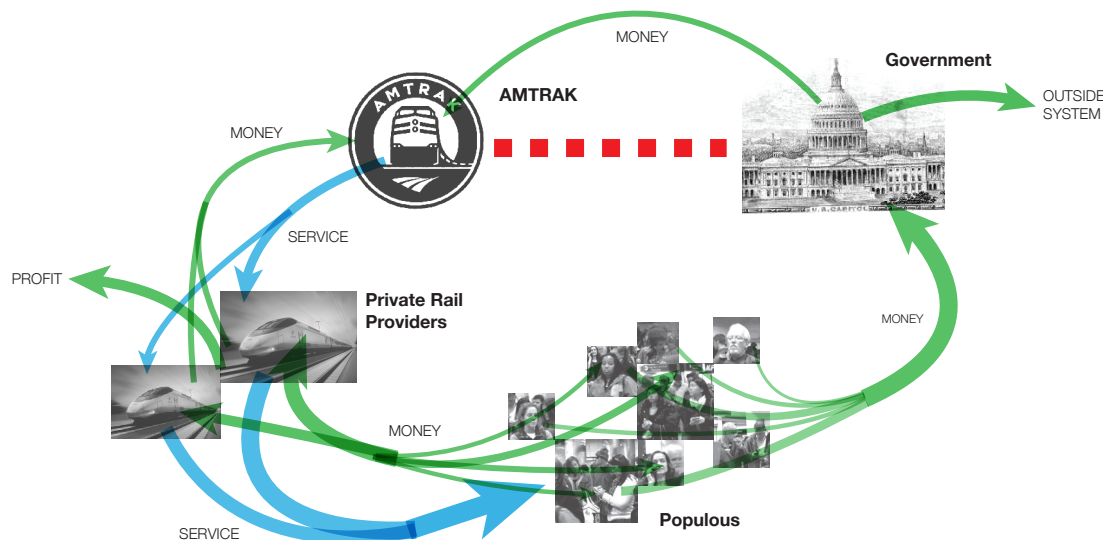


## Proposed Game Theory Solution

### GAME FIVE

The system of game four, with its introduction of outside income, mirrors game 1.3 and, like that game, is untenable. The problems caused by games 3 and 4 occurred due to the 'perfect' scenario of game 2, wherein the facilitator of the system (the government) chose to operate in the same manner that it had before, when the system proved itself to be unstable with the introduction of new elements. Instead of changing the system, the facilitator chose to replace the player that lost (the rail companies) with a puppet that they controlled, but that was expected to act in the same manner as the previous player. With this, the government moved from being merely the facilitator of the system and the game, to being a player in it, causing a clear conflict.

The solution to this problem would be a system wherein the introduction of a new player would allow for a stable injection of money so that the system would be able to support itself. In this way, the government could use Amtrak not as a player in the game, but as a check and a facilitator for the new player or players. By shifting Amtrak's responsibilities from a service provider to a government-supported operator of tracks, stations, and overarching support, private railways could be introduced into the system to run passenger service. With this, these private companies would operate similarly to the old system, but would need only invest heavily in trains and passengers as all other concerns would be taken care of by the new Amtrak, acting as a collective that all the new players would pay into. These costs would be reasonable as they would be supported by taxpayer dollars. Amtrak could even continue to operate as passenger rail's trademark brand and could cover advertising and promotion for the collective.



With this new system, the government wouldn't have to provide as much monetary support for rail but would still be able to provide the service for the public. The public would benefit by having the service, now of better quality, of more quantity, and still at reasonable prices. Amtrak, in its new role, would receive funding from both public and private sources within the system and would have drastically cut operating expenses. The new private service providers would also benefit by being able to make a profit in exchange for providing a public service and by being encouraged to form and operate by having large expenses and operations covered by a collective, providing all parties with an outcome of '10.'

## Advertising Analysis

ECONOMIC IMPACT ON ARCHITECTURAL EXPERIENCE



**ENTRY =**  
**AD**



**'ROTUNDA' =**  
**AD**



**SUBWAY =**  
**AD**



**TRACK 17 =**  
**AD**



**STAIRS =**  
**AD**

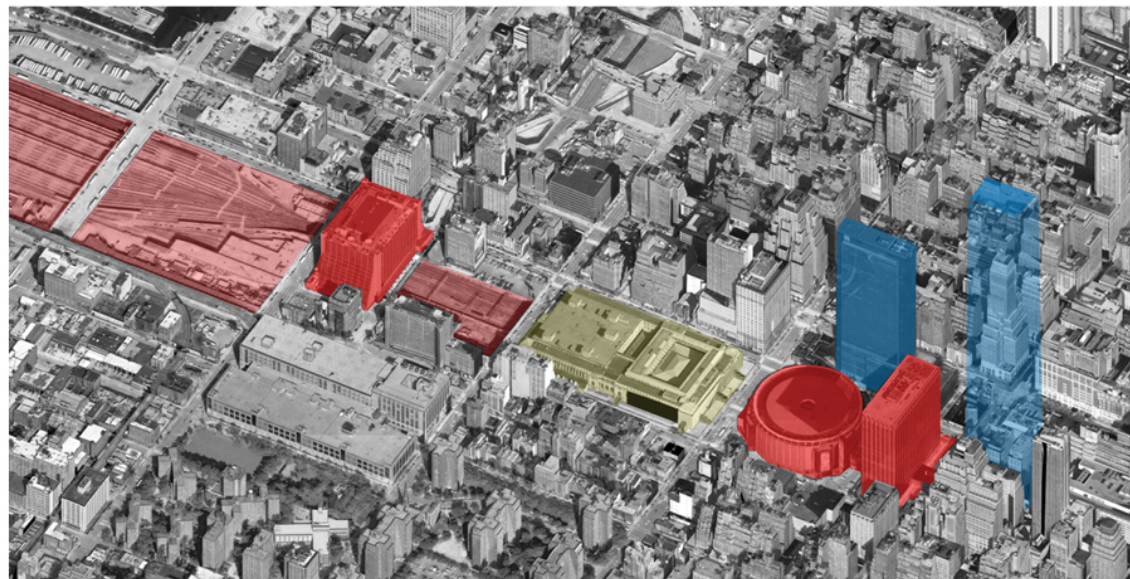
...It was logically assumed that the federal government's passenger railroad would become one of [the new Monihan Station's] chief tenants. But New York City demanded that Amtrak pay rent if they were to use the facilities. As Van Hatten puts it, Amtrak responded by telling the city, **"We own the current Penn Station, we're strapped for cash, there's no possible way we can move into this new structure and start paying you rent, when our budgets are getting slashed left and right, and our funds from the federal government are shrinking."**



## Air Rights and Government Incentives

ECONOMIC IMPACT

**'Hudson Yards'**  
**Air Rights Sold**  
by the MTA  
(Public-Benefit Corp.)  
for future development



**450 W. 33rd St.**  
**Air Rights Sold**  
by Pennsylvania Railroad 1967

**'Manhattan West'**  
**Air Rights Sold**  
by the MTA  
(Public-Benefit Corp.)  
for future development

**1 Penn Plaza**  
**Zoning and Tax Incentives**  
Built 1972

**15 Penn Plaza**  
**Zoning and Tax Incentives**  
Approved for Construction

**Farley Post Office**  
**USPS Property**  
(Independent  
Government Agency)  
Built 1912

**Madison Square  
Garden & Theater**  
**Air Rights Sold**  
by Pennsylvania Railroad 1963

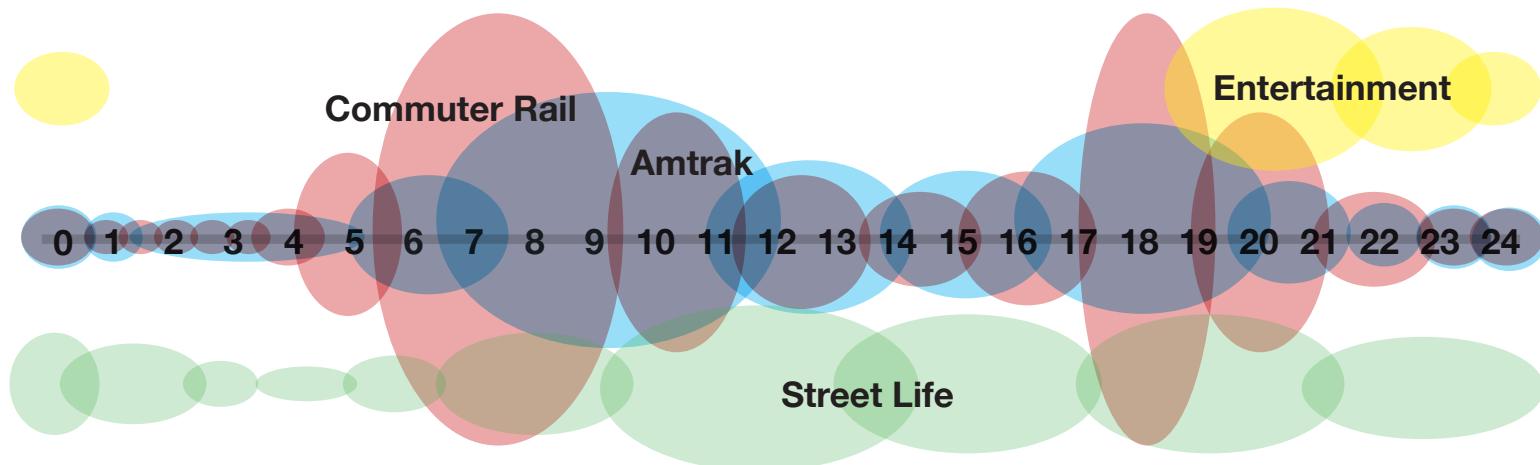
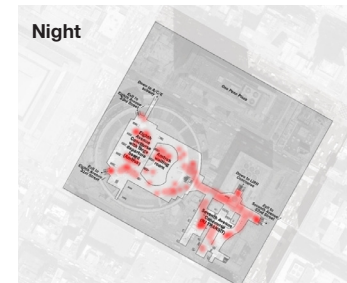
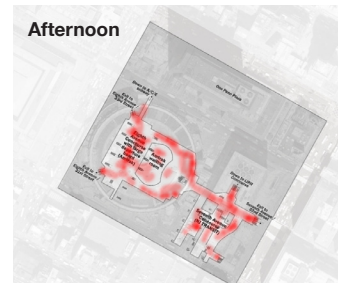
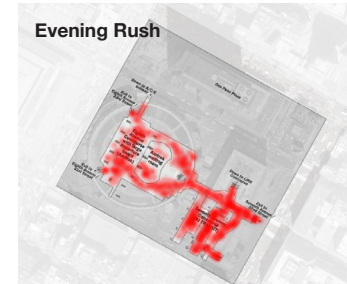
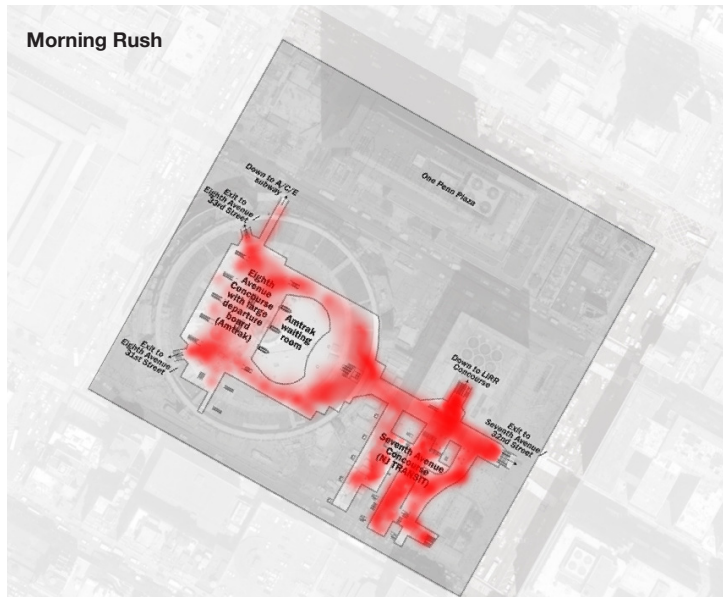
**2 Penn Plaza**  
**Air Rights Sold**  
by Pennsylvania Railroad 1963

**"There is one last frontier  
available in Manhattan..."**

"[Greater height is allowed than] standard zoning rules provide under special regulations that encourage the development of high-density office space near transit hubs."

# Station Flows

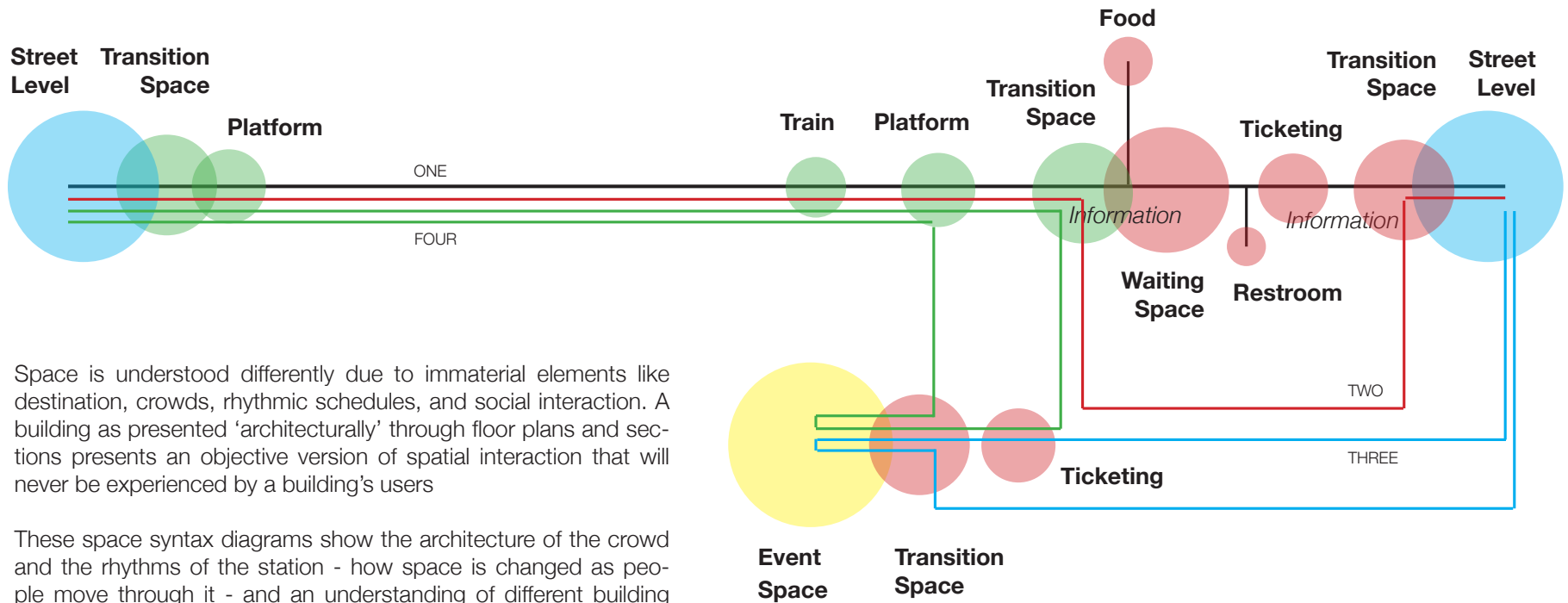
SPATIAL CHANGES OVER TIME DUE TO USER PATTERNS





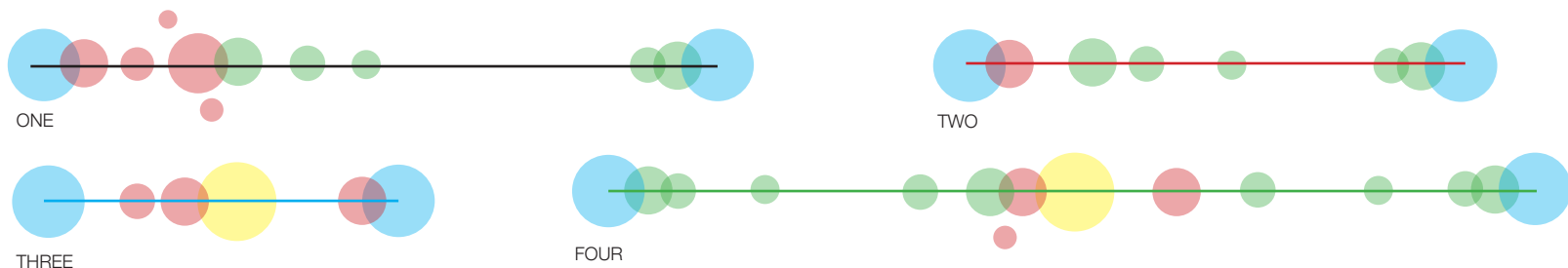
# Space Syntax

STATION ANALYSIS AS USER PATHWAYS



Space is understood differently due to immaterial elements like destination, crowds, rhythmic schedules, and social interaction. A building as presented 'architecturally' through floor plans and sections presents an objective version of spatial interaction that will never be experienced by a building's users

These space syntax diagrams show the architecture of the crowd and the rhythms of the station - how space is changed as people move through it - and an understanding of different building sequences that create completely different architectures for each user.

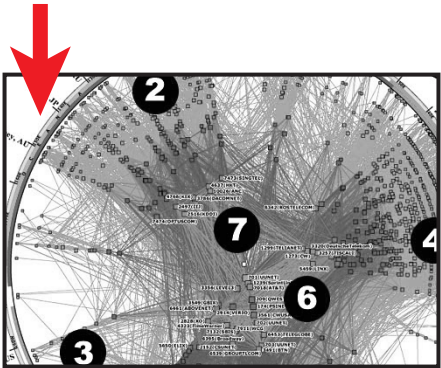


## Design Alterations

STATION AS SYSTEM



PENN STATION =  
**CATTLE  
RACE**



**NETWORK**



PENN STATION =  
**MALL**



**TRAIN**

### PERSON-PERSON

PENN STATION DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOCIAL

### PERSON-ENVIRONMENT

PENN STATION DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO BE COGNITIVELY UNDERSTOOD

### ENVIRONMENT-ENVIRONMENT

PENN STATION DOES NOT CONNECT TO THE URBAN FABRIC OR ACKNOWLEDGE ITS DISTANT CONNECTIONS



**PEOPLE**

By acknowledging the immaterial and transitory elements of the station - the essential elements that give the station a purpose and exist independently of the built form - a new architecture can be designed that better fits how people understand and use space.



# Station As System

BUILDING THE "IN-BETWEEN"  
HISTORIC BUILDING TYPOLOGY ANALYSIS  
EXISTING VS. NEW CONSTRUCTION  
CHANGING SYSTEMS OVER TIME

**"Ma is a concept of absence and in-between, which is a departure from a way of looking that privileges the tangible. It is a powerful concept with many faces and layers. Apart from space, *ma* is applied to the discussion of time as well, revealing that in Japan there was 'not even a distinction between space and time like in modern Western thought'.**

The word '*ma*' essentially refers to **"an 'interval' between two (or more) spatial or temporal things and events."** Thus it is not only used in compounds to suggest measurement but carries meanings such as gap, opening, space between, time between, and so forth'.

COLLECTING



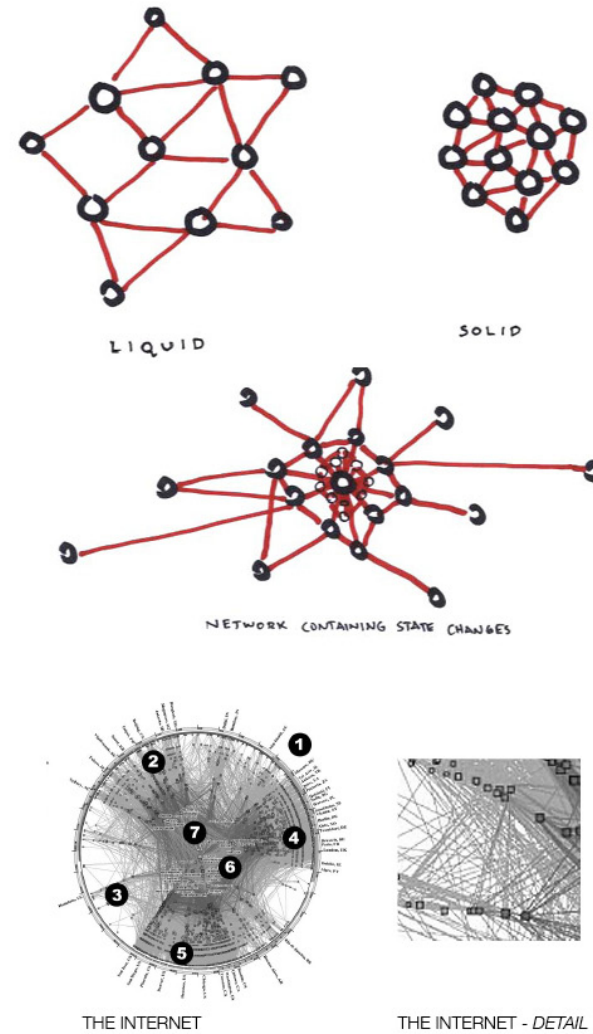
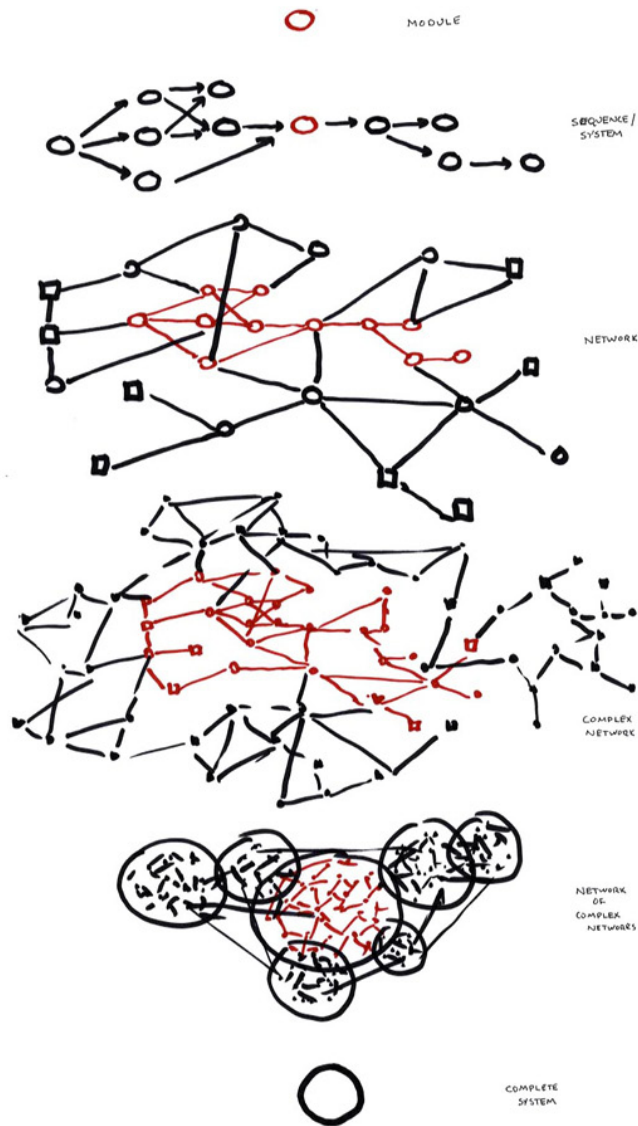
DISPERSING



MA



# Network Theory



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## Order is

BY LOUIS I. KAHN



Design is form-making in order  
Form emerges out of a system of construction  
Growth is a construction – In order is creative force  
In design is the means – where with what when with how much

The nature of space reflects what it wants to be  
Is the auditorium a Stradivarius  
or an ear  
Is the auditorium a creative instrument  
keyed to Bach or Bartók  
played by the conductor  
or is it a conventional hall

**In the nature of space is the spirit and the will to exist in a certain way  
Design must follow closely that will**

Therefore a stripe-painted horse is not a zebra

**Before a railroad station is a building  
it wants to be a street  
it grows out of the needs of the street  
out of the order of movement**

A meeting of contours englazed.

