



**Art on the
Spadina Line**



Virtual Tour

TSA

TORONTO
SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTS

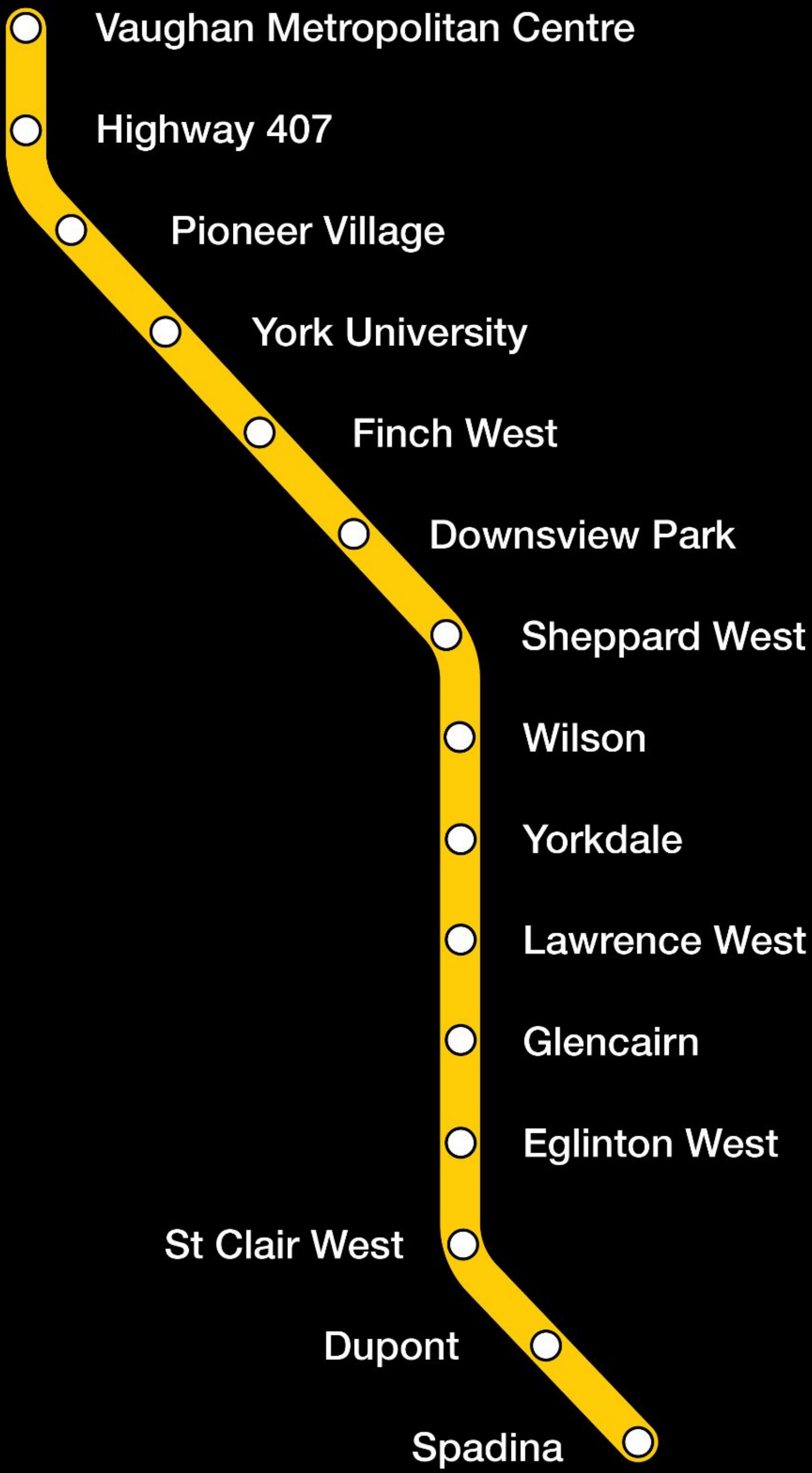
TSA

**Ready to continue
exploring art and
architecture on the
Spadina Line?**

**Grab your PRESTO Card
as we pick up where we
left off on this art-filled
transit tour!**

TSA

**Today's tour will take us
along the 8.6 km
Toronto-York Spadina
Subway Extension
Project, the continuation
of the 1977 Spadina Line.**



TSA

If you missed the first part, you can still catch it on our Stories Highlights right on our profile.

