

Station Architecture and Public Art of Songshan Line

When the MRT Songshan line, a high-capacity line running from Beimen Station to Songshan Station, opened at the end of 2014, passengers were treated to station design themes incorporated into entryways and architectural finishings. Works exhibited at operational stations show advances in MRT public art categories and techniques.

Seven underground stations on the Songshan line are located in Taipei. They merge historical background and culture into architectural and decorative design. Each represents local characteristics and identity.

Beimen Station

1. Design Theme: Bringing Life to Qing Dynasty Taipei Arsenal Cultural Assets

2. Design Description:

Historic structures surrounding the station were closely related to the development of rail transit in Taiwan, including the Qing dynasty Taipei Arsenal, the office of the governor, Taipei Arsenal Workshop No. 1, the Japanese colonial period Department of Railways, and the headquarters of the Taiwan Railways Bureau. By mixing railways cultural elements into urban corridor design concepts and using the 1st-level basement as an open exhibition space, the Department of Railways Museum was integrated into a historic park to form a comprehensive historic cultural park. In the underground station's passageway and sidewalls, ancient gates and former trains were engraved on granite walls. A historic image tour describes excavation of Taipei North Gate remains. Displays describe major archaeological events of Taipei North Gate, Taipei City North Gate historic evolution, and infrastructure development by Liu Mingchuan. Exhibited are cross-sections of Taipei North Gate remains, cultural artifacts, and excavated relics thoughtfully placed in 12 glass-covered pits.



Revitalization and reuse of Beimen Station historic relics

Zhongshan Station

1. Design Theme: Happy Transit

2. Design Description:

The theme "Happy Transit" suggests that passengers enjoy a rest on their journey by stopping at this downtown Tamsui line transfer station. It is a response to the municipal government's initiative to encourage the general public to use public transit and respect the environment. Bright colors and concise composition reflect life and streetscape characteristics.



Minimal design of ceiling, floor, and walls at the platform level

Songjiang Nanjing Station

1. Design Theme: Metropolitan Images of Daily Life

2. Design Description:

Artwork at Songjiang Nanjing Station, a transfer station for the Xinzhuang line, uses a contemporary approach to characterize modern urban life as experienced by people of the MRT generation. It demonstrates the inclusiveness of this capital city and a limitless capacity for creativity. As it represents energy generated by cultural exchange, it imagines a world where time and space intersect to foster new ideas. It allows travelers to experience the surprises inherent in Taipei urban living.



Artwork "Metropolitan Images of Daily Life" on porcelain enamel wall panels

Nanjing Fuxing Station

1. Design Theme: Changing Trajectory

2. Design Description:

Design of the new underground Nanjing Fuxing Station, a transfer station for the Wenhua line, required incorporating an existing elevated station of the same name. The new structure rapidly transits between the city's underground and aboveground levels. Inspired by this change in locus experienced by passengers, the station adopted a design theme described as "changing trajectory." The architectural façade reflects this idea, as do transitions between new and old materials. Together, the spatial representation is that of different trajectories meeting and converting.



Station interior design contributed to the artistic feeling of the station by adhering to the trajectory

Taipei Arena Station

1. Design Theme: Sports Trajectory

2. Design Description:

Taipei Arena Station, which derives its name from the adjacent arena, is a reflection of its setting. Upon opening of the Songshan line, it became a vital transit point for spectators going to watch sporting competitions and concerts. Since urban activities are closely connected with sports and recreation, the station extends the spatial design concept of trajectory by taking sports trajectory as its theme. The combination of underground MRT track space with ground-level activities enhances the station's spatial identity while fostering an urban sports park atmosphere.



This Taipei Arena Station exit echoes the streamlined arena



Concourse design was based on sports, technology and speed

Visual public art: "Moving Forward"

Nanjing Sanmin Station

1. Design Theme: Community Gateway

2. Design Description:

Nanjing Sanmin Station is located at a main corridor between the Songshan area and downtown Taipei. The design theme of the station, "community gateway," reflects this important role. A gateway is a place of spatial transition. Besides serving as a kind of transit hub, it is a place where mood and behavior change. Station design adopted three ideas – intimate proximity, convenient transit, and green architecture – as fundamental principles. Before reaching the platform, passengers must first pass through the station entryway and hallway. Design elements make these two corridors an extension of the community, highlighting the station's character and reflecting a connection to the community.



Artistic ceramic plates installed on the concourse level at the four end walls that lead to the exits

Songshan Station

1. Design Theme: Festivity of Light

2. Design Description:

Songshan Station (G22), located near Ciyou Temple, Raohe Night Market, and Wufenpu Garment Wholesale Market, is part of a bustling center of religious, commercial, and cultural activities. It also serves as part of a growing transit hub, with an exit that leads to Songshan Railway Station and planning for a future long-haul bus station underway. The station, already a local landmark, adopted the design themes "light" and "ring." Abundant changes inherent to "light" allow passengers to feel the unique nature of the station space. "Ring," meanwhile, is an abstract, figurative element that connects and represents the special characteristics of different areas to reflect this terminal station's role as a transit hub.



At concourse and platform levels, super-high arc-shaped ceilings were used as a metaphor for continuity of the ring-shaped space. A staircase in the oval atrium further accentuates the feeling of spatial connection. For lighting design, indirect lighting and curved cold cathode tubes signify continuity. Coupled with artistic LED-lit walls and light totems on track sidewalls, these compose a modern atmosphere that reflects the local area.



The oval-shaped concourse is a connected area leading to Songshan Railway Station. The ceiling is decorated with column-shaped LEDs that provide variable lighting. The visual focus is a reflection of how this oval space brings together crowds from all directions.