Through the nature – why  
Through the order – what  
Through the design – how

**A form emerges from the structural elements inherent in the form.**

A dome is not conceived when questions arise how to build it.  
Nervi grows an arch  
Fuller grows a dome

Mozart's compositions are designs  
They are exercises of order – intuitive  
Design encourages more designs  
Designs derive their imagery from order  
Imagery is the memory – the form  
Style is an adopted order

The same order created the elephant and created man  
They are different designs  
Begun from different aspirations  
Shaped from different circumstances

Order does not imply Beauty  
The same order created the dwarf and Adonis

Design is not making beauty  
Beauty emerges from selection  
affinities  
integration  
love

Art is a form-making life in order – psychic

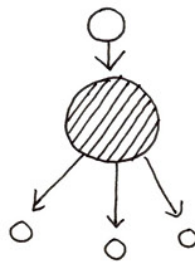
**Order is intangible  
It is a level of creative consciousness  
forever becoming higher in level  
The higher the order the more diversity in design**

Order supports integration  
From what the space wants to be the unfamiliar  
way may be revealed to the architect.  
From order he will derive creative force and power  
of self-criticism to give form to this unfamiliar.  
Beauty will evolve.

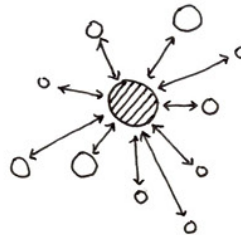


# Social Interaction Models

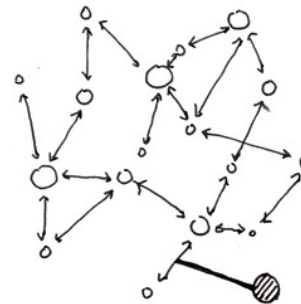
CURRENT AND PROPOSED METHODS OF SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL INTERACTION



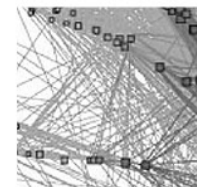
ONE-WAY  
INTERACTION



TWO-WAY  
WITH A  
FACILITATOR

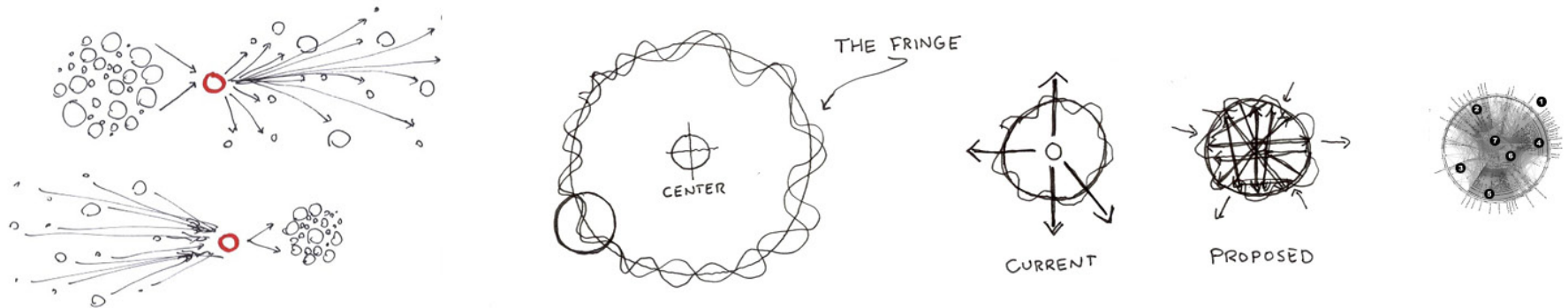


NETWORK  
WITH THE SYSTEM AS  
A FACILITATOR AND  
A FACILITATOR FOR THE  
SYSTEM



# Social Innovation Models

FRINGE AND CENTER





# Penn Station History

CHANGING PRIORITIES, CHANGING FORMS

ORIGINAL STATION - 1910



DEMOLITION - 1963



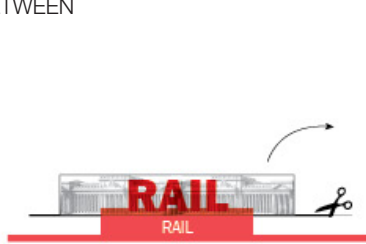
CURRENT STATION - 1964



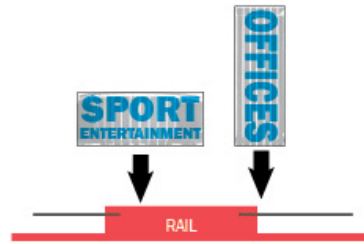


## Historic Building Typologies

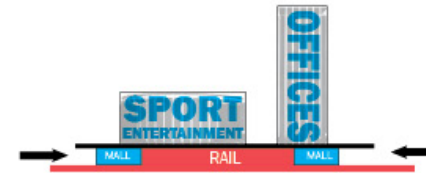
STATION AS OBJECT-SIGNIFIER, SYMBOL  
 STATION DISCONNECTED FROM SYMBOL  
 STATION AS THE IN-BETWEEN



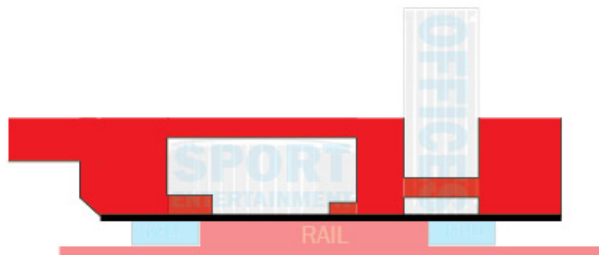
Rail Station as Object -  
 Signifier of the System -  
 Symbol



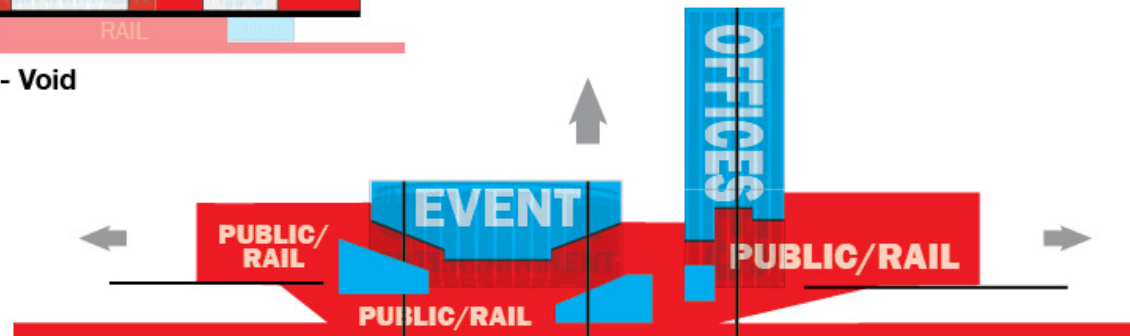
Symbol removed and new, different  
 object-symbols placed



Hardline developed between surface  
 and system below -  
 no signifier

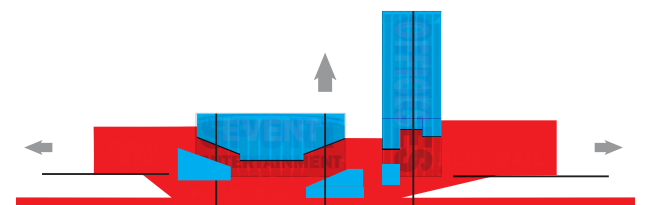
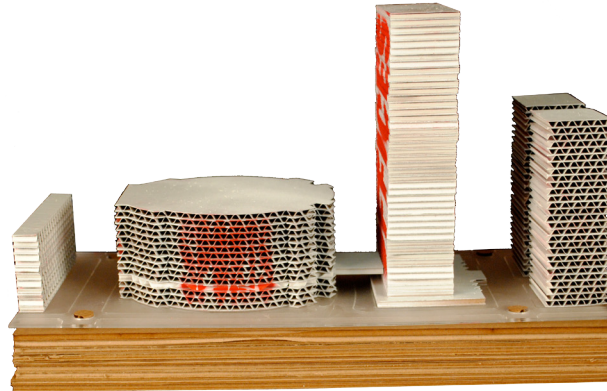


Public Space - Void



**Station as the In-Between**  
 Drawing the Street down into the Station  
 Pushing the Station up and out into the Void

Reclaiming public space  
 Direct Connection to the Urban Fabric



Old Penn Station

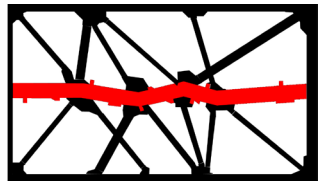
Current Penn Station

*New Idea*

# Preliminary System Studies

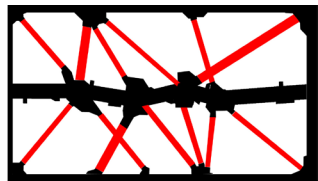


VOID



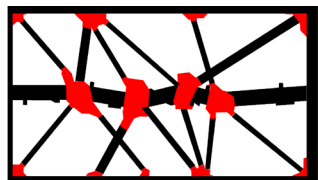
CORE

STEEL FRAME



PATHS

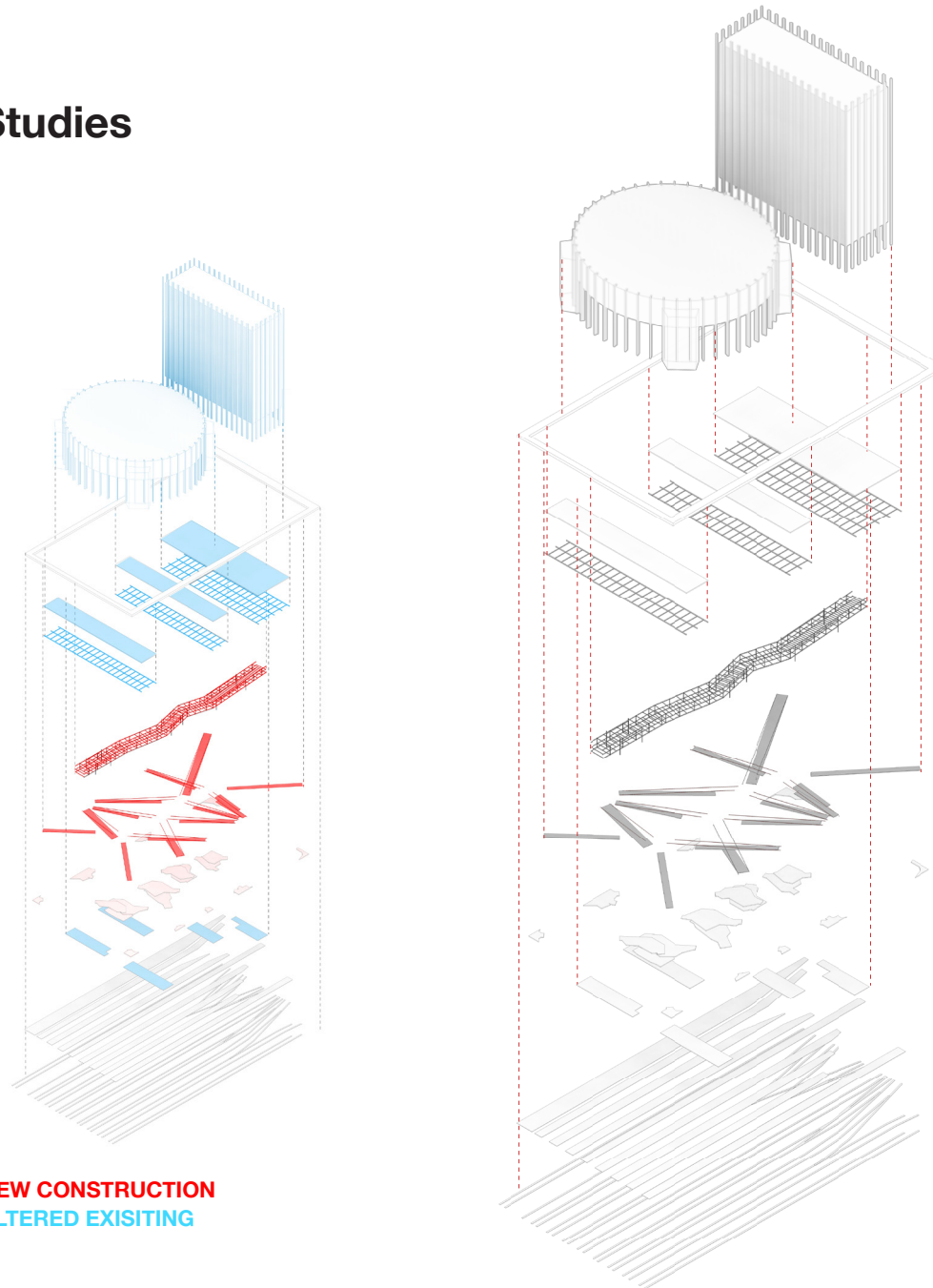
PRE-CAST AND  
TENSION STRUCTURE



NODES

SITE-CAST REINFORCED  
CONCRETE

NEW CONSTRUCTION  
ALTERED EXISTING



**PROGRAM**  
WITH SQUARE FOOTAGES

**EXISTING BUILDINGS**  
WITH ALTERATIONS

**SIDEWALKS**

**EXISTING PLATFORM**  
**STRIPS**

**SUPPORT CORE**  
Restrooms, Employee Services, Backstage  
Spaces, Security Offices  
HVAC Ducts, Electrical Systems, Plumbing  
93,918 SF

**PATHWAYS**  
**AND TENSION STRUCTURE**  
Circulation and Access  
Tension Structural Support  
44,880 SF

**NODES**  
Gathering Spaces - Waiting, Meeting  
Ticketing Services, Lockers, Seating, Information  
43,075 SF

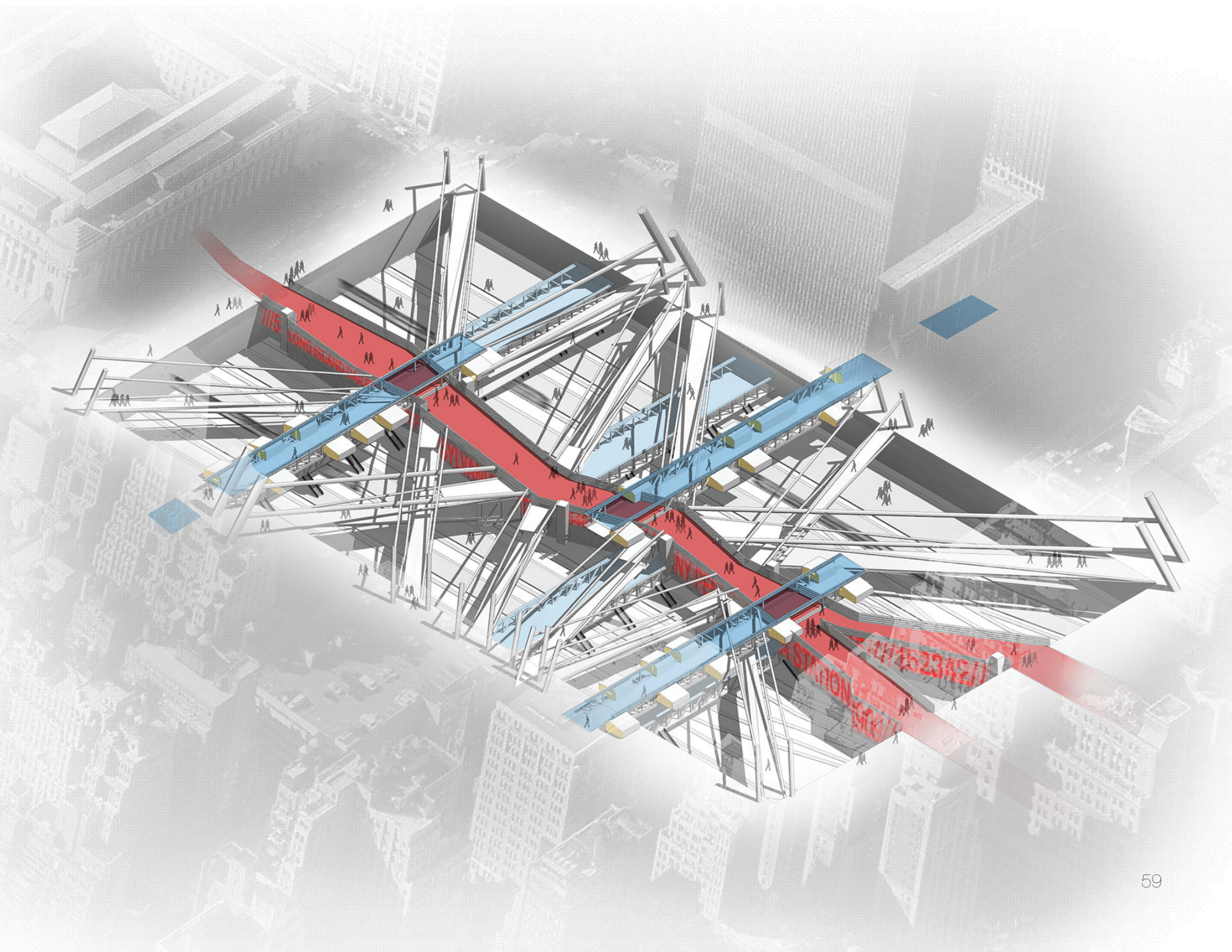
**EXISTING CONCOURSES**  
WITH ALTERATIONS  
33,656 SF

**TRAIN PLATFORMS**

**TRACKS**  
Platforms + Tracks:  
361,800 SF

577,529+ TOTAL 'STATION' SQUARE FEET

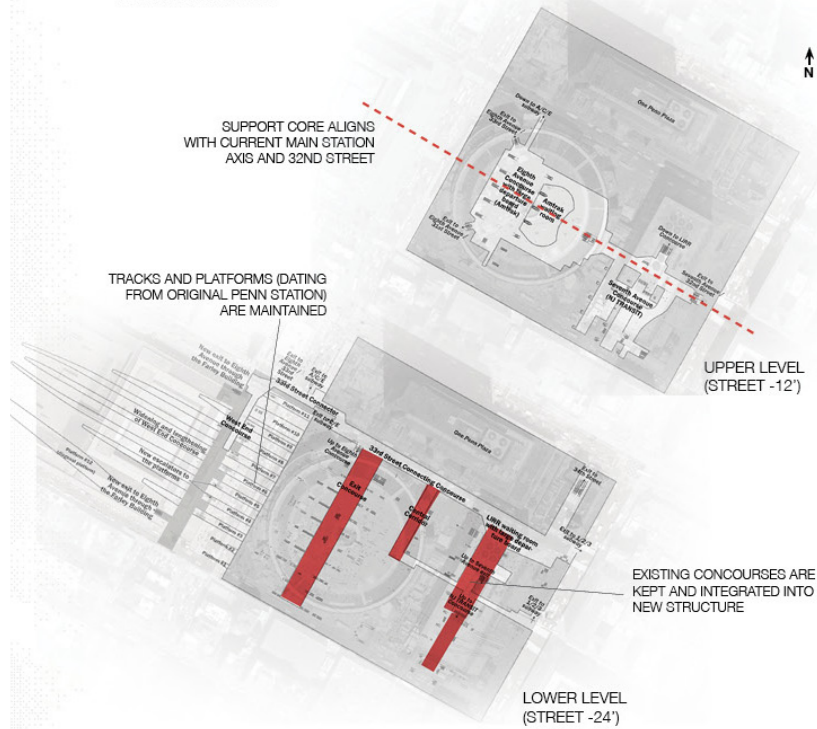






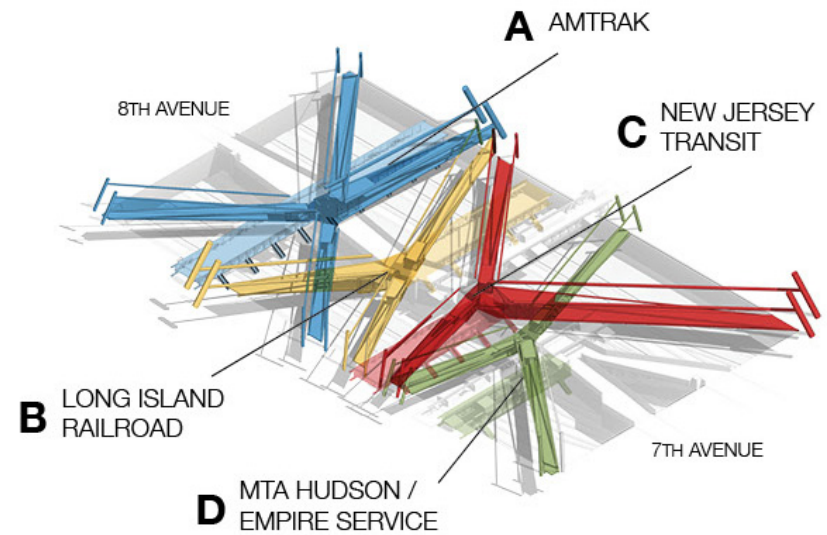
## Existing and New Construction

RELATIONSHIP OF NEW CONSTRUCTION TO EXISTING STRUCTURE  
RETAINED ELEMENTS



## Rail Systems

INTERLOCKED, INTERDEPENDENT, SEPARATE SYSTEMS  
STREET TO PATHWAYS THROUGH CORE TO CONCOURSES AND PLATFORMS

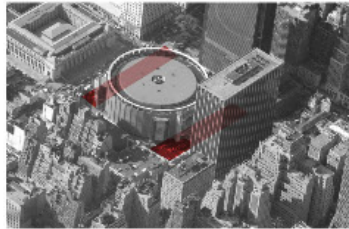


## Construction Alterations Over Time

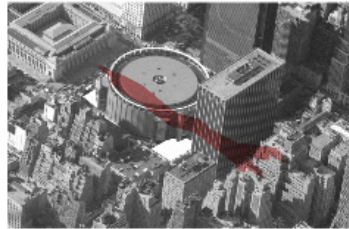
STAGED REMOVAL OF EXISTING ELEMENTS  
CONSTRUCTION AND INSERTION OF NEW ELEMENTS