Don't worry! We'll wait for you!

linktr.ee/tosoarch

Toronto Society of Architects

Box 75094 Hudson Bay Cent



Followed by joelle
and 113 others

Look here for Part 1

Following

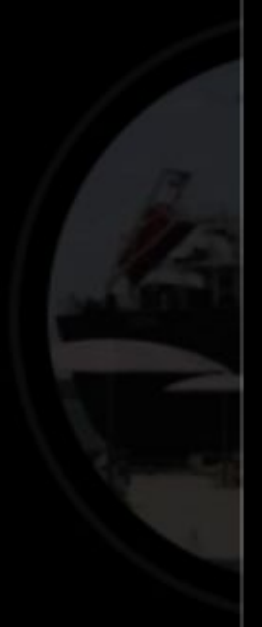
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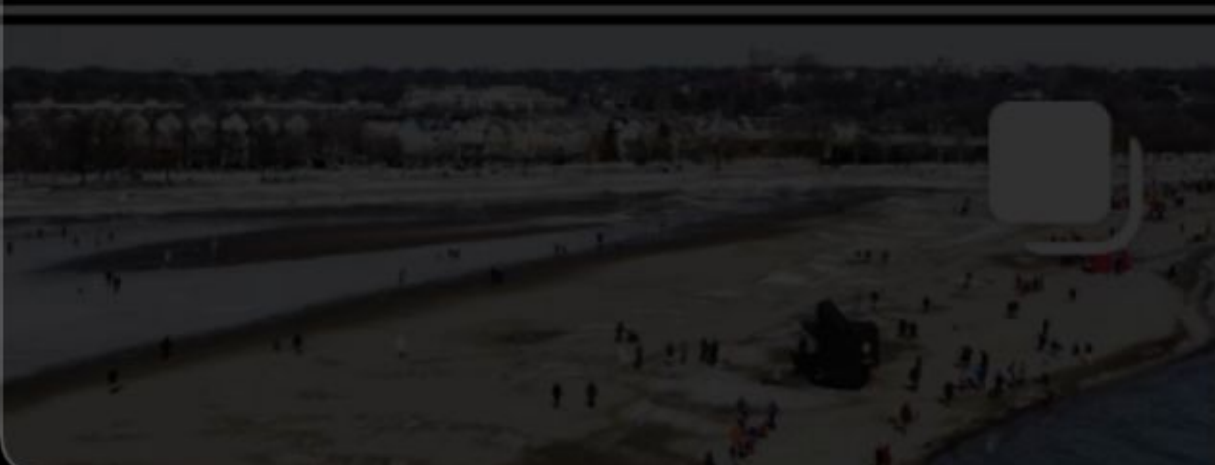
Spadina Lin...




Guild Park



The H...






 Andrew Francis
Wallace/Toronto Star via
Getty Images

Connecting Toronto to the City of Vaughan, the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension Project was the first major subway extension in Toronto since the 1990s and like its predecessor, it features uniquely designed stations bringing together art and architecture

While the original Spadina Line featured only Canadian artists and architects, the Extension showcases collaborations between Canadian and International firms and studios—the product of an international call and a careful artist/architect pairing process





Guiding all the design teams were a series of fundamental design philosophies, including:

“Don’t cut architecture to reduce costs”


