

Architecture has the profound responsibility of defining place, while simultaneously being defined by the place it inhabits. Through creative thought, comprehensive research, and logical analysis, the architect is able to explore ideas, develop design, and construct their intent into reality. What results is more than just a physical structure or a work of art; it is an experience, a feeling... a *sense of place*.

In order to successfully encourage this sense of place, the architect must investigate and explore the site and city that they're contributing to. The question then becomes, how does one begin such a journey? The answer is simply... *arrive*.

The intent of this research proposal is to examine the sense of place promoted by the main arrival point to any great urban center: **the central train station**. As the gateway to the urban world, it is the very first impression of the city you are about to immerse yourself into. Whether it be for a native, a visitor, or a passerby, the train station is a place of sensory overload. It provides the simplicity of convenience alongside complexity in grandeur, action in a place of rest, a gathering point in a place of departure, and can make the most common citizen feel ennobled. It implements a sense of importance and evokes excitement to be in the here and now.

The central train station is the heart of the metropolis, the main node of circulation that collects and disperses the city's greatest asset, people, to and from the rest of the world. Therefore, rather than looking into a single place, the proposal intends to discover the connectivity between multiple train stations, as a traveler would move from place to place. With this in mind, not only can one further understand the approach to each place, a greater knowledge of how senses compare, change, and contrast between destinations can be obtained.

Through the informative research of central train stations, from the industrial-aged to the contemporary, the architect and planner alike can form a collection of outstanding design principles and forward-thinking planning strategies. These include, but are not limited to:

- Approach & Arrival
- Aesthetic
- Historic & Cultural Reference
- Structure
- Lighting
- Program & Layout
- Circulation
- Orientation & Wayfinding
- Landscape
- Context

This information can be applied to many other civic spaces, such as plazas, bus, maritime & airport terminals, subway stations, as well as the planned evolution of America's high-speed inter-city rail network. Departing from New York - home of the world's largest train station, Grand Central Terminal, and North America's busiest (yet most unwelcoming) Pennsylvania Station - the provision of such insight will be obtained through the exploration of the architectural sites listed on the right.

Grand Central Stations

Legend	
	Finland
	Denmark
	Germany
	The Netherlands
	Belgium
	Luxembourg
	France
	United Kingdom
	United States of America
	Central Station
	Design Principle

Fares & Information		
	Flights	\$800.00
	Regional Train	\$600.00
	Local Transit	\$300.00
	Accommodations	\$2400.00
	Dining	\$600.00
	Miscellaneous	\$300.00

Note: All fares are approximations based on current pricing and are subject to change contingent on chosen dates of travel.

Schedule	
Days 1, 2, 3	Weekend & Holiday Schedule All travel within the United States of America will be during personal time outside of the set travel schedule. The traveler is personally responsible for all fares during this period.
Days 3, 4, 5	
Days 5, 6, 7	
Days 7, 8, 9	
Days 9, 10, 11	
Days 11, 12	
Days 12, 13, 14	
Days 14, 15, 16	
See Weekend & Holiday Schedule	

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- Helsinki Central Station**
Helsingin Päärautatieasema
Helsinki, Finland
Eliel Saarinen
1919
- Copenhagen Central Station**
Københavns Hovedbanegård
Copenhagen, Denmark
Heinrich Wenck
1911
- Berlin Central Station**
Hauptbahnhof
Berlin, Germany
Gerkan, Marg and Partners
2006
- Groningen Central Station**
Hoofdstation
Groningen, Netherlands
Izaak Gosschalk
1896
- Rotterdam Central Station**
Station Rotterdam Centraal
Rotterdam, Netherlands
Benhem Crouwel Architecten / MVSA / West 8
2014
- Antwerp Central Station**
Antwerpen Centraal
Antwerp, Belgium
Louis Delacenserie
1905
- Luxembourg Central Railway Station**
Gare Centrale de Luxembourg
Luxembourg City, Luxembourg
Rüdel, Jüsgen, and Scheuffel
1913
- Strasbourg Station**
Gare de Strasbourg
Strasbourg, France
Johann Eduard Jacobsthal
1883
- East Station**
Gare de l'Est
Paris, France
François Duquesnay
1949
- North Station**
Gare du Nord
Paris, France
Jacques Hittoff
1864
- Saint Lazarus Station**
Gare Saint-Lazare
Paris, France
Juste Lisch
1837
- Lyon Station**
Gare de Lyon
Paris, France
Marius Toudoire
1900
- Austerlitz Station**
Gare d'Austerlitz
Paris, France
Pierre-Louis Renaud
1840
- Pennsylvania Station**
New York, United States of America
McKim, Mead, and White / Charles Luckman Associates / ?
1910 / 1968 / 20??
- St. Pancras International**
London, United Kingdom
William H. Barlow / George G. Scott
1868
- King's Cross Station**
London, United Kingdom
Lewis Cubitt
1852
- Grand Central Terminal**
New York, United States of America
Reed & Stem / Warren & Wetmore
1913