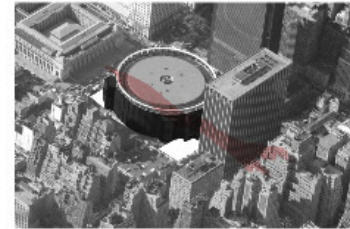
**01** EXISTING BUILDING COMPLEX



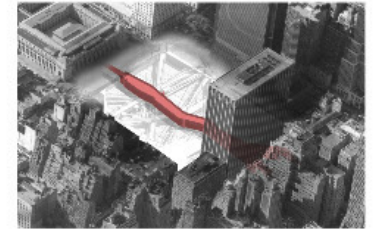
**02** PORTIONS OF STREET LEVEL PLATFORM REMOVED



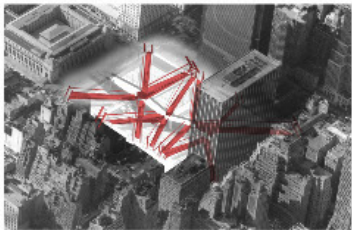
**03** CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON CORE STRUCTURE



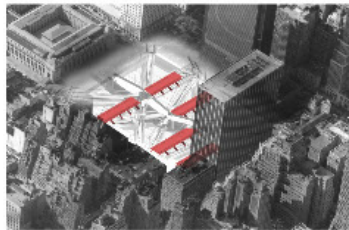
**04** REMOVAL OF MADISON SQUARE GARDEN'S CONCRETE FACADE



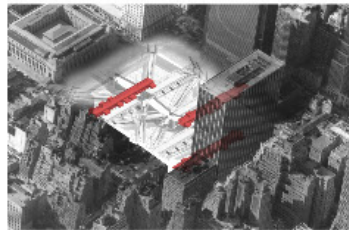
**05** REMOVAL OF MADISON SQUARE GARDEN AND MORE PLATFORM



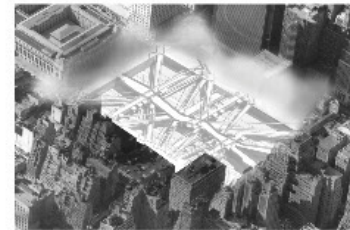
**06** COMPLETION OF CORE AND CONSTRUCTION OF PATHWAY / STRUCTURAL SYSTEM



**07** CONSTRUCTION OF STRUCTURES OVER EXISTING CONCOURSES



**08** CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIAL WINGS AND INSERTION OF PODS



**09** REMOVAL OF 4 PENN PLAZA

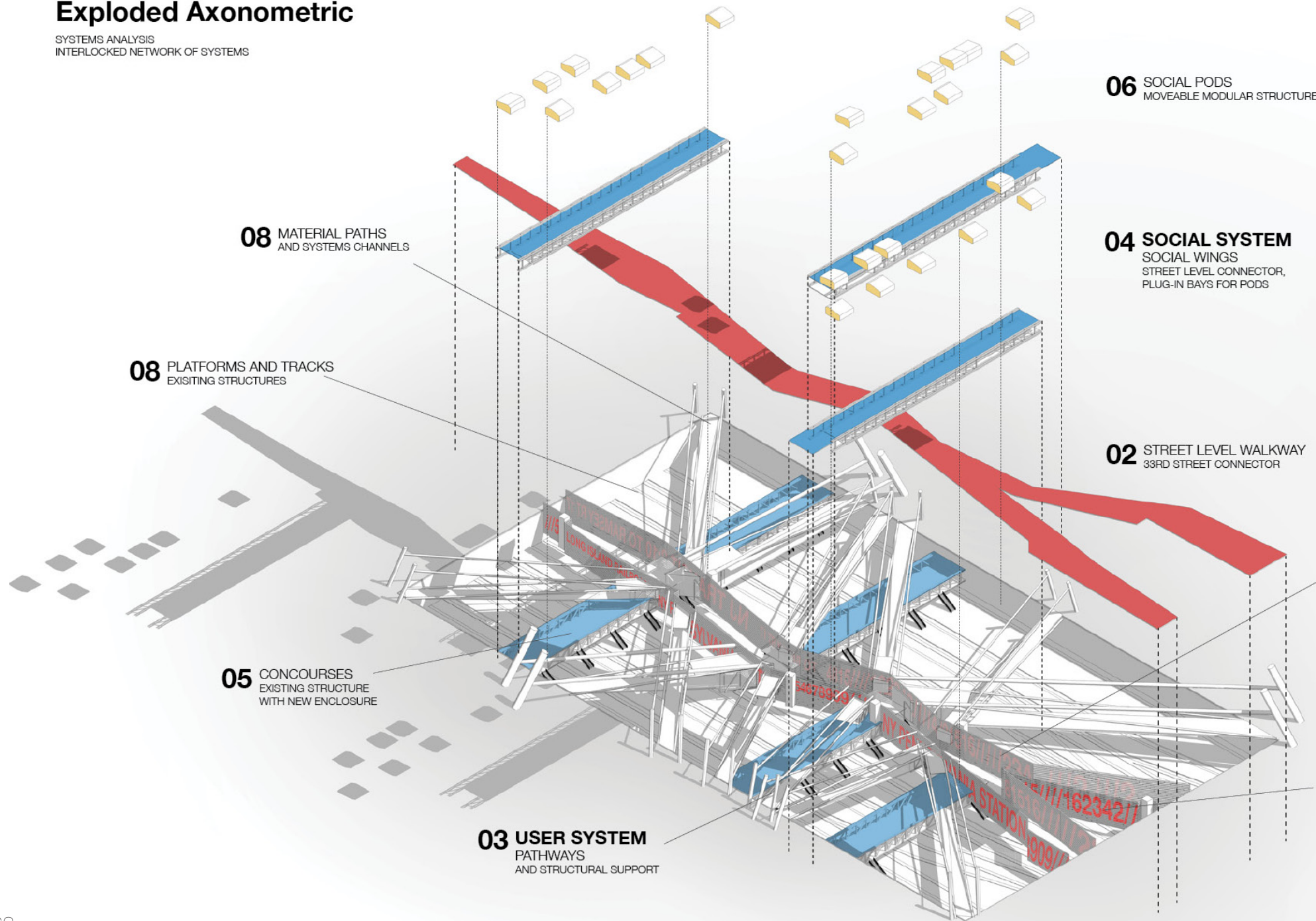


**10** FUTURE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

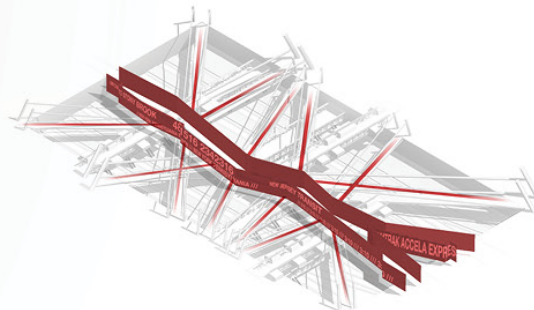
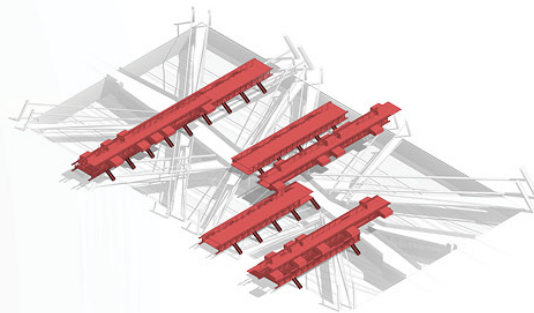
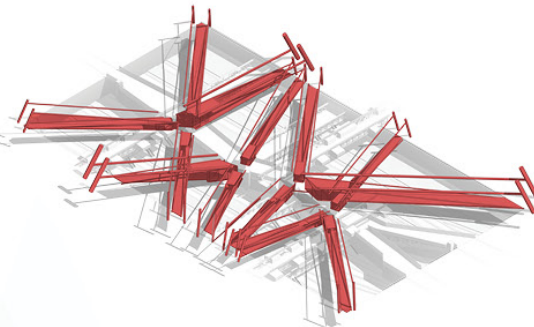
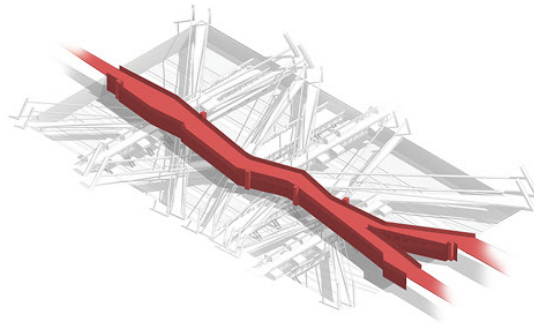


# Exploded Axonometric

SYSTEMS ANALYSIS  
INTERLOCKED NETWORK OF SYSTEMS



## Building Systems



## Support System

CONNECTION TO URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE  
CENTRALIZED TECHNICAL SYSTEMS  
RECONNECTED 33RD STREET VIA OPEN WALKWAY  
USER SUPPORT PROGRAM  
MAIN INTERLOCKED AXIS

## User System

USER PATHWAYS FROM STREET TO STATION  
STRUCTURAL SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL CORE  
EXTENSION OF STREET ACTIVITY

## Social System

EXTENSION OF STREET ACTIVITY  
SPACES FOR ORGANIC COMMERCE  
IN-BETWEEN MEETING AND GATHERING SPACES  
EXISTING CONCOURSES WITH NEW STRUCTURE  
PLUG-IN MODULAR PODS

## Information System

*TEMPORAL*  
LED LOUVER CORE FACADE  
MOTION AND SCHEDULE CHANGING LIGHTS  
ARCHITECTURAL RESPONSES TO STATION'S FLOWS

*SPATIAL*  
MATERIAL PATHWAYS FOR EACH RAIL SYSTEM  
CONNECTION TO DISTANT STATIONS

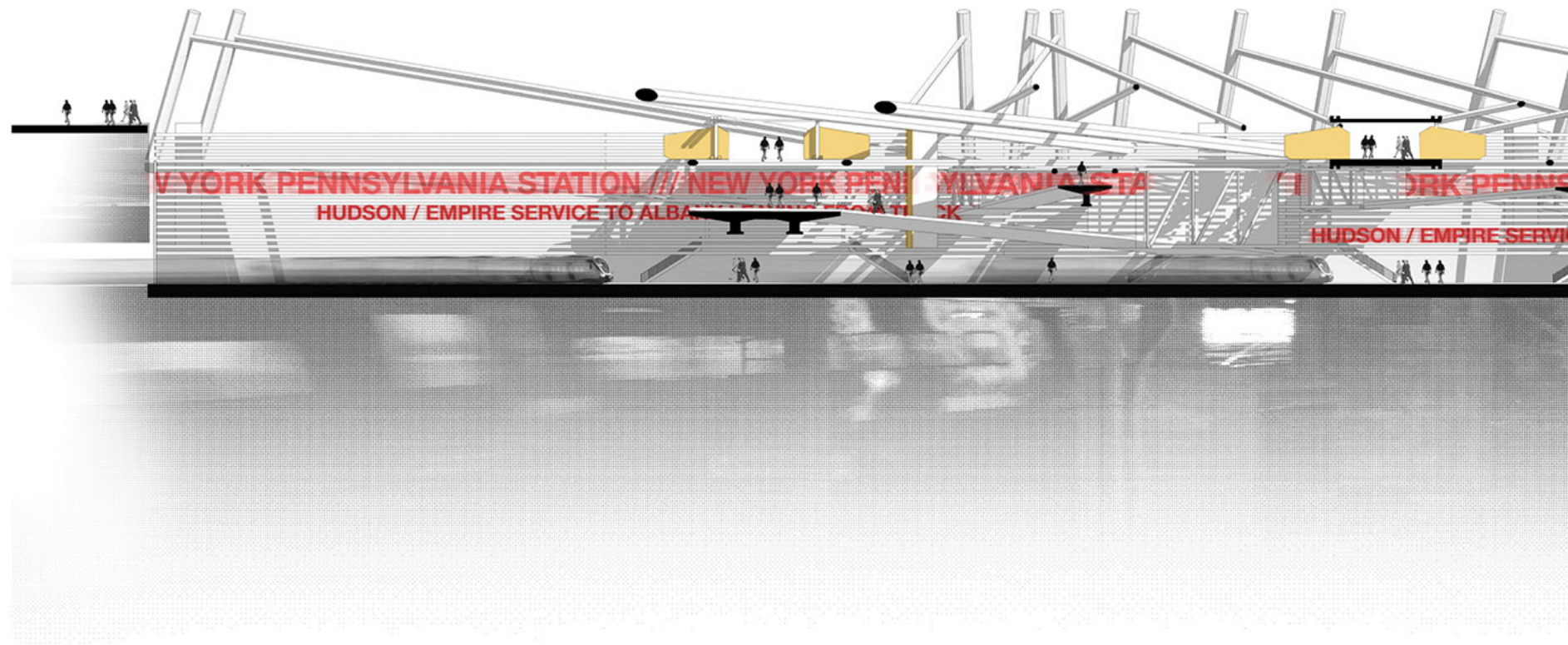
### 01 SUPPORT SYSTEM CORE STRUCTURE WITH INFORMATION FACADE

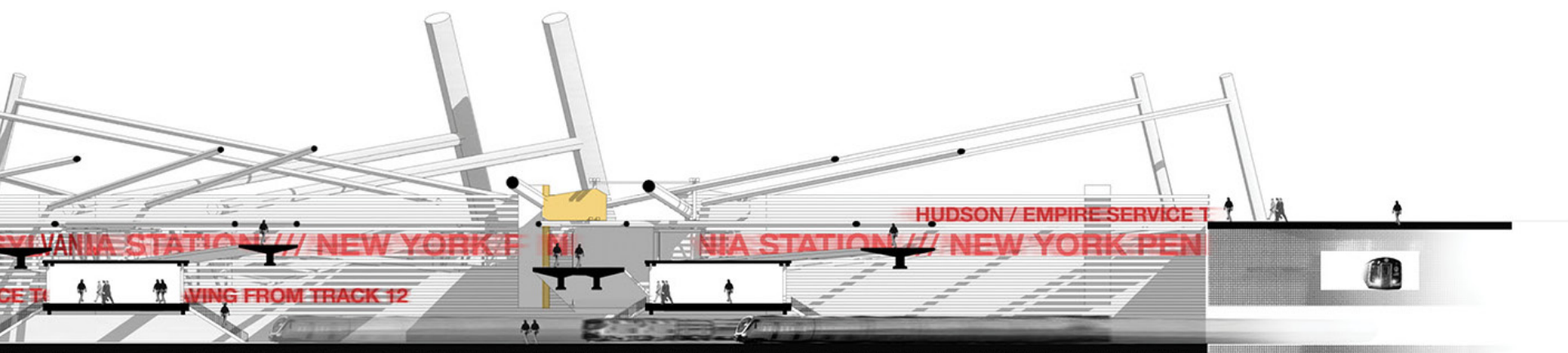
### 07 INFORMATION SYSTEM LED LOUVER FACADE