 **Source: TYSSE document**


027F

Dec 23, 2008

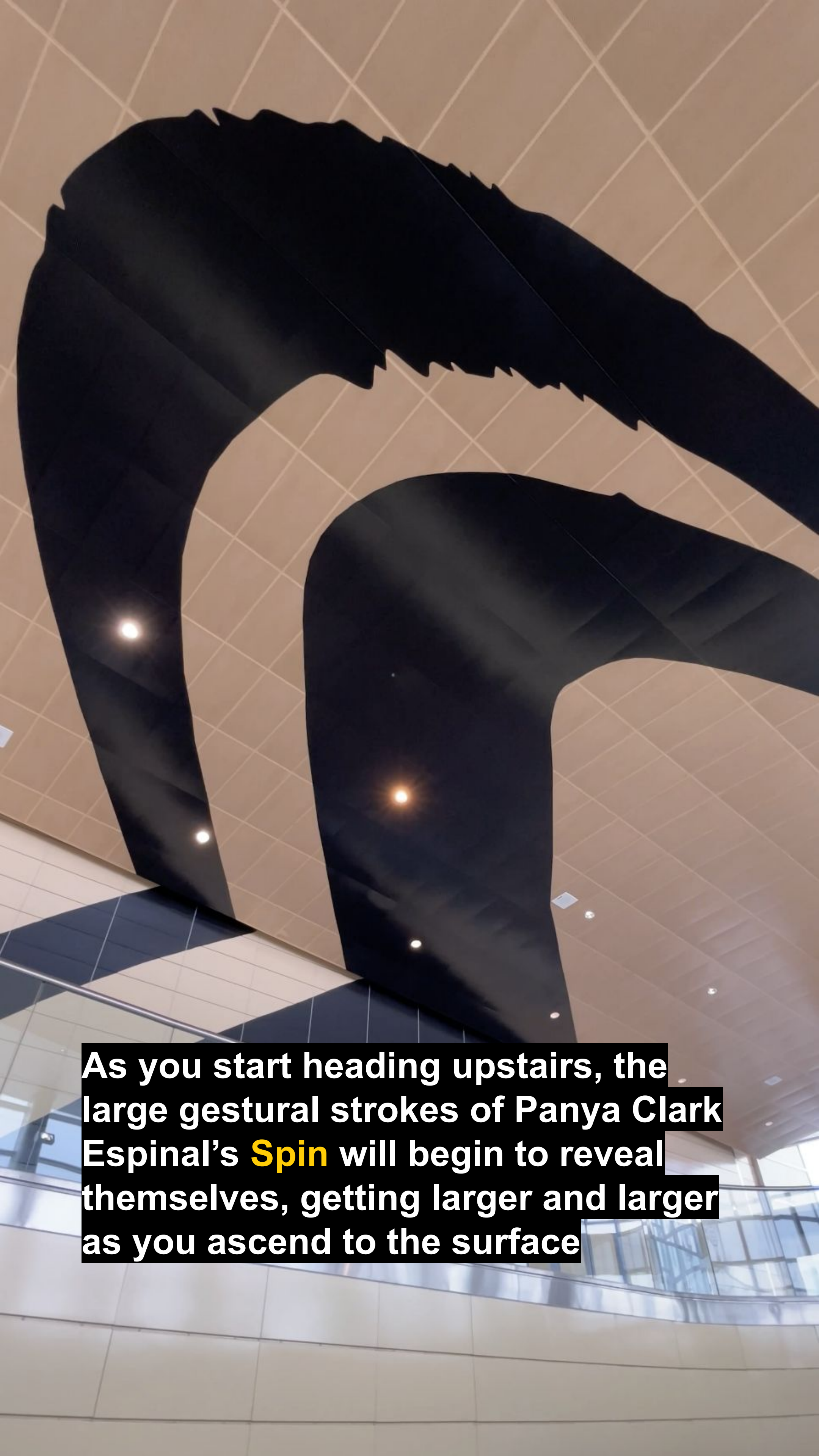
Ok! Let's get started! We are starting today's tour on the platform level of **DOWNSVIEW PARK STATION**, the first station of the 2017 extension

