

PHILUX: "LOVE OF LIGHT"



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Commissioned by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's Art in Transit program, *PhiLux: "Love of Light"* adds color, drama, luminosity and vibrancy to the commuter experience at Philadelphia's City Hall SEPTA's 15th Street subway station. *PhiLux* consists of 28 illuminated, laminated chromatic glass and stainless steel reflector panels that clad the station's central columns – two panels per column, 14 columns total, seven columns on each side of the platform.

In designing *PhiLux*, Ray King was inspired by geometric elegance of the City of Philadelphia's physical layout. Envisioned by William Penn as a Greene Country Towne, he took historic maps of Philadelphia and abstracted the geometry of each section. King chose a 1910 map as his primary source. In 1907 The Market Elevated Line opened to transport riders from 69th Street to City Hall, and 1908 it expanded towards the Delaware River. The imagery on the columns follows the route and the surrounding city fabric at that time. Additionally, the map is broken up to relate to the path of the train. The columns on the Westbound side of the station show maps of the city's western sections, while the columns on the Eastbound side show the eastern sections.

The glass panels are laminated with colored and holographic film, and illuminated from behind with LED strip lighting. The glass and stainless steel panels are constructed as sealed units that fit into SEPTA's stainless steel column surrounds. Each panel consists of one layer of 3/8" thick glass, and two layers of 3/16" glass sheets, laminated with EVA interlayer; total 3/4" thick - the outer glass panel is tempered for extra-strength, and coated with a protective scratch-resistant layer of 3M anti-scratch Mylar film.

The illuminated light columns, and the luminosity of the color films that differentiate the wards, are intensified by internal stainless reflectors. In addition, the city street grids and the parks' walkways are identified by laser-cut holographic film that interacts with light to create a brilliant specular reflection of light and color. The holographic effect is especially dramatic when illuminated by the moving headlights of incoming trains.

Green spaces and significant structures are distinguished as special features in the grid with green/magenta dichroic and holographic lamination. Rivers and other prominent water features are shown in blue/gold dichroic and holographic lamination. The dichroic elements change colors as the viewers pass by the columns, adding more visual mystery and intrigue as riders board the train. The juxtaposition of historic data with futuristic materials captures the spirit of Philadelphia as a city deeply rooted in history and innovation.