## Longitudinal Section

1/32" = 1' SCALE  
LOOKING SOUTH TOWARDS 31ST STREET

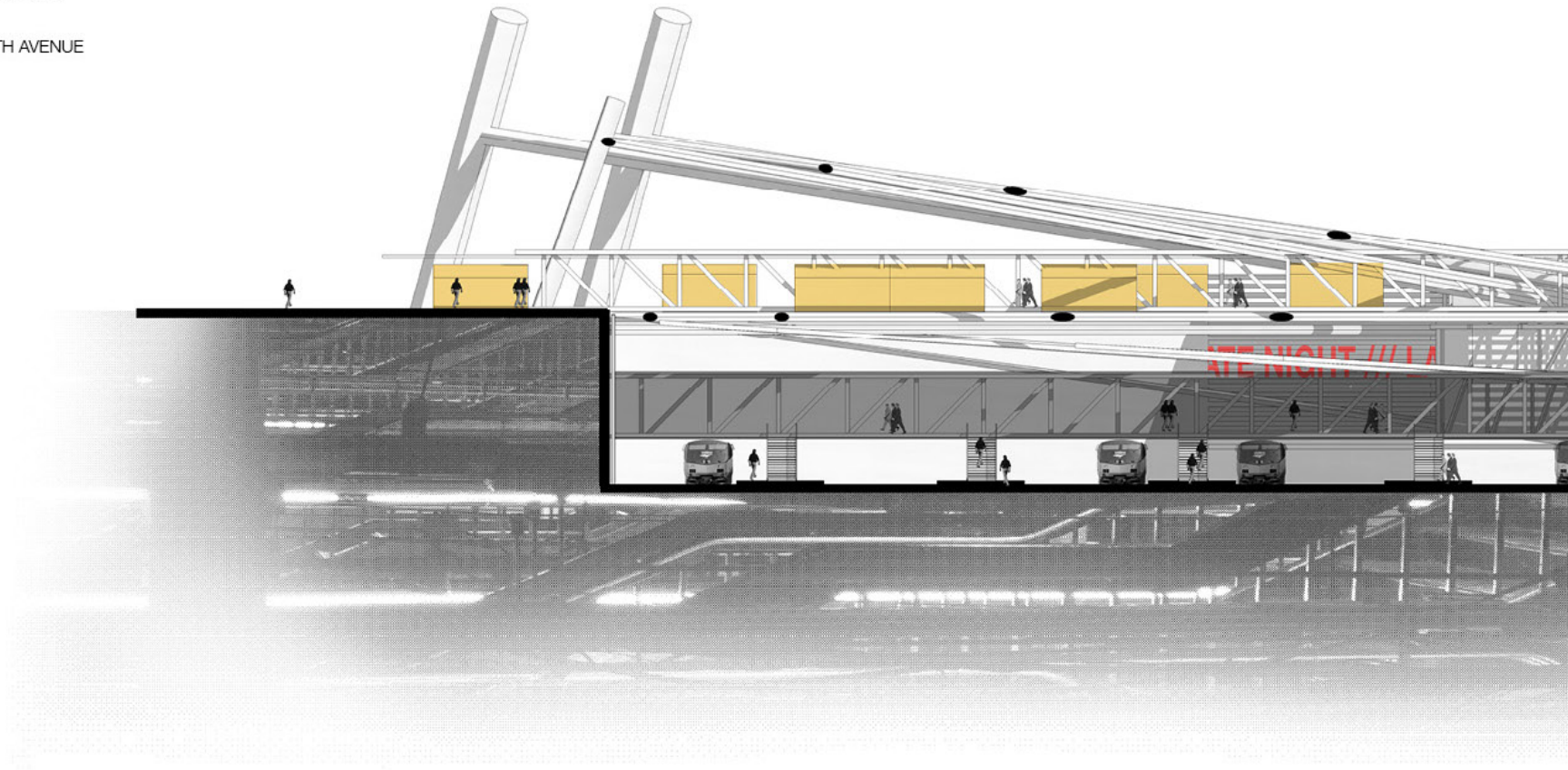


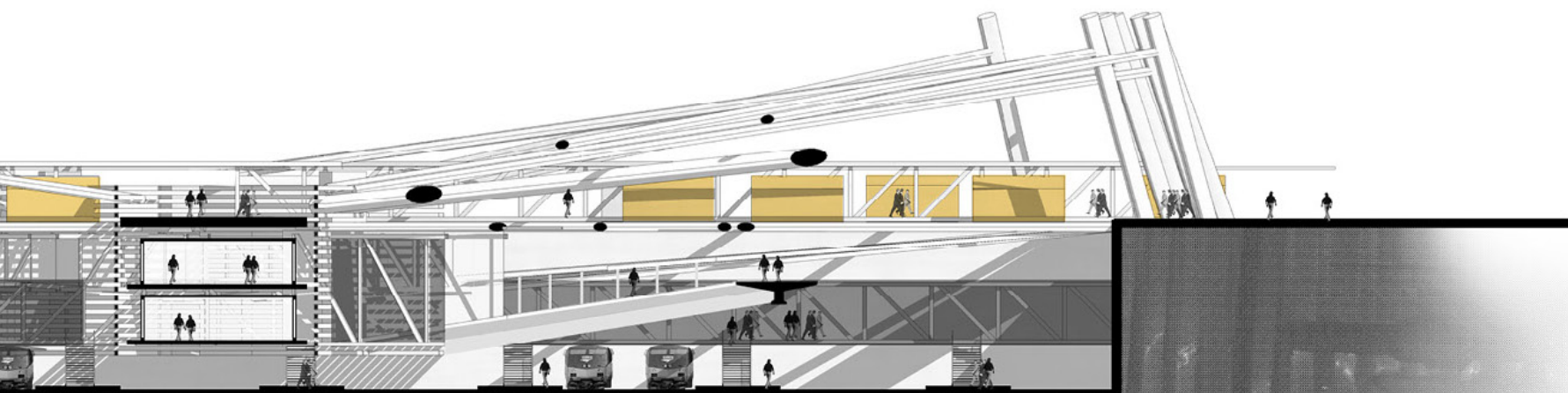




## Cross Section

1/32" = 1' SCALE  
LOOKING WEST TOWARDS 8TH AVENUE

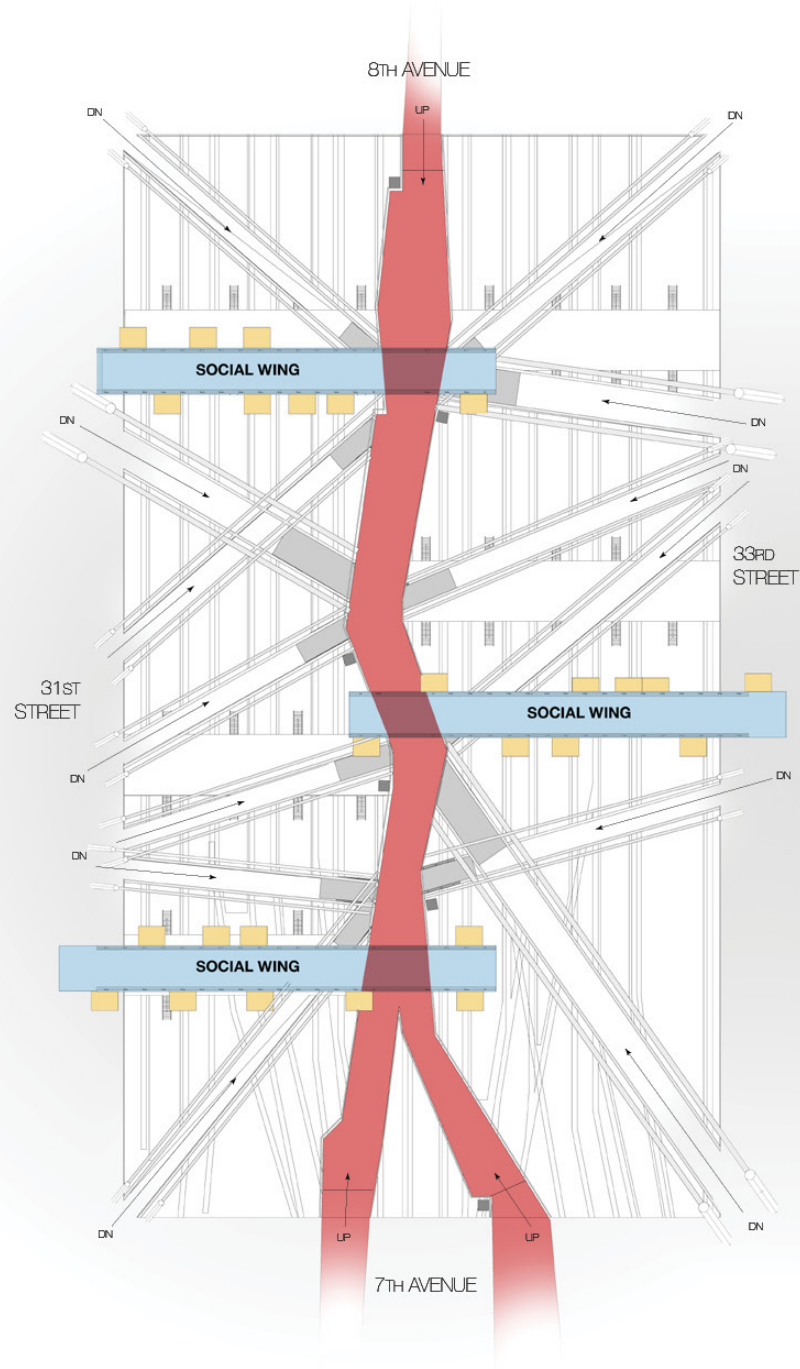






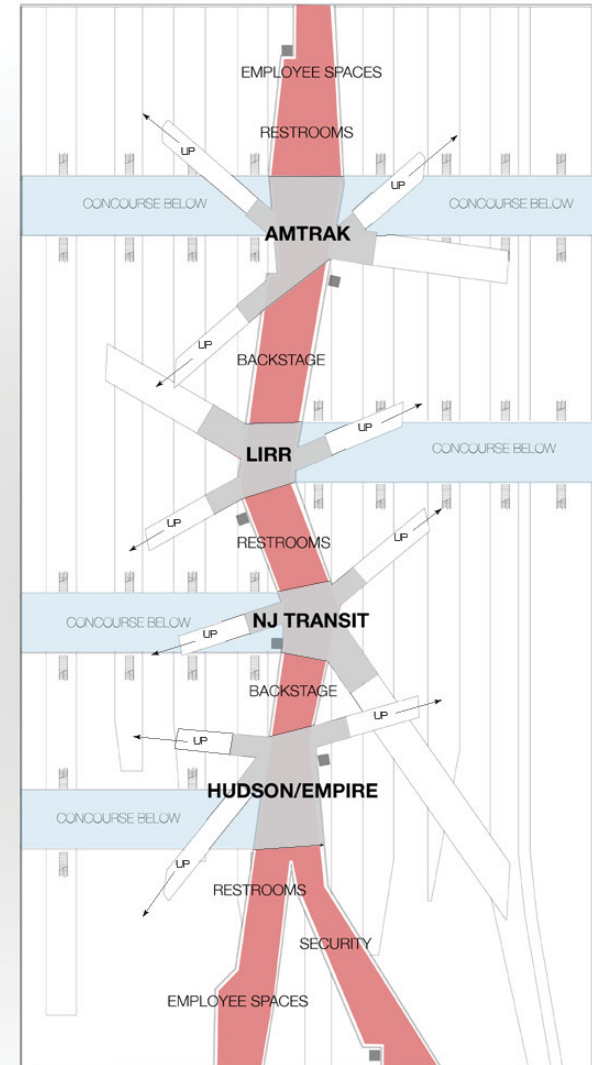
## Street Level

1/64" = 1' SCALE



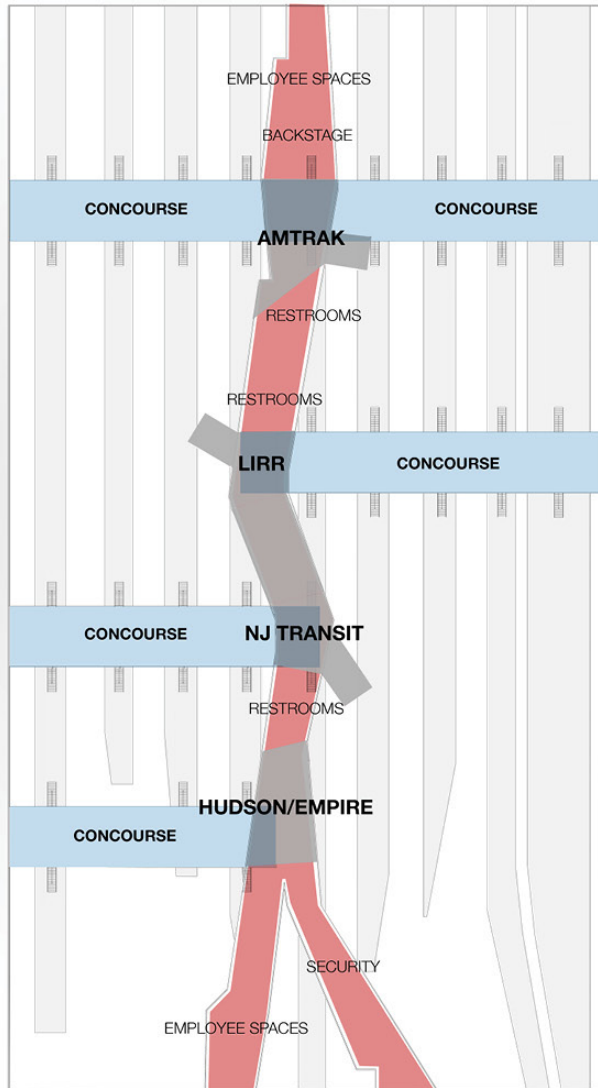
## First Lower Level

1/64" = 1' SCALE  
STREET LEVEL -12'



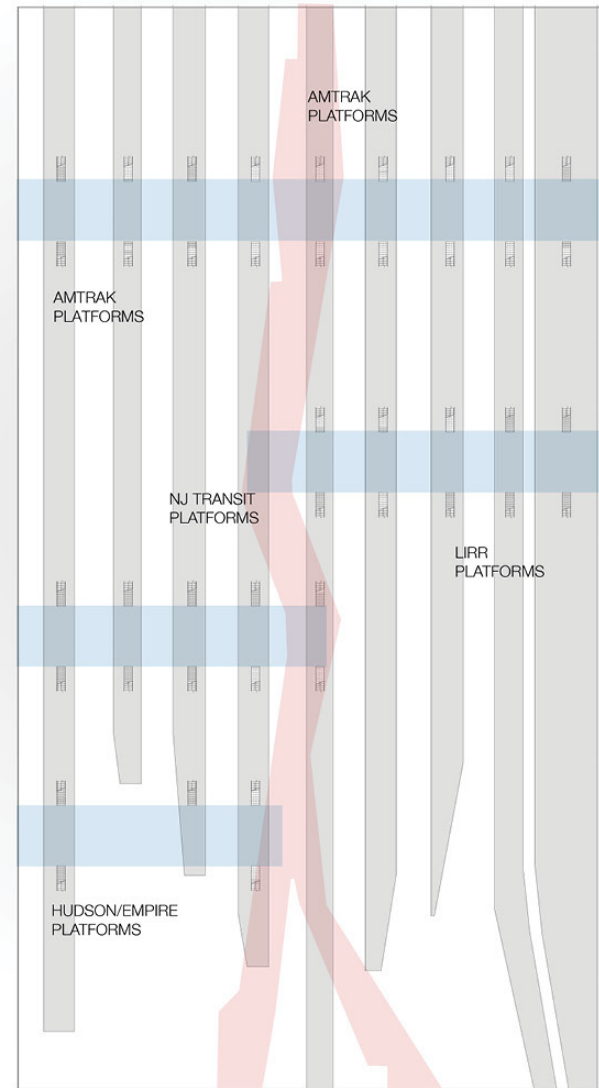
## Concourse Level

1/64" = 1' SCALE  
STREET LEVEL -24'



## Track Level

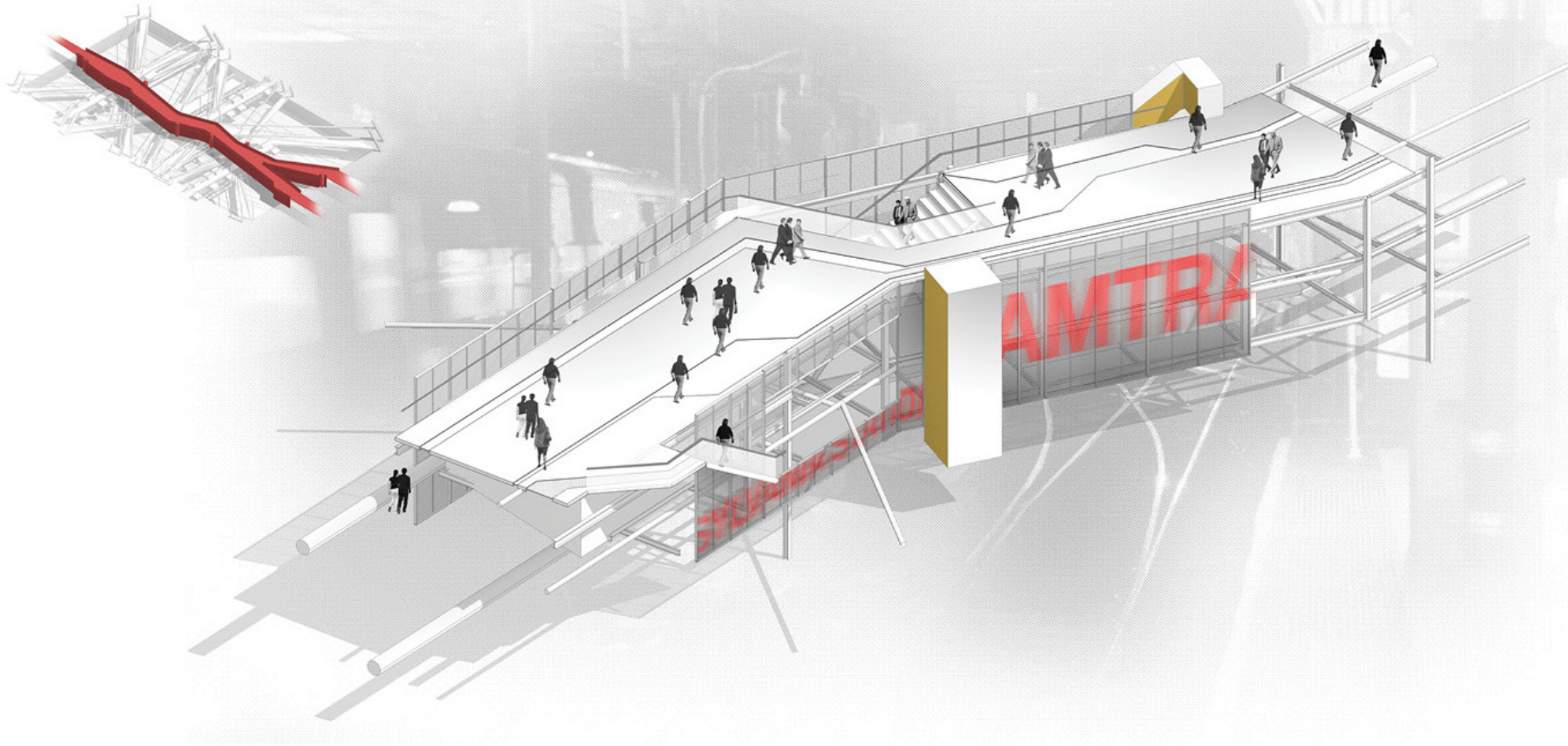
1/64" = 1' SCALE  
STREET LEVEL -36'

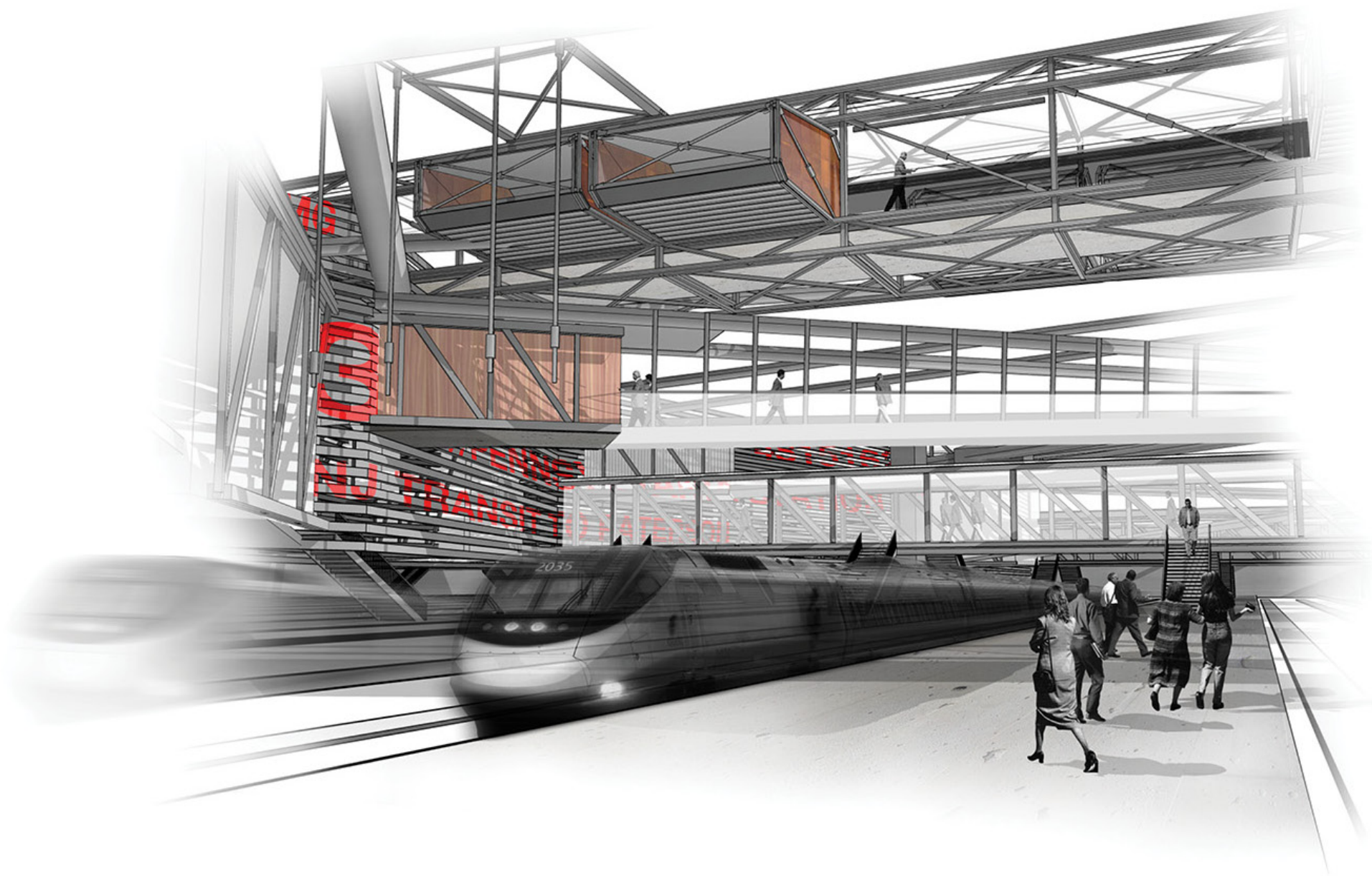




# Support System

CENTRAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
32ND STREET WALKWAY  
PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT

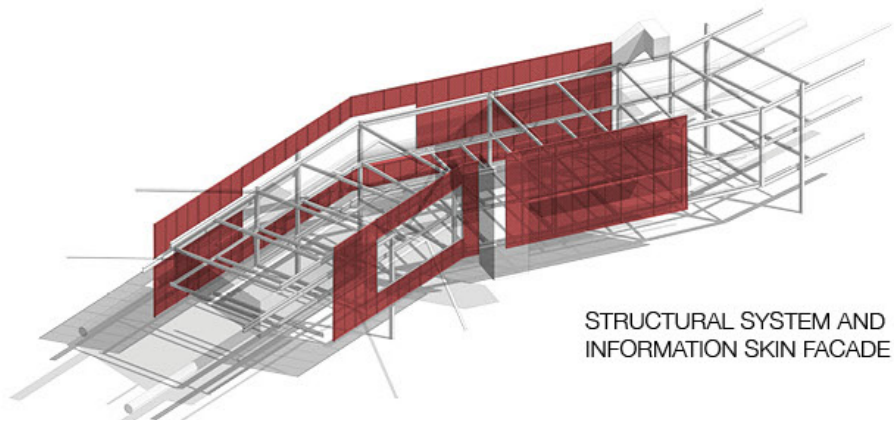
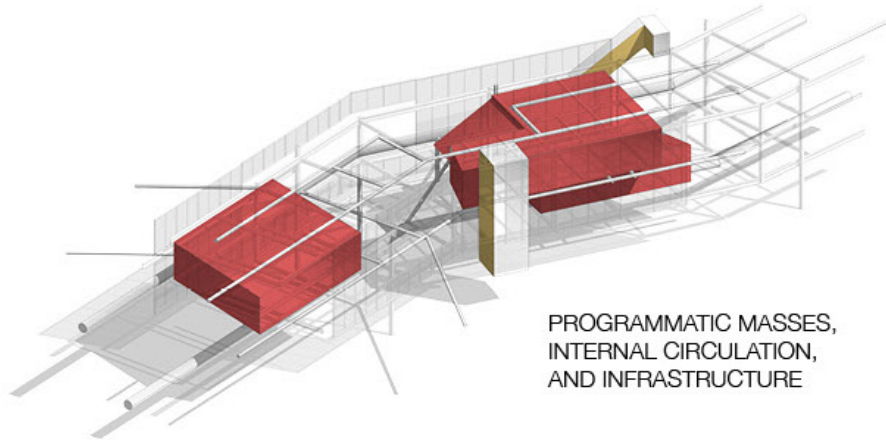






## Support Core Components

SUPPORT SYSTEM EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC  
COMPONENT ANALYSIS



MATERIAL PATHWAYS -  
*SPATIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM* **07**

STREET LEVEL WALKWAY  
WITH STAIR ACCESS **06**

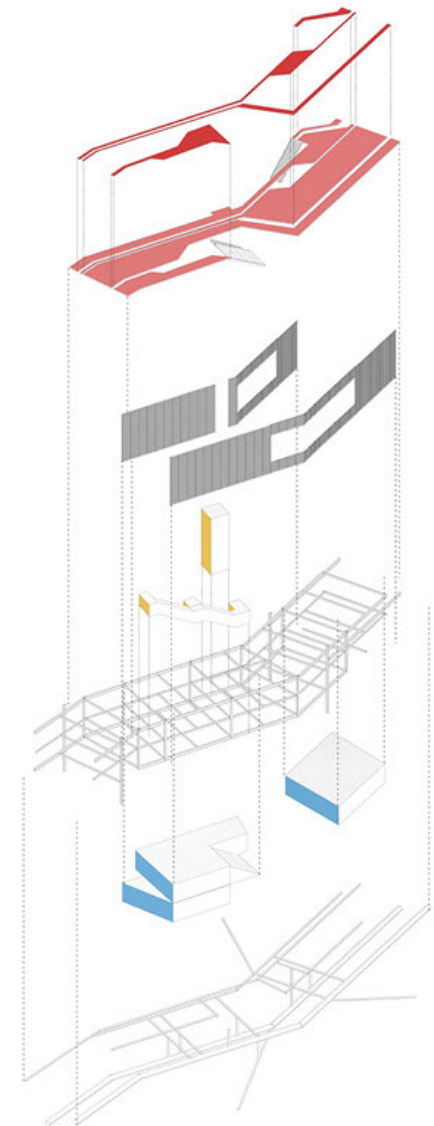
LED-LOUVER FACADE -  
*TEMPORAL INFORMATION SYSTEM* **05**

CONCRETE ENCASED ELEVATORS  
AND INTERNAL STAIRCASES **04**

STEEL FRAMED STRUCTURE **03**

PROGRAMMATIC MASSES -  
RESTROOMS, BACKSTAGE SPACES,  
SECURITY, EMPLOYEE SPACES **02**

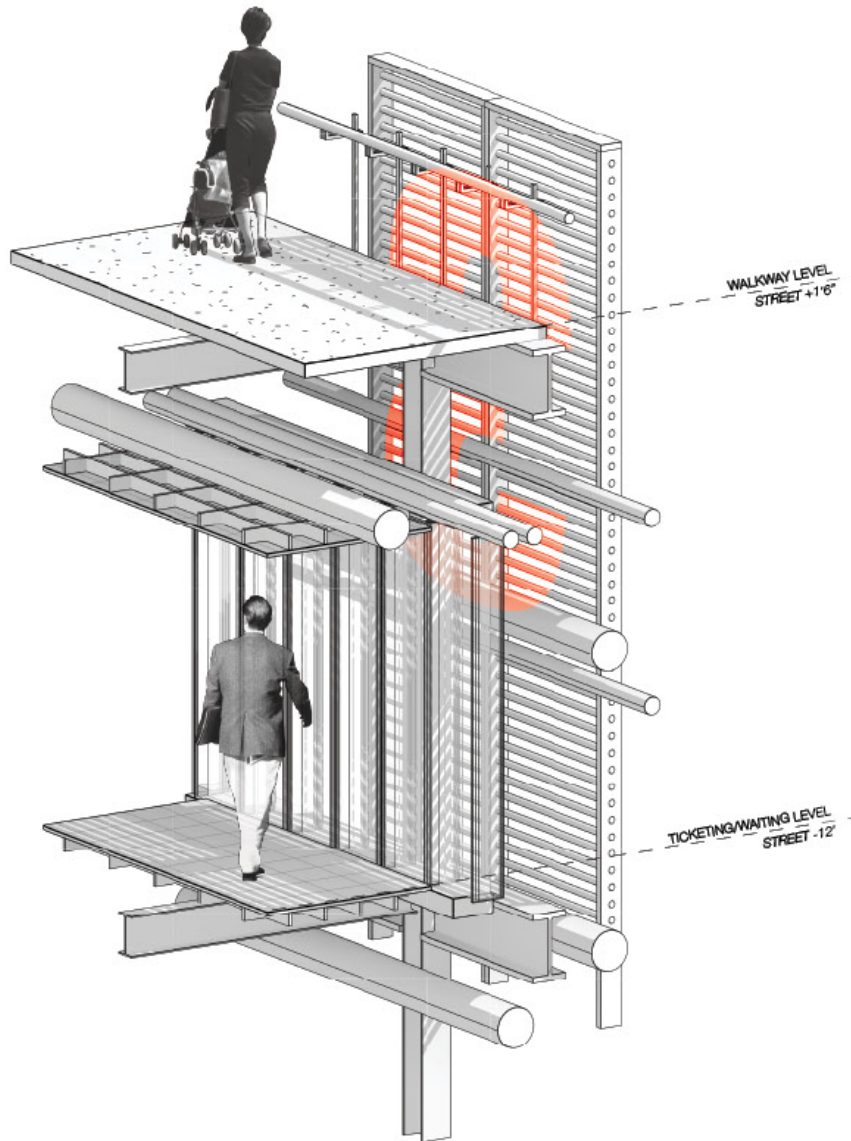
TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE -  
PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL, HVAC, DATA **01**