DOWNSVIEW PARK

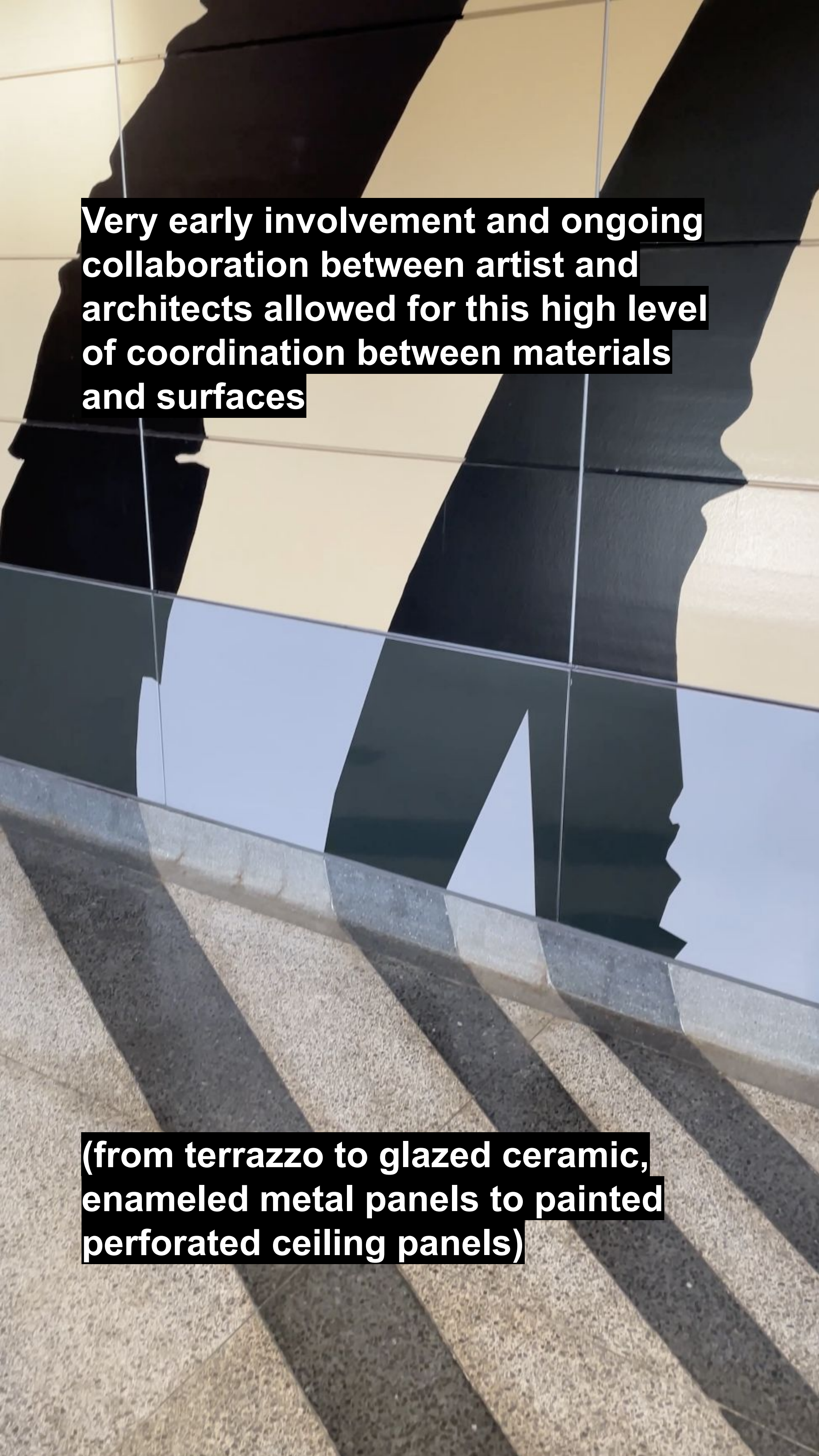
 **AECOM with Aedas Architects**

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a modern, multi-story underground platform. The ceiling is a light-colored, grid-patterned structure with several small, square recessed lights. A large, dark, abstract sculpture, possibly a dinosaur or a similar creature, is mounted on the ceiling, extending across a significant portion of the frame. The sculpture has a long, tapering tail and a head with a jagged, toothy edge. In the foreground, a curved staircase with a metal handrail is visible, leading up towards the platform. The walls of the platform are made of light-colored, rectangular panels. The overall atmosphere is clean, modern, and well-lit, despite being an underground space.

Look up! Bringing daylight deep into the underground platforms was a common design goal among all the 2017 stations, resulting in some amazing, multi-storey views