# Support Core Wall Section

1/2" = 1' WALL SECTION  
AXONOMETRIC ANALYSIS



## STREET LEVEL WALKWAY

WALKWAY  
Concrete on 3" Metal Deck

## MECHANICAL PLENUM

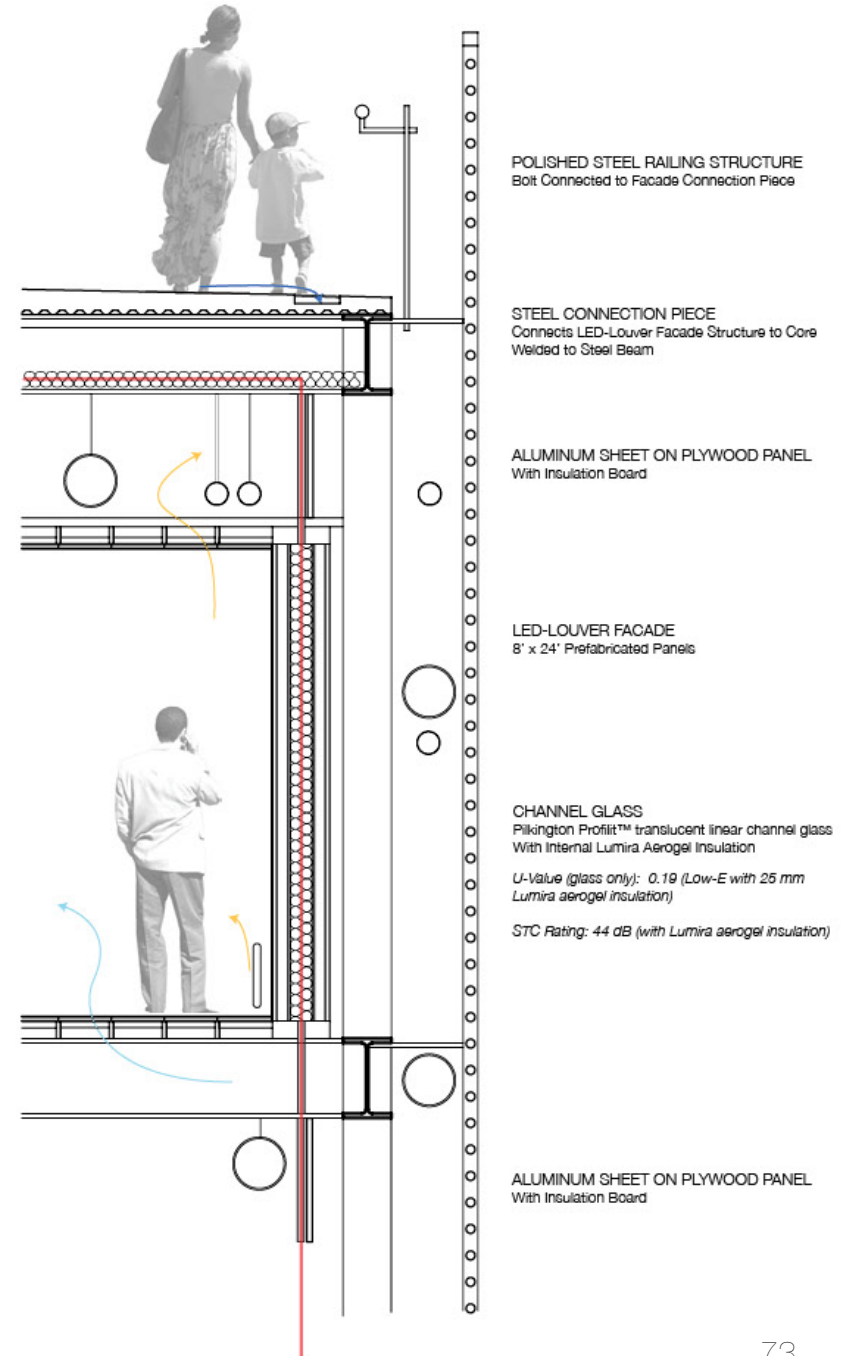
ADJUSTABLE CEILING  
Metal Grid Structure  
2' x 2' Ceiling Panels

## INTERIOR SPACE

RADIATOR

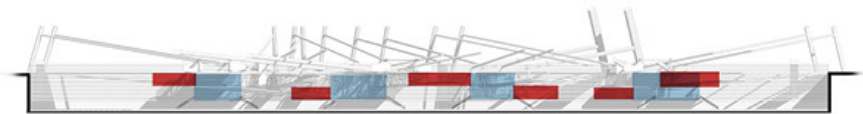
ADJUSTABLE FLOOR  
2' x 2' Floor Panels  
Metal Grid Structure

## MECHANICAL PLENUM



## Programmatic Components

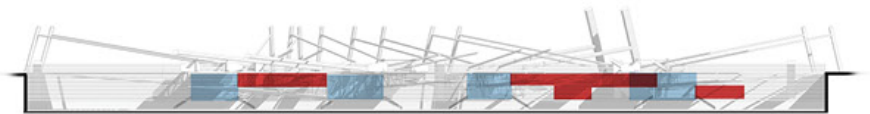
1/2" = 1' WALL SECTION  
AXONOMETRIC ANALYSIS



RESTROOMS



EMPLOYEE SPACES  
BREAK ROOMS, KITCHENS, OFFICES, LOCKER ROOMS,  
STORAGE, MECHANICAL SPACES



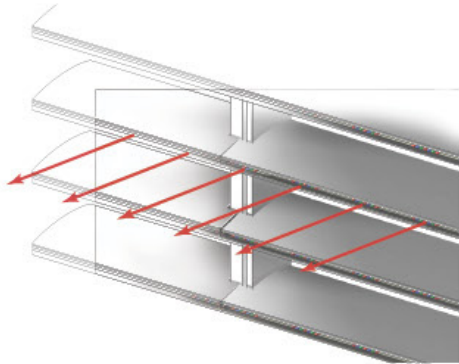
BACKSTAGE SPACES  
STORAGE, SUPERVISOR OFFICES, ADVANCED TICKET  
SERVICES, TRAVEL OFFICES, DIGITAL CENTERS



SECURITY OFFICES

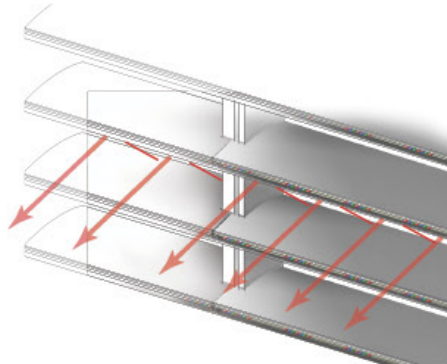
## LED Louver System

LOUVER DETAIL  
LED LIGHTING DIAGRAMS



### FORWARD LED LIGHTS

Allows direct light for text messages to be readable



### REAR LED LIGHTS

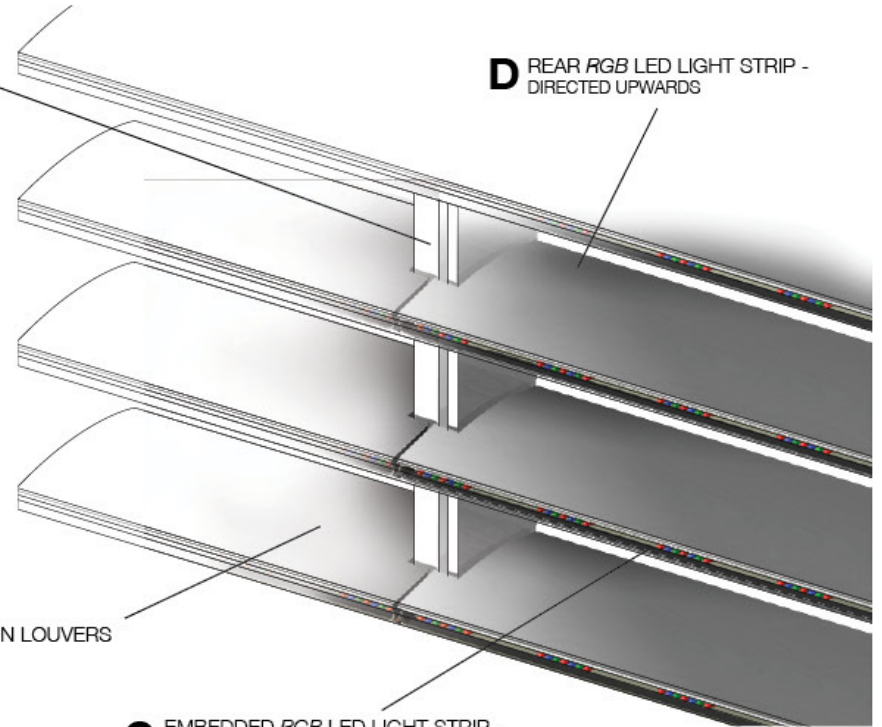
Directed upward so that light is reflected off of steel louvers  
Allows for more diffuse light for general coloring

**A** STRUCTURAL FRAME -  
CONTAINS WIRING SYSTEM

**D** REAR *RGB* LED LIGHT STRIP -  
DIRECTED UPWARDS

**B** STEEL FIN LOUVERS

**C** EMBEDDED *RGB* LED LIGHT STRIP -  
ONLY ON EXTERIOR SIDE



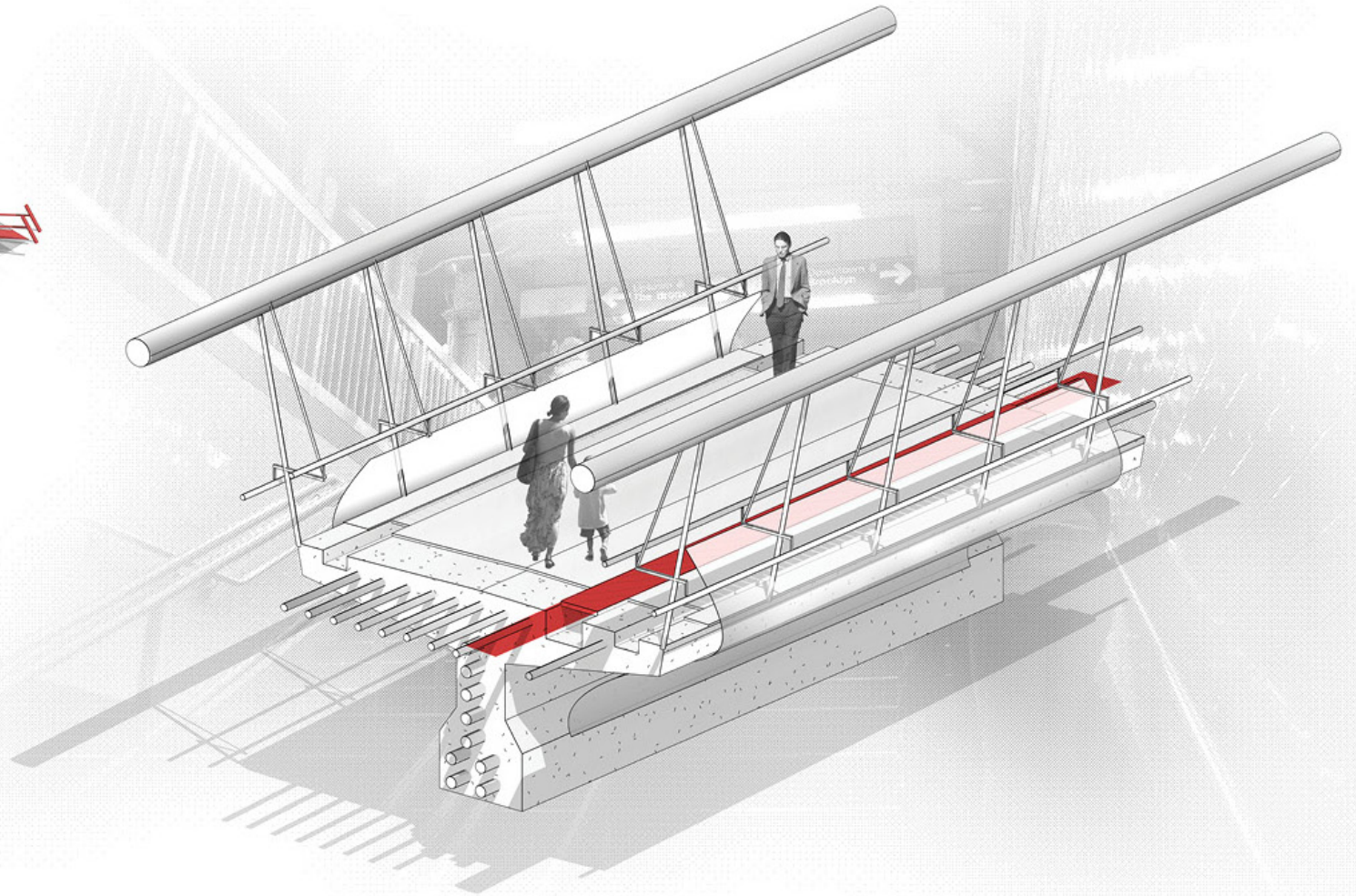
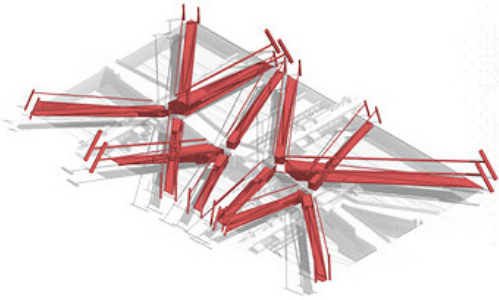
TRANSIT 3:05 TO PORT JERVIS LEAVING FROM TRACK 11

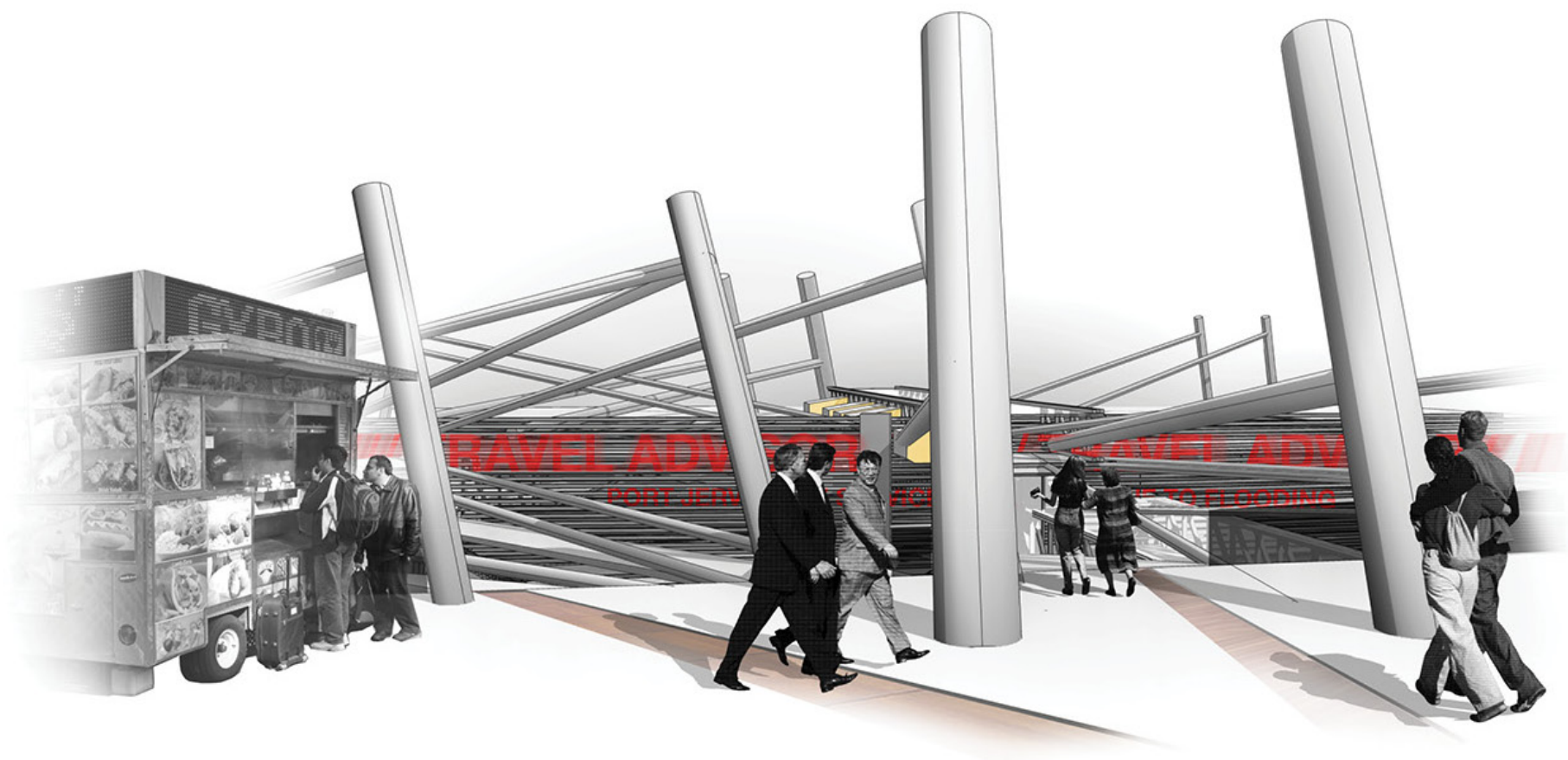
AMTRAK TRAVEL ADVISOR



# User System

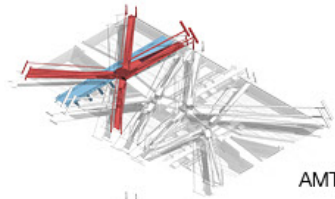
CIRCULATION PATHWAYS  
STRUCTURAL SUPPORT