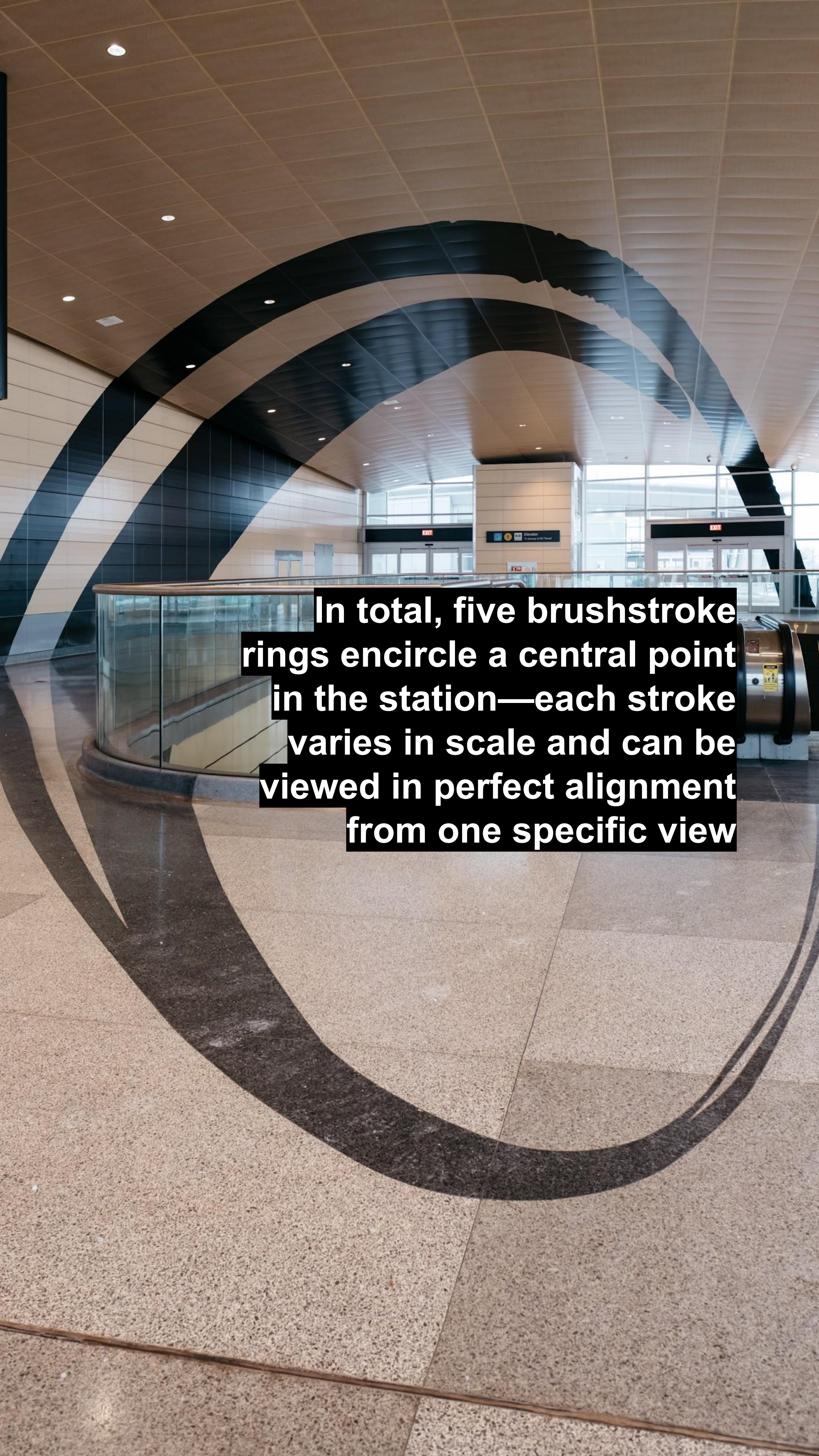


As you start heading upstairs, the large gestural strokes of Panya Clark Espinal's **Spin** will begin to reveal themselves, getting larger and larger as you ascend to the surface