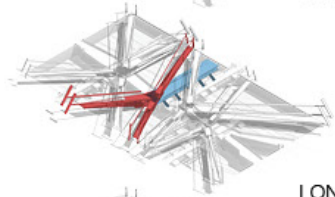


## Rail System Pathways

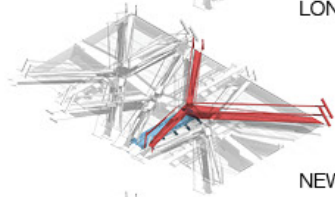
STREET TO STATION PATHWAYS  
CONCOURSES AND ACCESS TO PLATFORMS



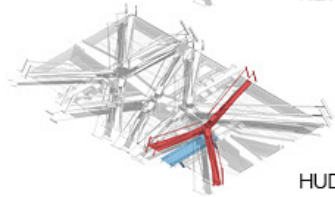
AMTRAK



LONG ISLAND RAILROAD



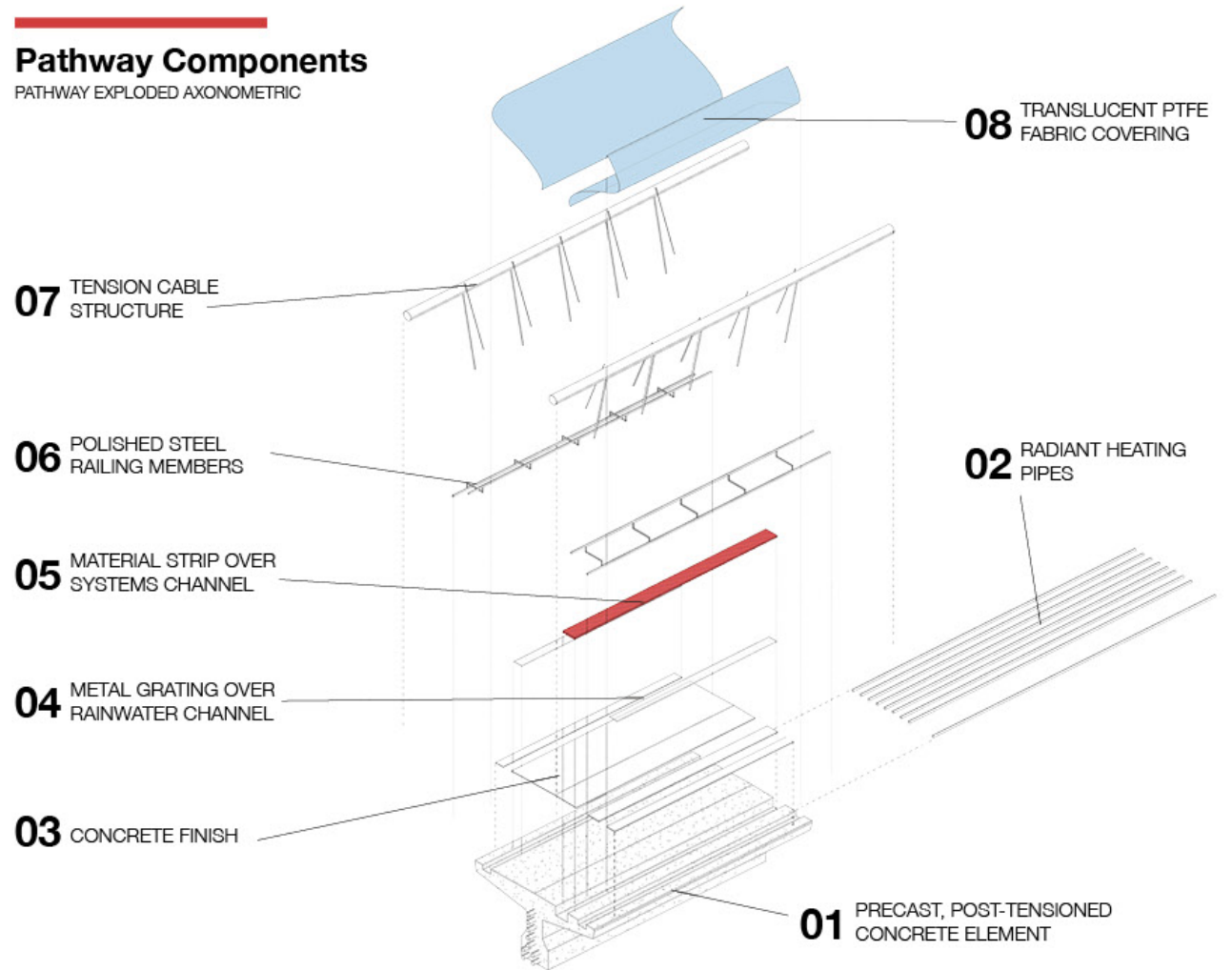
NEW JERSEY TRANSIT



HUDSON / EMPIRE SERVICE

## Pathway Components

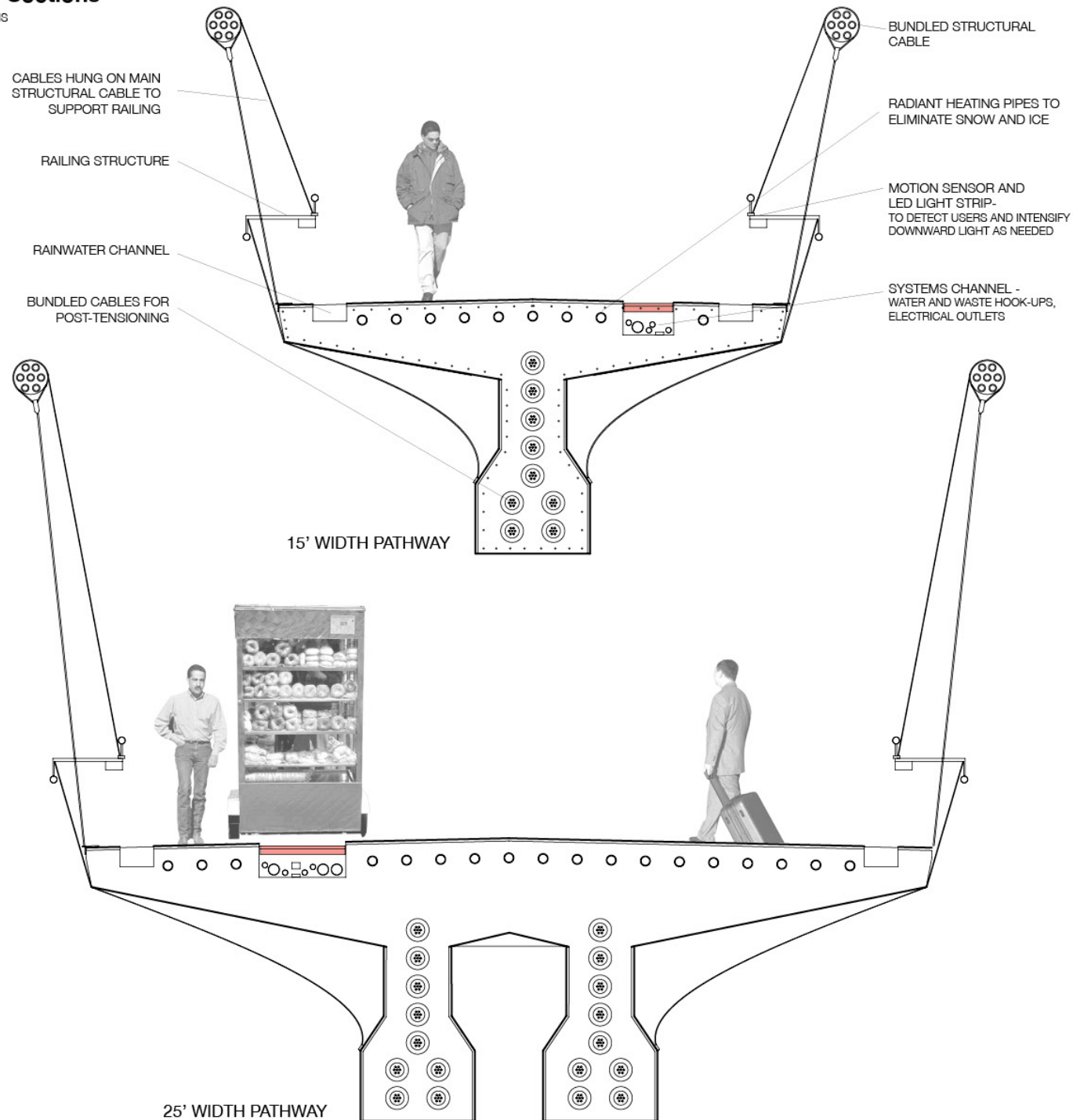
PATHWAY EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC





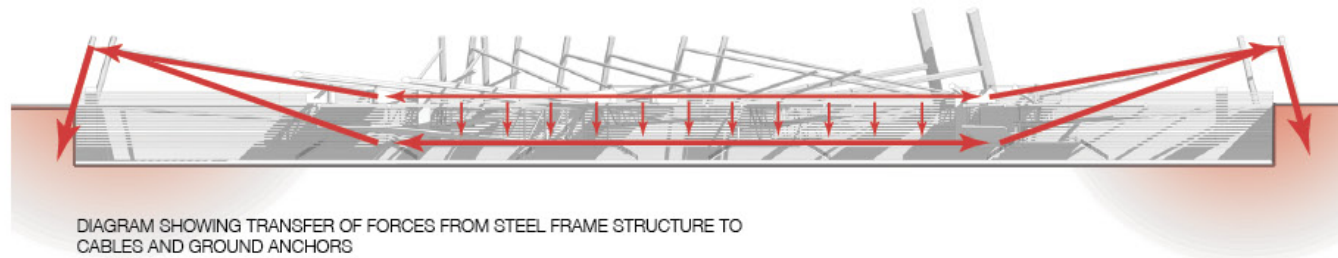
## Pathway Sections

1/2" = 1' SECTIONS

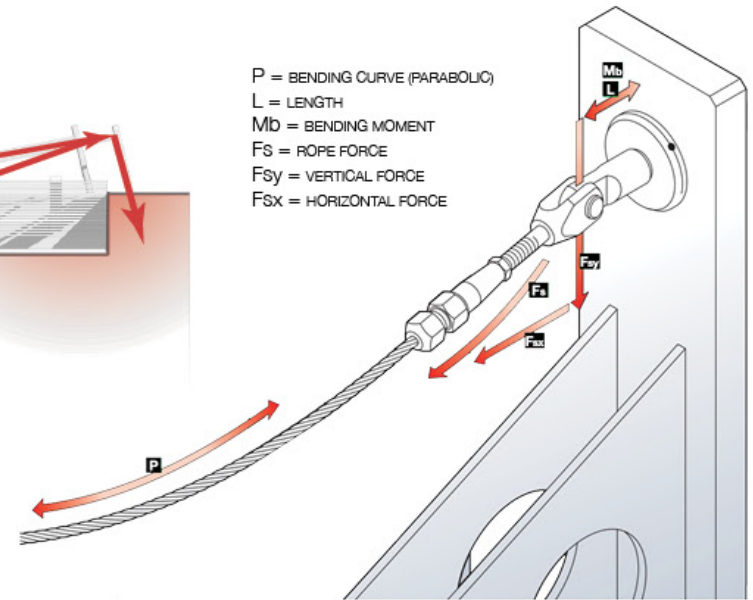


## Tension Structure

FORCE DIAGRAMS  
CLEVIS DETAIL



$P$  = BENDING CURVE (PARABOLIC)  
 $L$  = LENGTH  
 $M_b$  = BENDING MOMENT  
 $F_s$  = ROPE FORCE  
 $F_{sy}$  = VERTICAL FORCE  
 $F_{sx}$  = HORIZONTAL FORCE

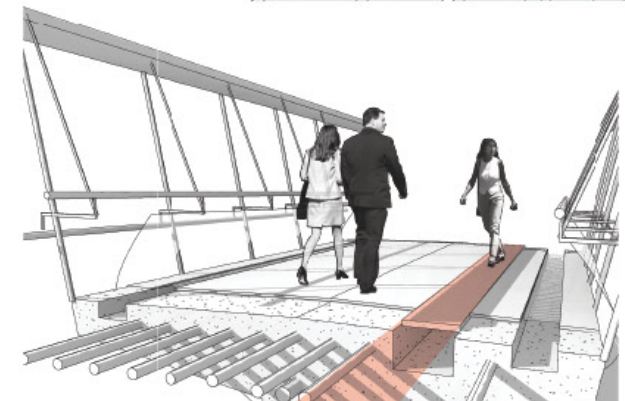


**A** FORCES FROM CORE STRUCTURE  
TRANSFERRED ALONG BUNDLED  
CABLES TO ANCHORS

**D** CABLES TRANSFER DOWNWARD FORCE  
OF RAILING STRUCTURE UP TO  
MAIN BUNDLED CABLES

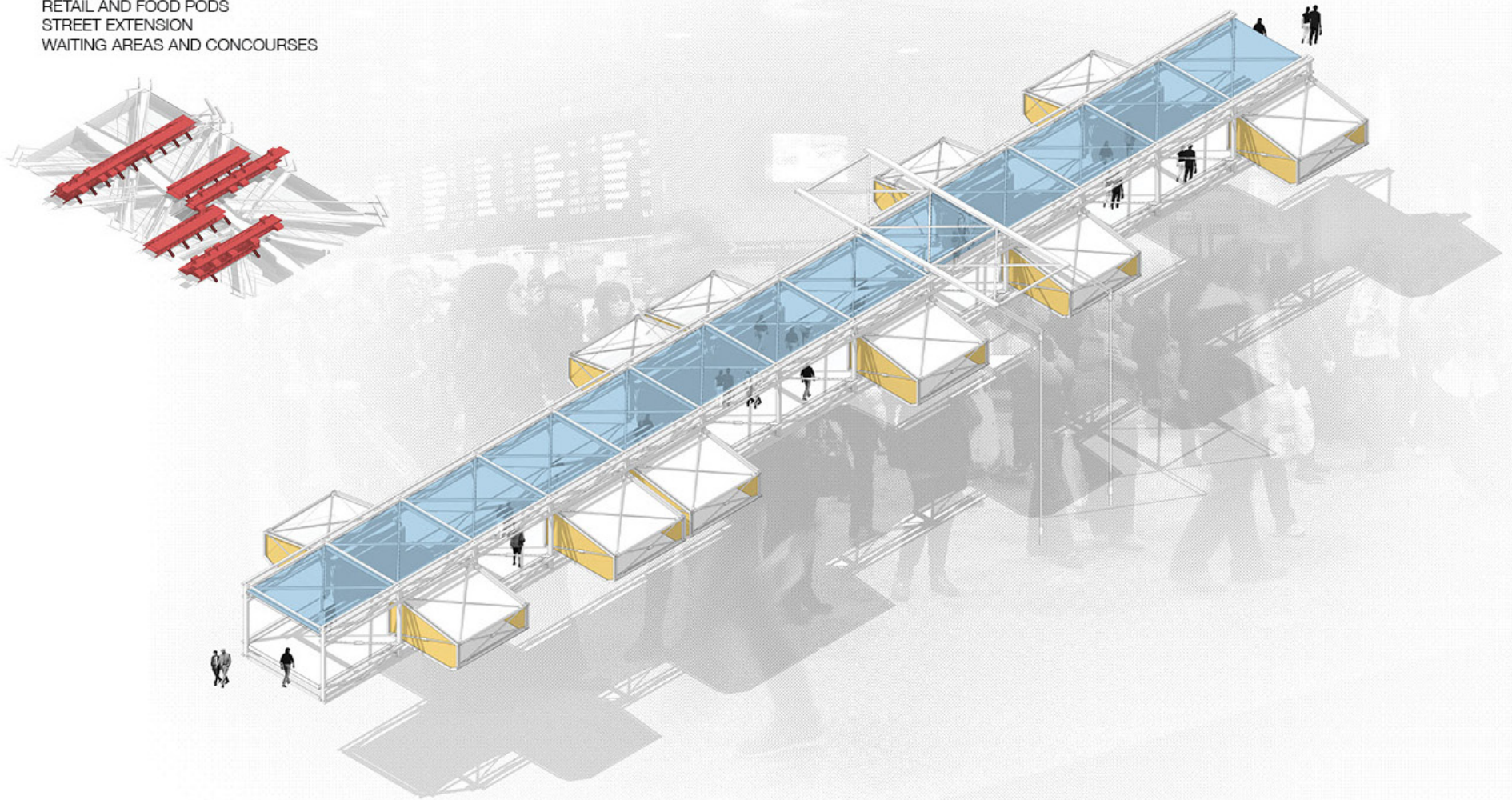
**B** LIVE LOAD FORCES OF USERS AND DEAD  
LOAD FORCES OF CONCRETE PATHWAYS  
THEMSELVES ARE TRANSFERRED ALONG  
POST-TENSIONING CABLES EMBEDDED IN  
THE PRE-CAST ELEMENTS

**C** DOWNWARD FORCE OF  
SUSPENDED RAILING STRUCTURE

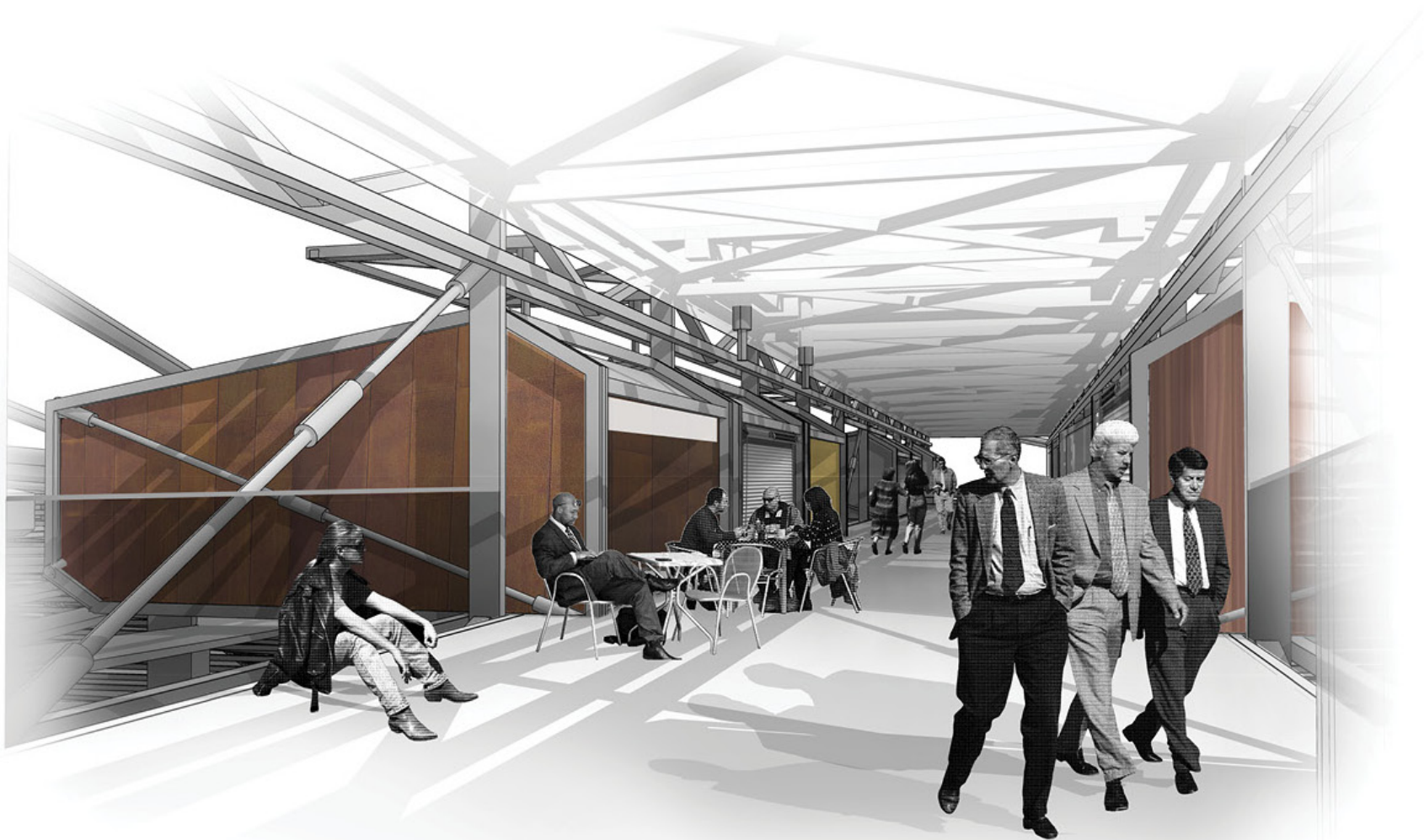


# Social System

RETAIL AND FOOD PODS  
STREET EXTENSION  
WAITING AREAS AND CONCOURSES

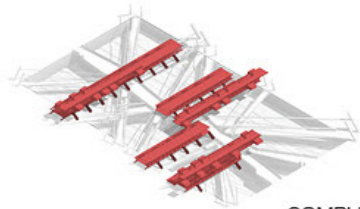




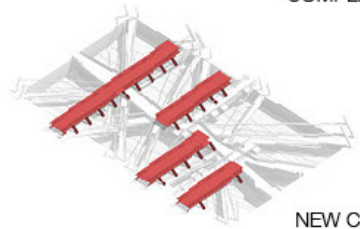


## Social Wing Components

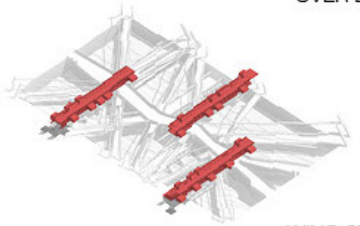
SOCIAL SYSTEM EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC  
COMPONENT ANALYSIS



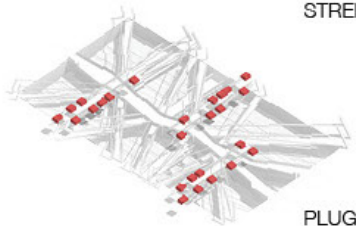
COMPLETE SOCIAL SYSTEM



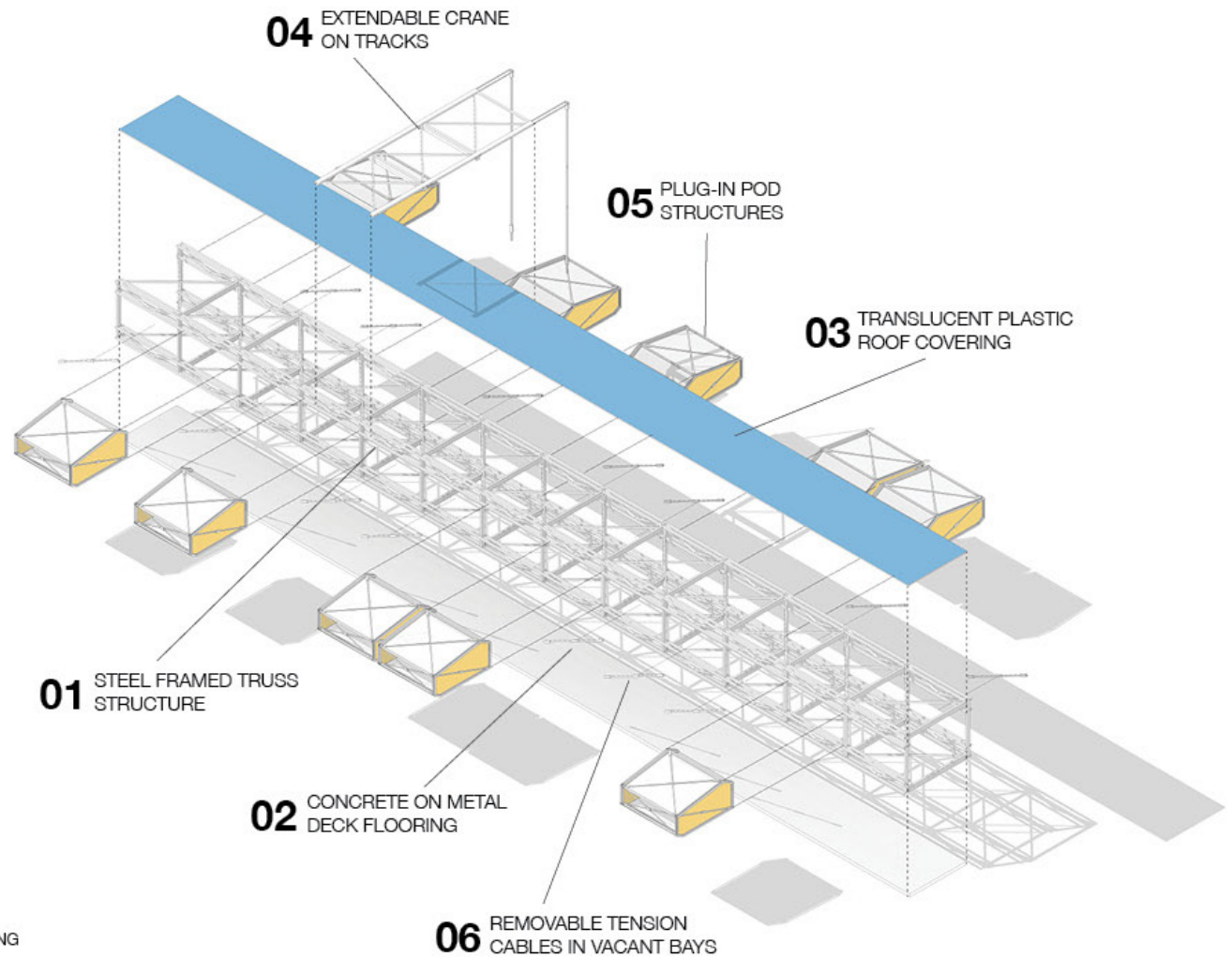
NEW COVERED STRUCTURES  
OVER EXISTING CONCOURSES



WING STRUCTURES CONNECTING  
STREET TO CORE AND WALKWAY



PLUG-IN SOCIAL PODS -  
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, RETAIL, FOOD, MEETING



## Plug-In Social Pods

1/2" = 1' WALL SECTION  
AXONOMETRIC ANALYSIS



NATIVE RED CEDAR WOOD



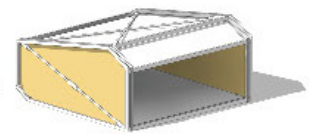
THIN HUDSON GNEISS  
STONE VENEER PANELS



CORRUGATED ALUMINUM



COR-TEN PANELS

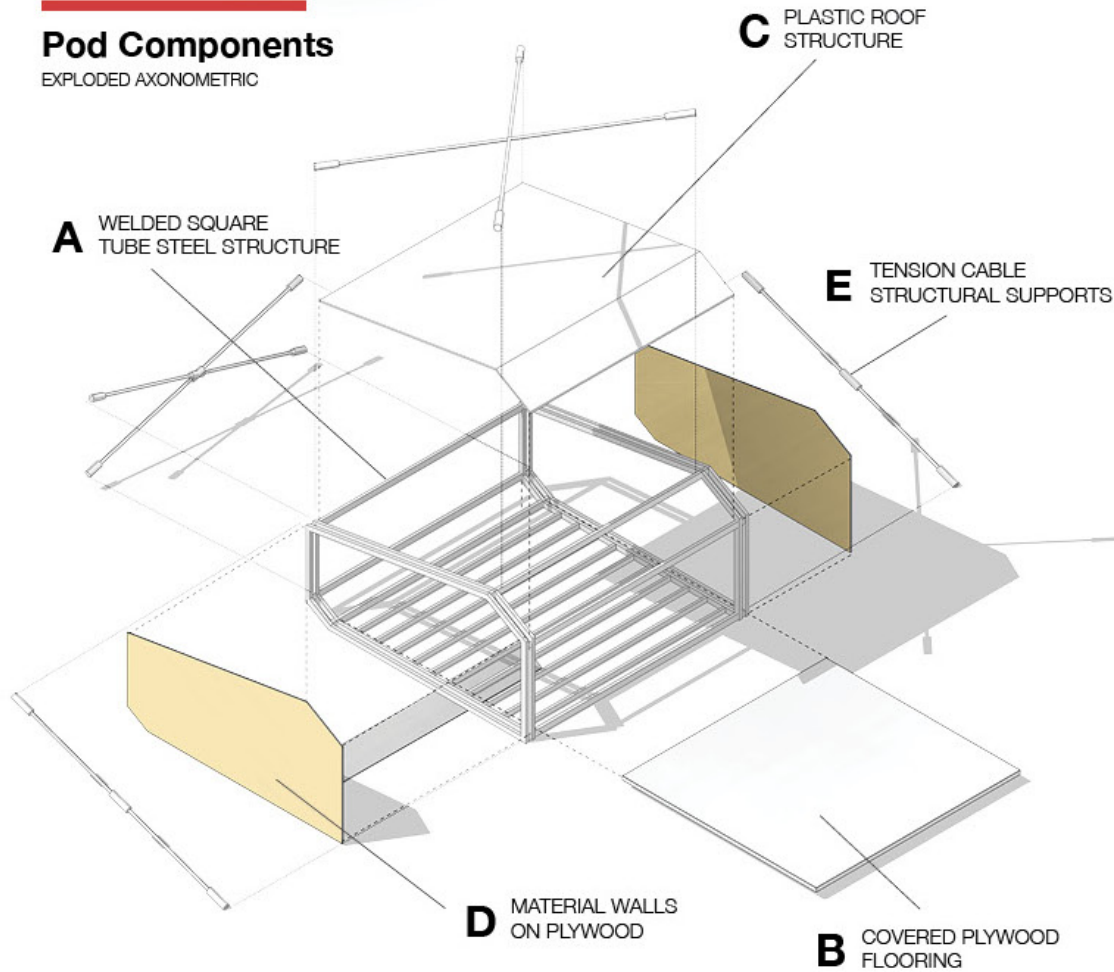


COLOR WALLS



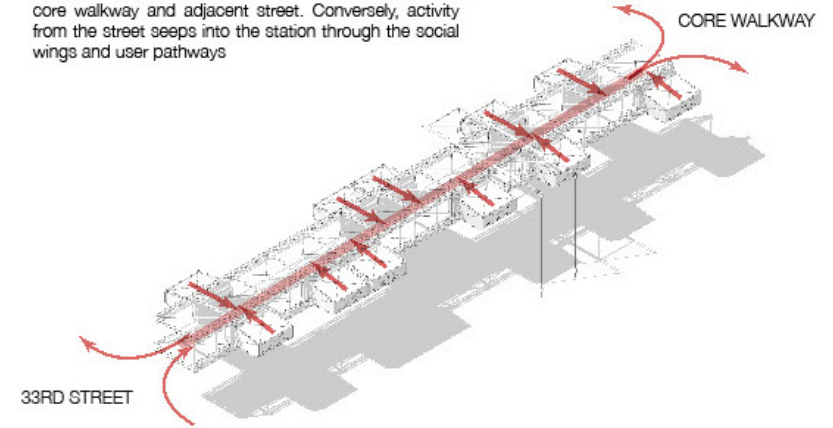
## Pod Components

EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC



## Relationship to Street

Activity from pods flows into social wing and out to the core walkway and adjacent street. Conversely, activity from the street seeps into the station through the social wings and user pathways

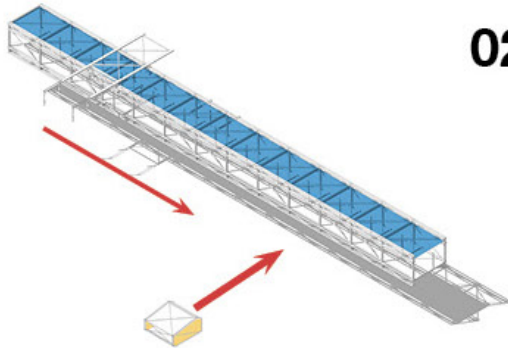


**PODS AT RAMSEY ROUTE 17 STATION**  
Pods can connect social interaction and commerce from distant points back to the station

## Pod Moving Sequence

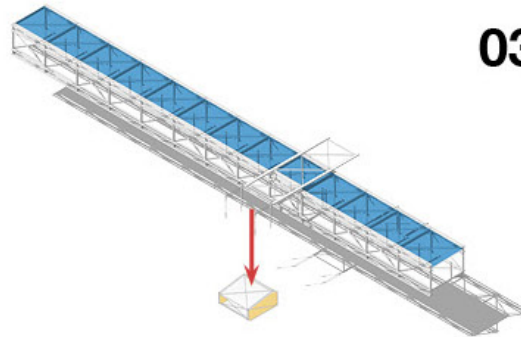
PLUG-IN PROCEDURE

01



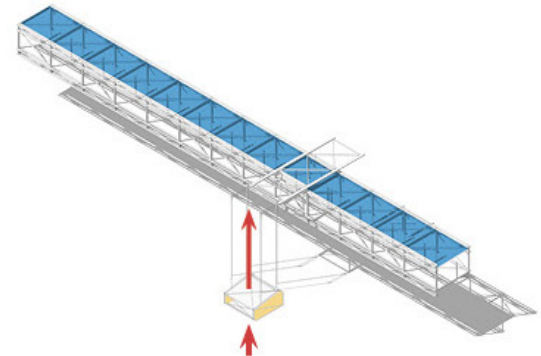
PODS ARRIVE ON TRAINS AT TRACK LEVEL AND CRANE MOVES ALONG TRACK ON SOCIAL WING

02



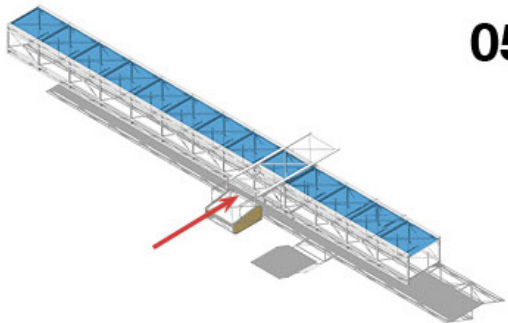
CRANE LOWERS CABLES, ATTACHING THEM TO POD'S STRUCTURE

03



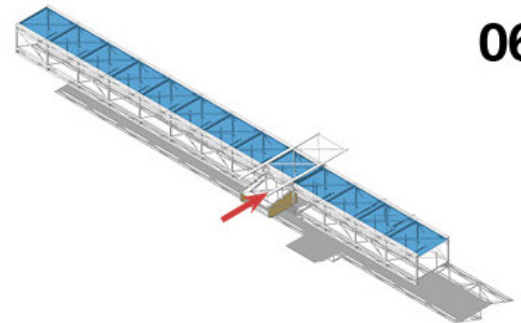
POD IS LIFTED BY CRANE UP TO STREET LEVEL

04



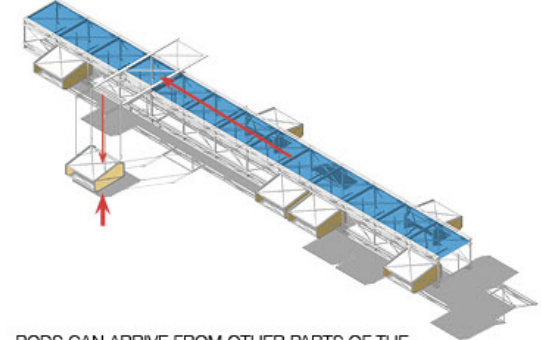
CRANE RETRACTS, DRAWING PODS INTO SOCIAL WING STRUCTURE

05



POD IS ATTACHED TO SOCIAL WING STRUCTURE AND CRANE CABLES ARE REMOVED

06

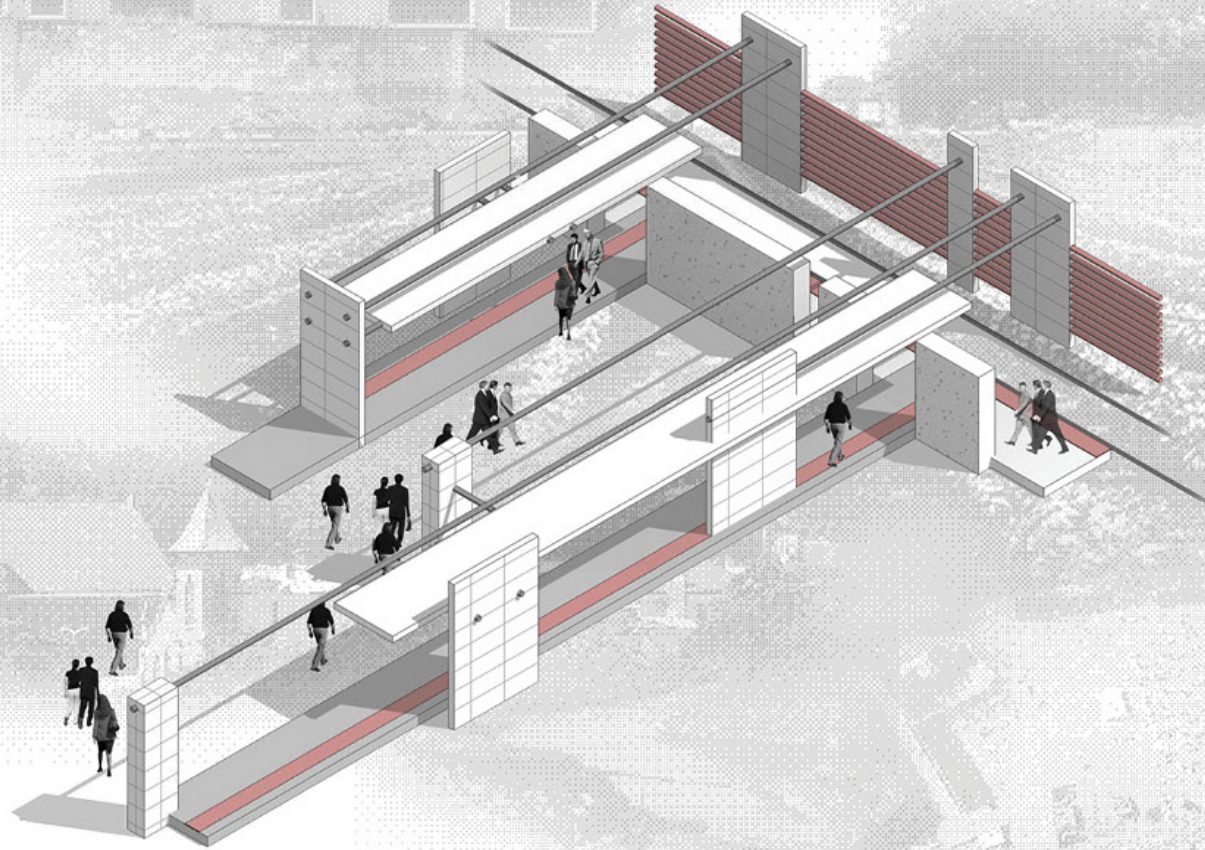
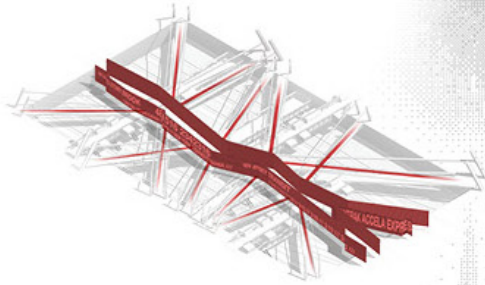


PODS CAN ARRIVE FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE NETWORK AND CAN BE REMOVED AND TAKEN BY TRAINS TO DISTANT POINTS



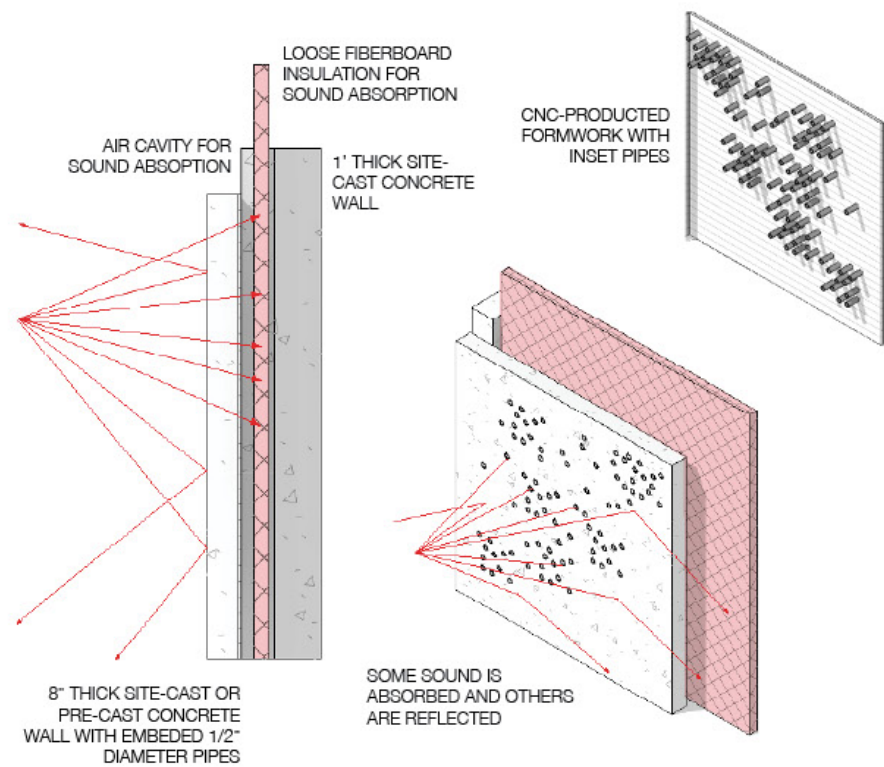
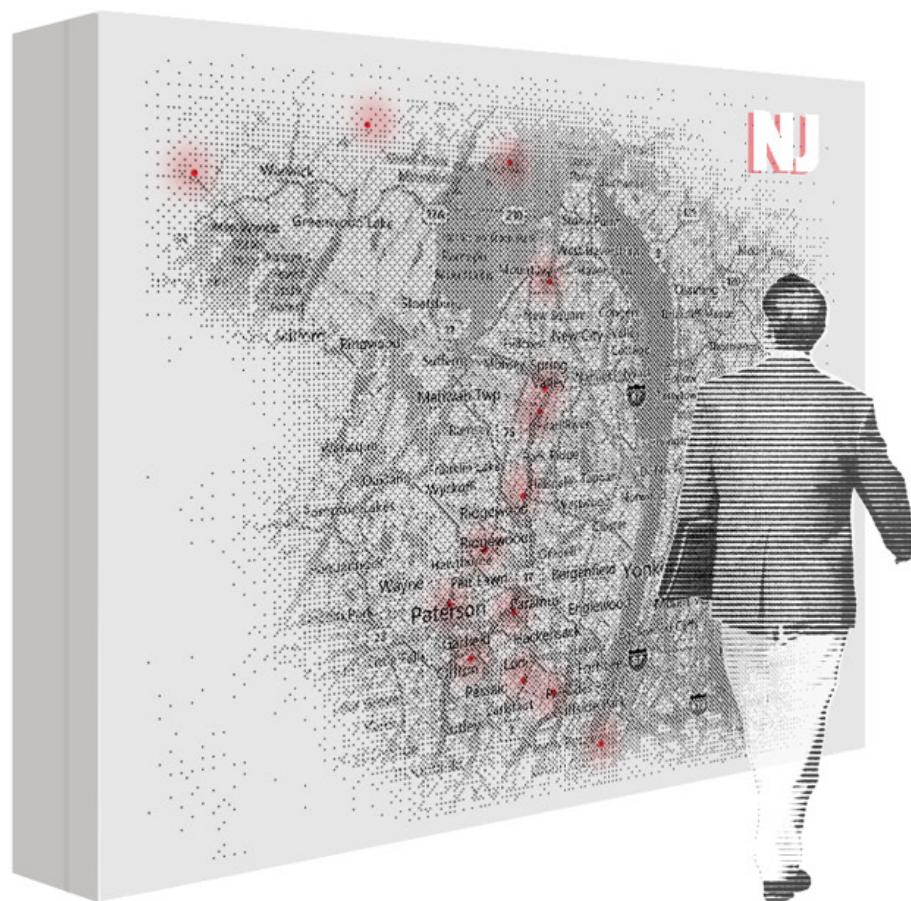
# Information System

TEMPORAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
SPATIAL / MATERIAL SYSTEMS  
DISTANT CONNECTIONS



MIDDLETOWN, NY DISTANT STATION

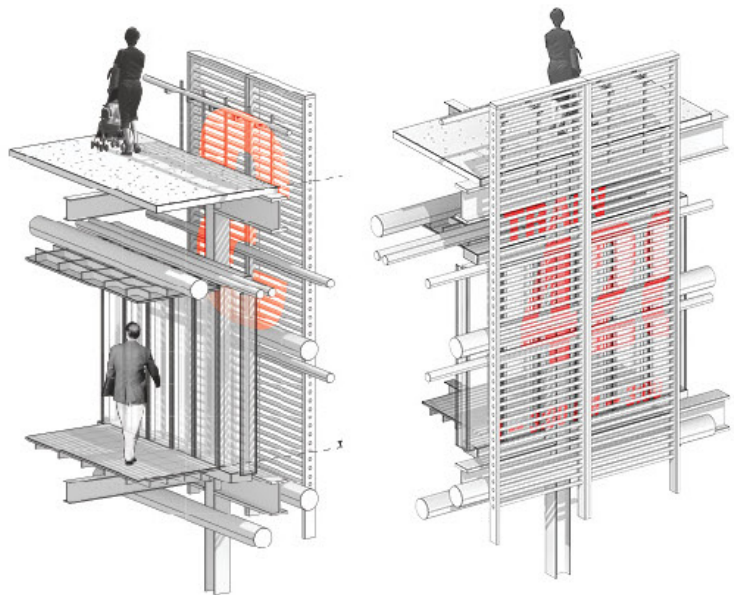




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## LED Louver Skin

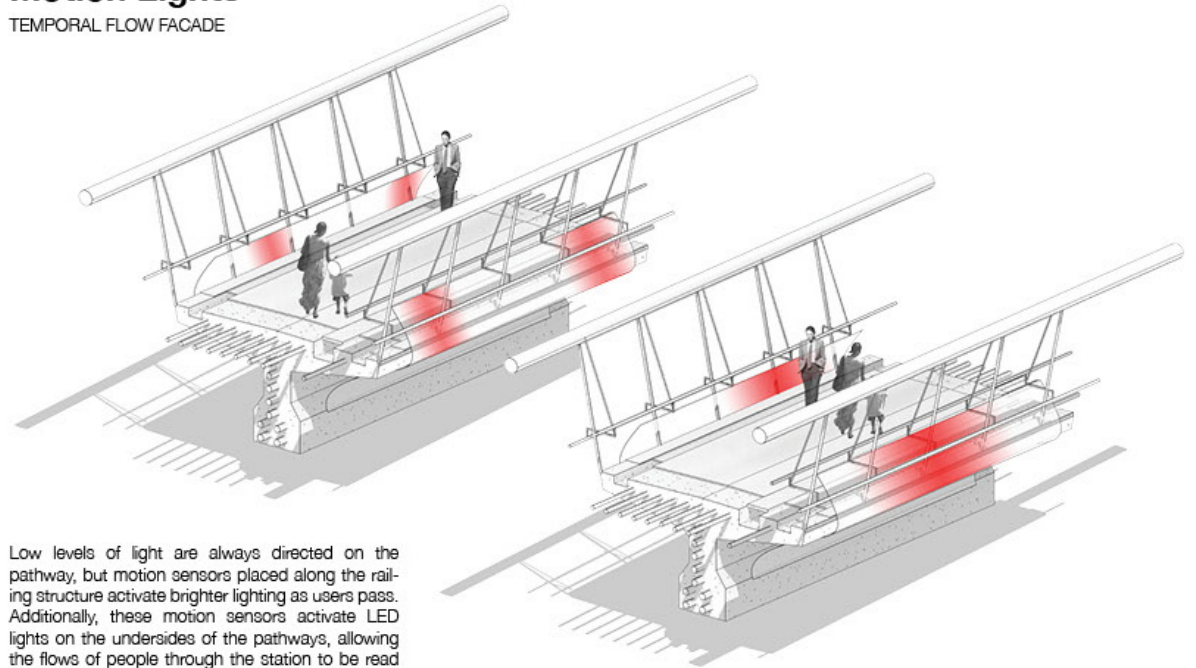
INFORMATION FACADE



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## Motion Lights

TEMPORAL FLOW FACADE

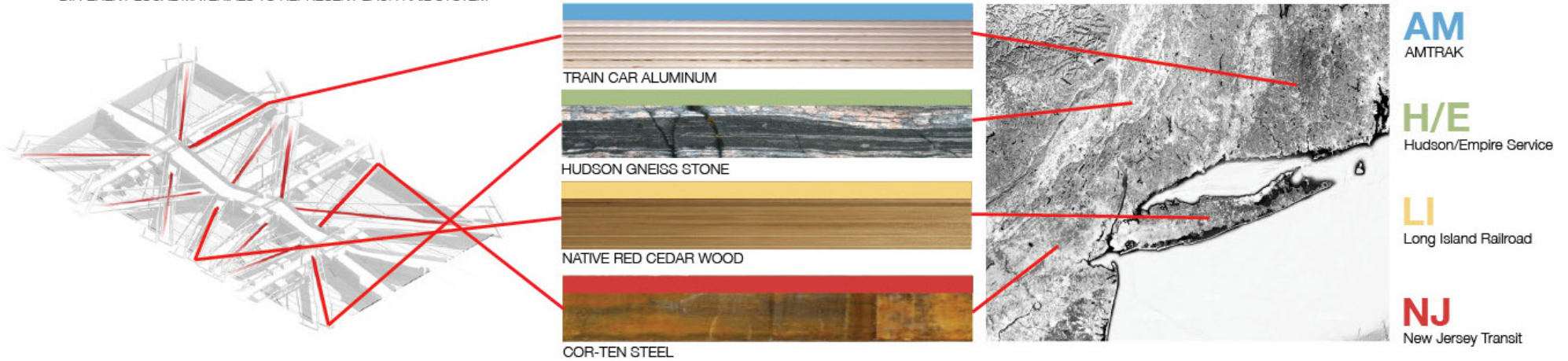


Low levels of light are always directed on the pathway, but motion sensors placed along the railing structure activate brighter lighting as users pass. Additionally, these motion sensors activate LED lights on the undersides of the pathways, allowing the flows of people through the station to be read from a distance



## Material Connections

MATERIAL DRAWN INTO SYSTEM FROM DISTANT POINTS  
DIFFERENT LOCAL MATERIALS TO REPRESENT EACH RAIL SYSTEM

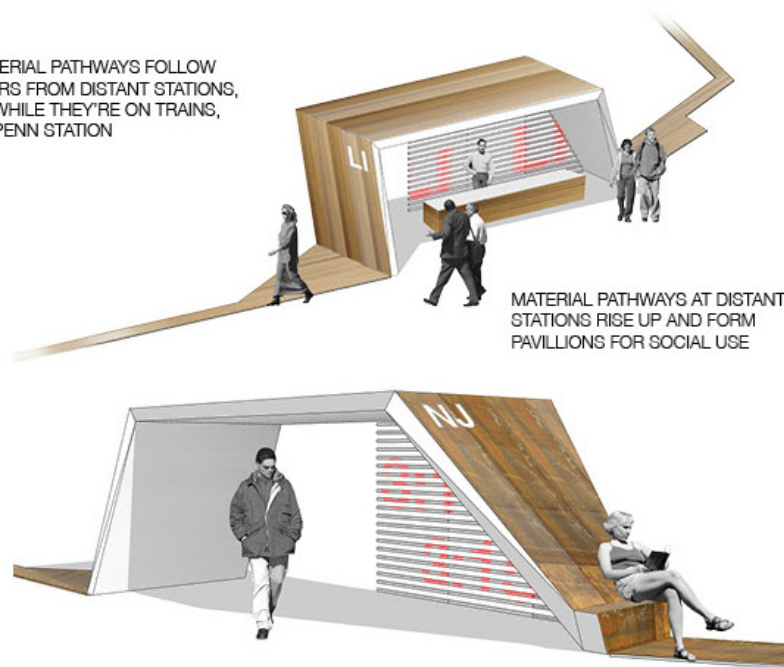


## Material Applications

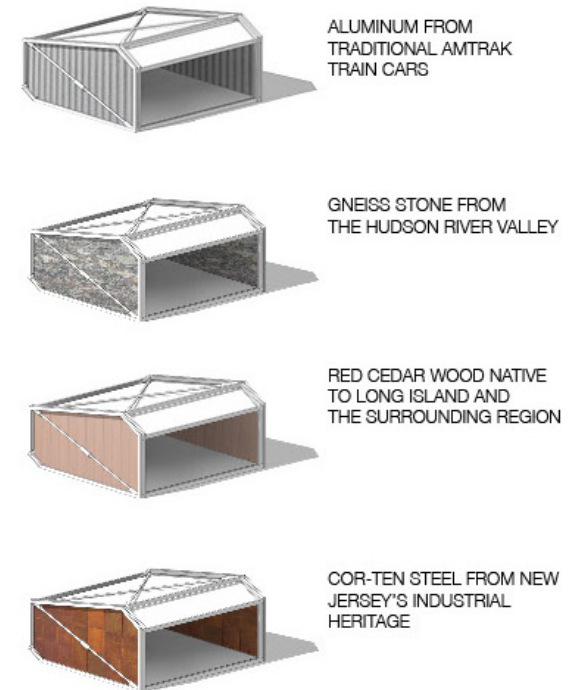
MATERIAL LINES INDICATING SYSTEMS  
PAVILLIONS AT DISTANT POINTS  
PLUG-IN SOCIAL PODS



MATERIAL PATHWAYS FOLLOW  
USERS FROM DISTANT STATIONS,  
TO WHILE THEY'RE ON TRAINS,  
TO PENN STATION



MATERIAL PATHWAYS AT DISTANT  
STATIONS RISE UP AND FORM  
PAVILLIONS FOR SOCIAL USE





## Cognitive Compression

DISTANT CONNECTIONS  
MATERIAL EXPANSION, IMMATERIAL COMPRESSION  
CONTINUOUS MENTAL BUILDING



### MIDDLETOWN, NY

FARMER'S MARKET  
COMMUTER PARKING LOT  
ACCESS TO COMMERCIAL STRIP



MATERIAL EXPANSION

### RAMSEY ROUTE 17

PARK-AND-RIDE SERVICES  
COMMUTER PARKING GARAGE  
ACCESS TO LOCAL BUS TRANSIT



IMMATERIAL COMPRESSION

### PATERSON

LOCAL DOWNTOWN ACCESS  
PUBLIC PERFORMANCE SPACES



### MEADOWLANDS

WETLANDS PRESERVE

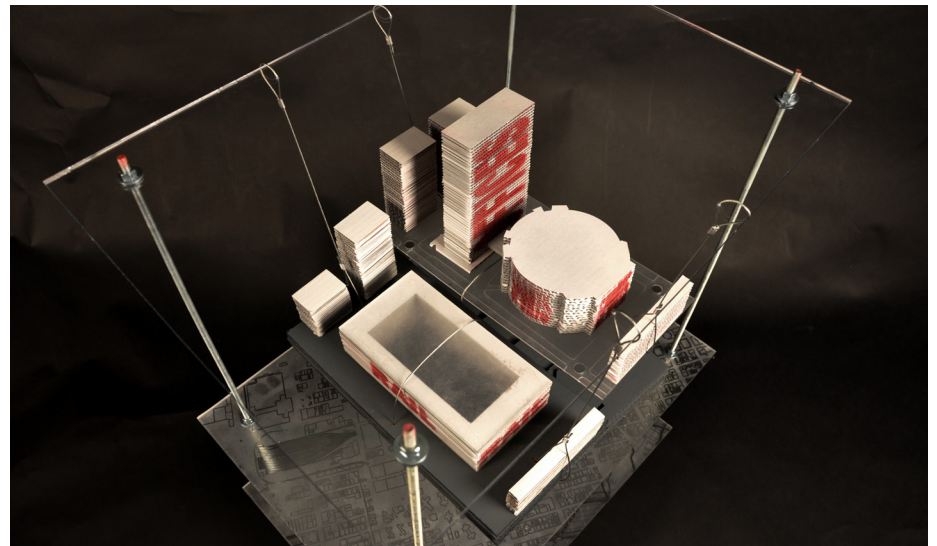
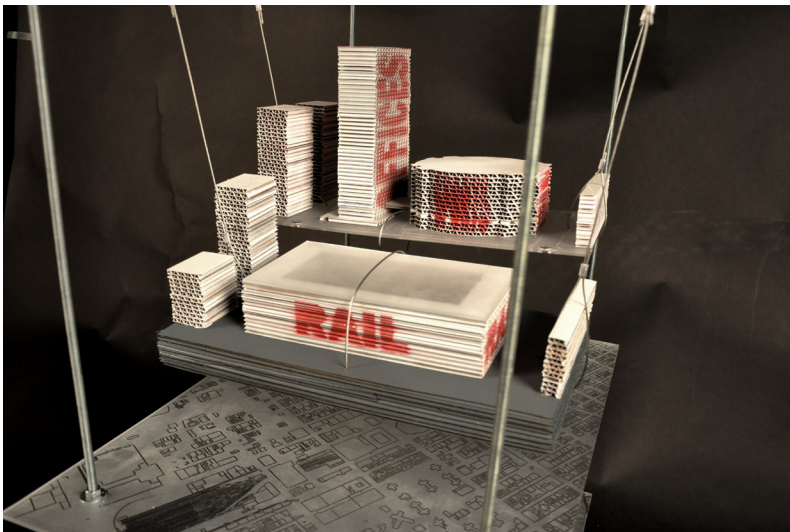
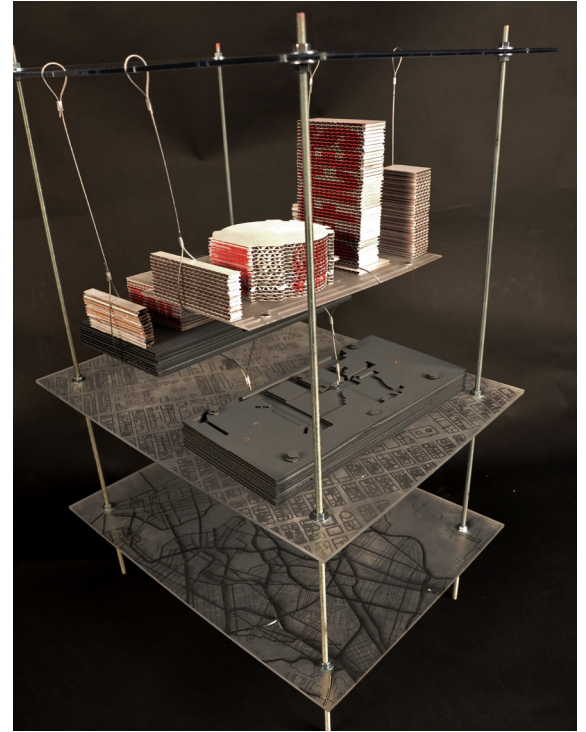
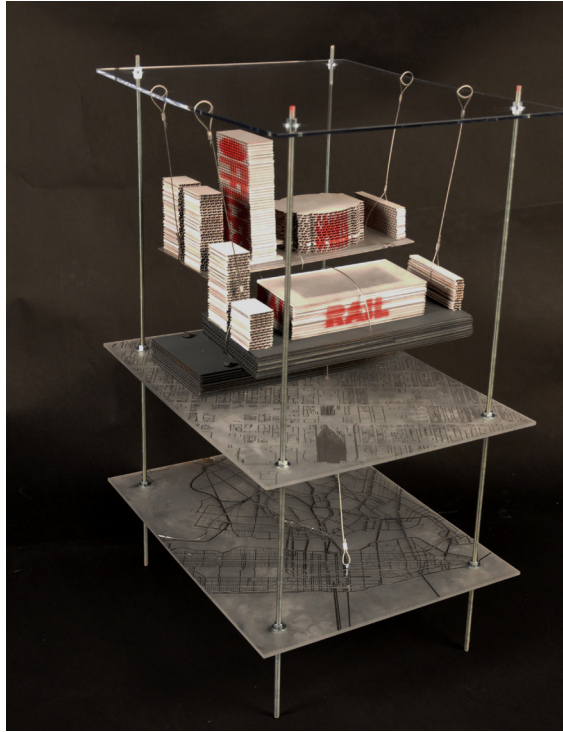
### NEW YORK PENN STATION

TRANSIT HUB

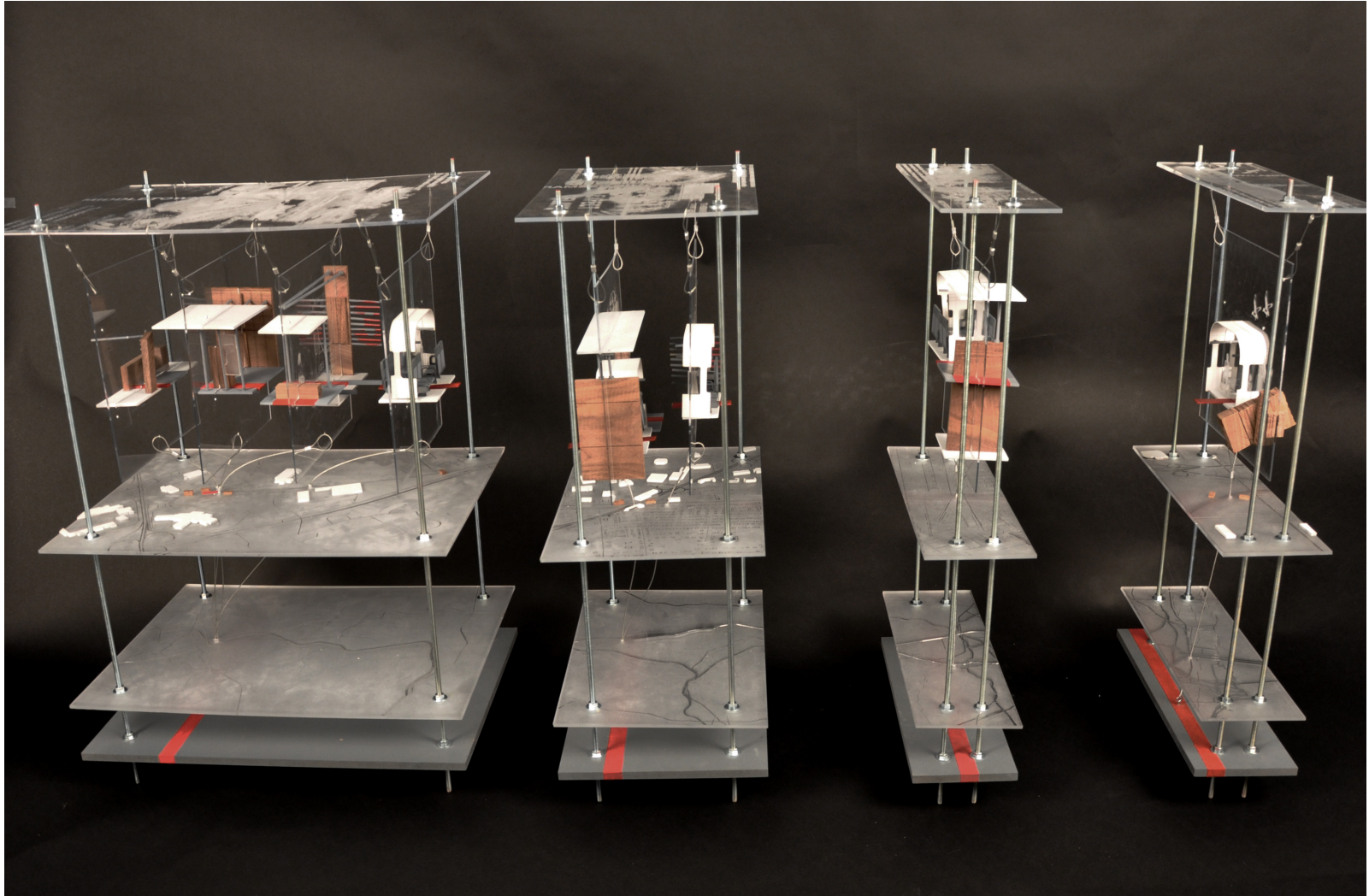


PENN STATION  
PAST, PRESENT,  
AND FUTURE

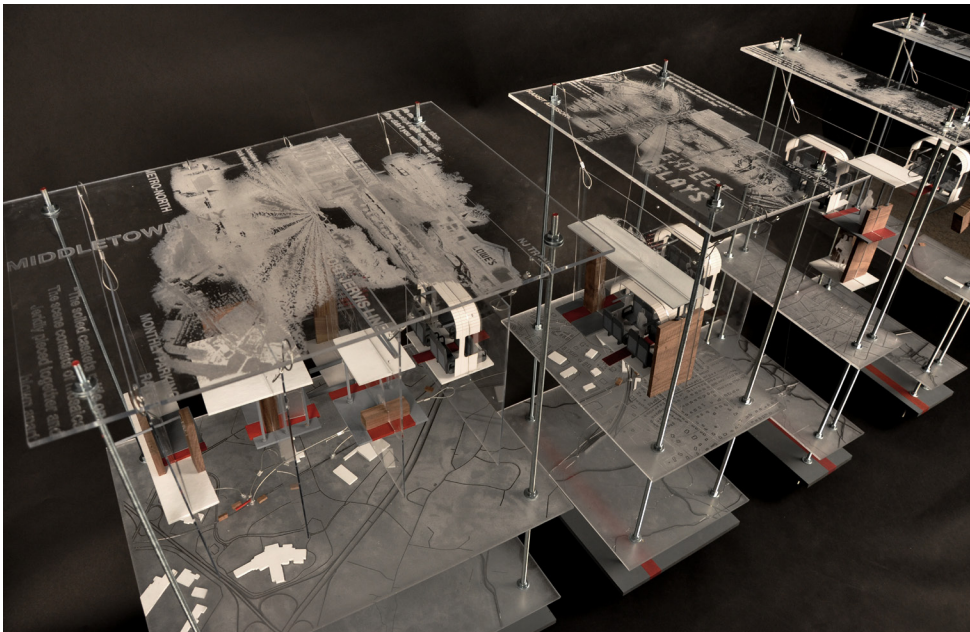
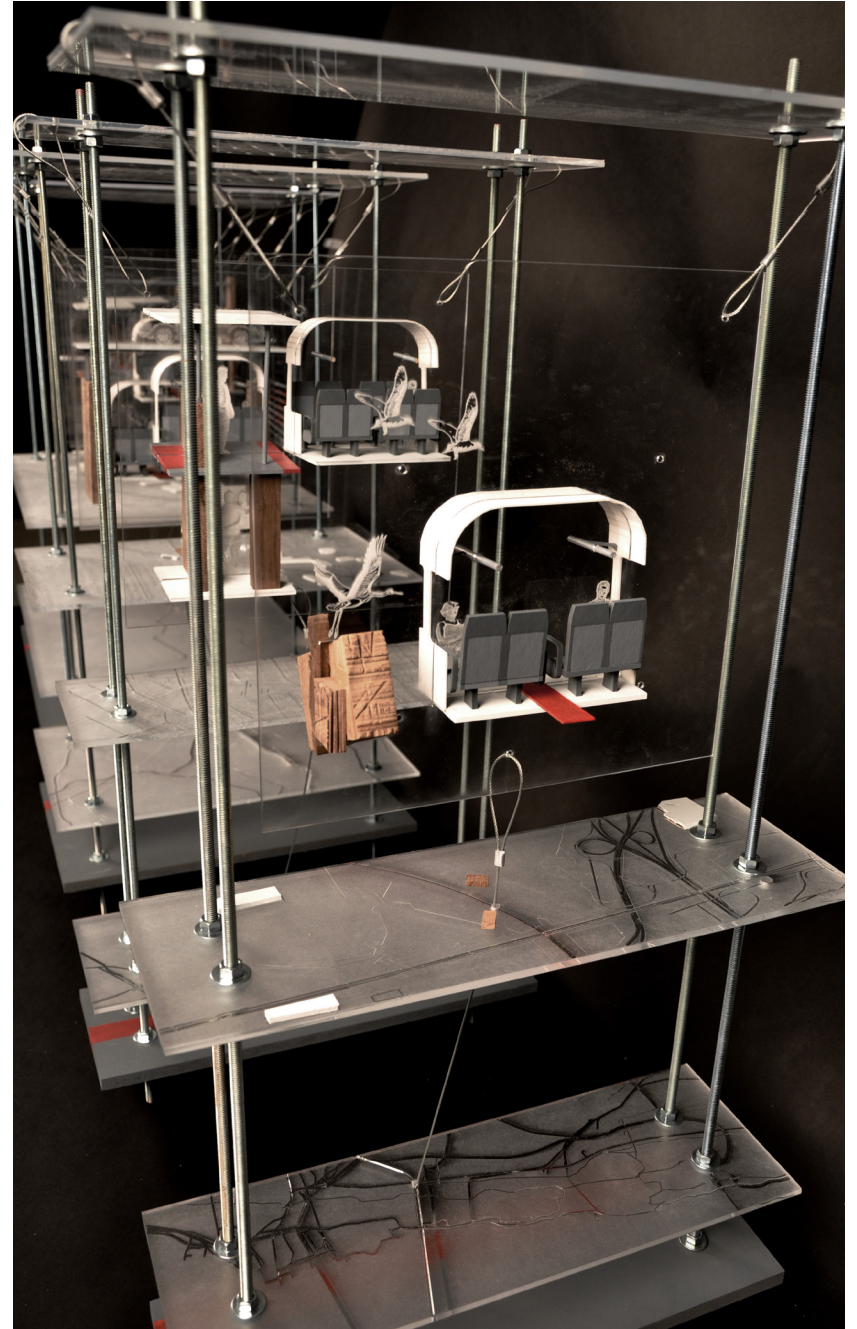












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Alexander, Christopher. *The Timeless Way of Building*. New York: Oxford UP, 1979. Print.

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Chung, Chuihua Judy, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas, Sze Tsung Leong, and Tae-wook Cha. *Harvard Design School Guide to Shopping*. Köln: Taschen, 2001. Print.

Corbusier. *Toward a New Architecture*. London: Architectural, 1965. Print.

Hillier, Bill, and Julienne Hanson. *The Social Logic of Space*. Cambridge [Cambridgeshire: Cambridge UP, 1984. Print.

Horan, Thomas A. *Digital Places: Building Our City of Bits*. Washington, D.C.: ULI-the Urban Land Institute, 2000. Print.

Milgram, Stanley. *The Individual in a Social World Essays and Experiments*. Reading, Mass. [u.a.: Addison-Wesley, 1977. Print.

Porphyrios, Demetri, and A. Papadakas. *Classicism Is Not a Style*. London: Architectural Design, 1982. Print.

# ACADEMIC VITA

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## EDUCATION

**The Pennsylvania State University**

2007 - 2012

College of Art and Architecture + Schreyer Honors College  
Bachelor of Architecture (*May 2012*)

## EXPERIENCE

**CS Arch Architecture | Construction Management**

Summer 2010

Newburgh, NY - Architectural Intern

Inspected and documented education buildings

Prepared Building Condition Reports

Designed graphics and presentations in Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD

**Greater Newburgh Habitat for Humanity**

Summer 2011

Newburgh, NY - Volunteer and Leader

Work in Framing, Demolition, Flooring, and Preservation

Led groups of volunteers and was interviewed for a community documentary



# ACADEMIC VITA

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## ORGANIZATIONS

American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) 2009-2010 AIA-Community Liaison, Attended National Forum in Minneapolis	2008 - 2012
OXFAM at Penn State 2009-2012 Executive Committee Member, Graphic Designer, Hunger Awareness Dinner Chairperson	2009 - 2012
Students for Environmentally Enlightened Design (SEED) Shipping Container Library Design Team	2010 - 2012

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Paul M. Kossman Senior Thesis Award Winner	2012
AIA Henry Adams Certificate Recipient	2012
Stewardson Fellowship Finalist	2012
Arturbain International Competition Finalist	2011
Penn State Design Excellence Award Winner	2009
Ewing Cole Endowed Award	2011
Pantheon Institute Rome Program	2011
Stenman Award (Highest Architecture GPA)	2009
Corbelletti Competition Finalist	2009
Schreyer Honors College Entry and Scholarship	2007
Eagle Scout Service Project - Planning and Construction of Sept. 11 Memorial	2007
Odyssey of the Mind World Finalist (3rd Place)	2007