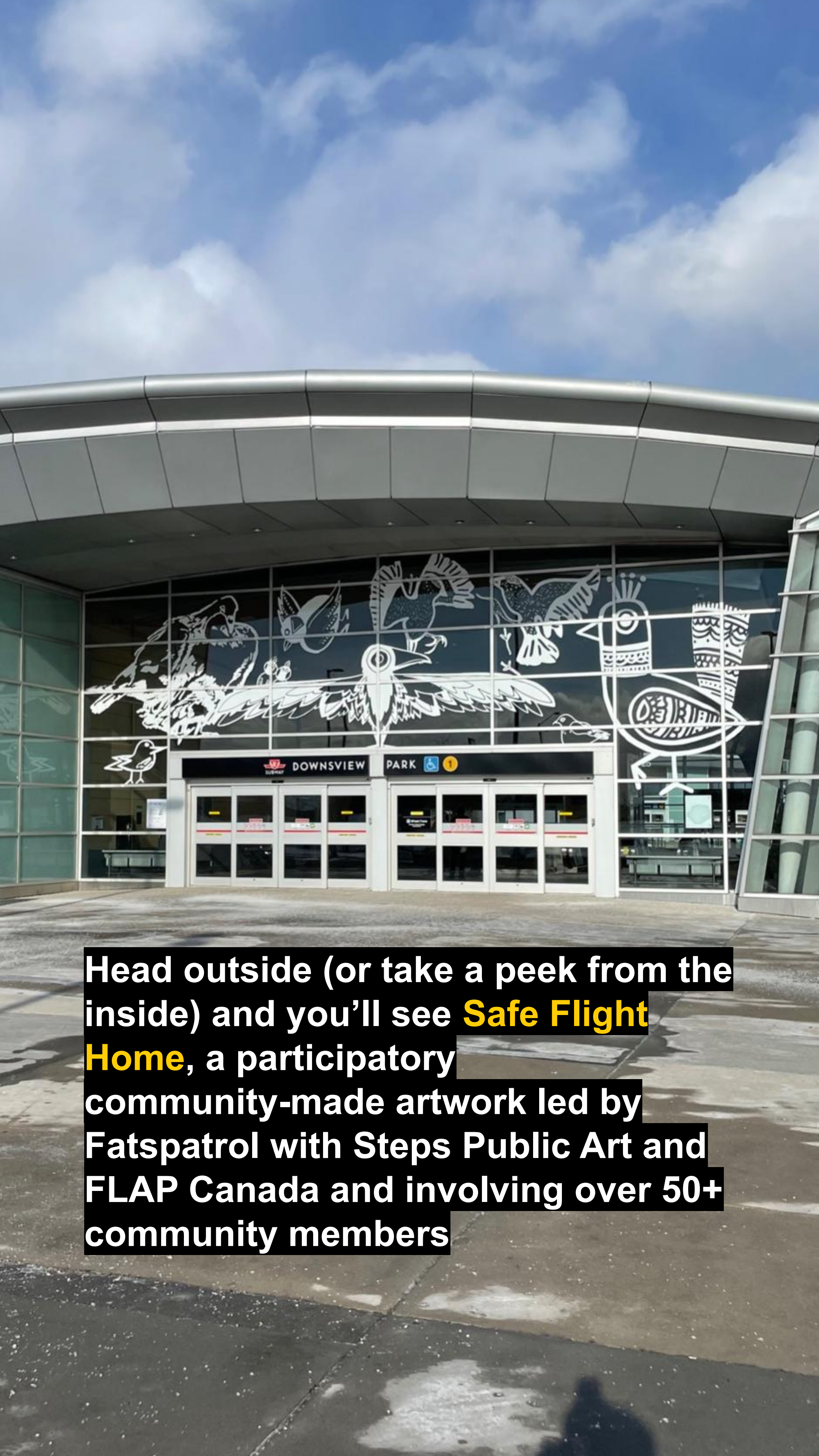


Very early involvement and ongoing collaboration between artist and architects allowed for this high level of coordination between materials and surfaces

(from terrazzo to glazed ceramic, enameled metal panels to painted perforated ceiling panels)



In total, five brushstroke rings encircle a central point in the station—each stroke varies in scale and can be viewed in perfect alignment from one specific view



Head outside (or take a peek from the inside) and you'll see **Safe Flight Home**, a participatory community-made artwork led by Fatspatrol with Steps Public Art and FLAP Canada and involving over 50+ community members



The work explores local bird species, their migration patterns, and life cycles

And it's not only at Downsview Park! Check out the installation at **FINCH WEST** and **YORK UNIVERSITY** stations too (coming up)

DOWNSVIEW PA

As we head back into the station and you wait for the next train, search on the platform level for the central point of **Spin**'s rings... and give it a spin!



Time to head northbound to our next stop: **FINCH WEST STATION**



1
Highway 407
Vaughan Metropolitan Centre
Pioneer Village
York University
Downsview Park
Finch West
Wilson
Lawrence West
Eglinton West
Sheppard West
Yorkdale
Glencairn

2
Pearson Airport
900 Airport Express
Kipling
Royal York
Islington
Old Mill
Jane
Runnymede
High Park
Keele
Dundas West
Lansdowne
Ossington
Dufferin




Subway Map

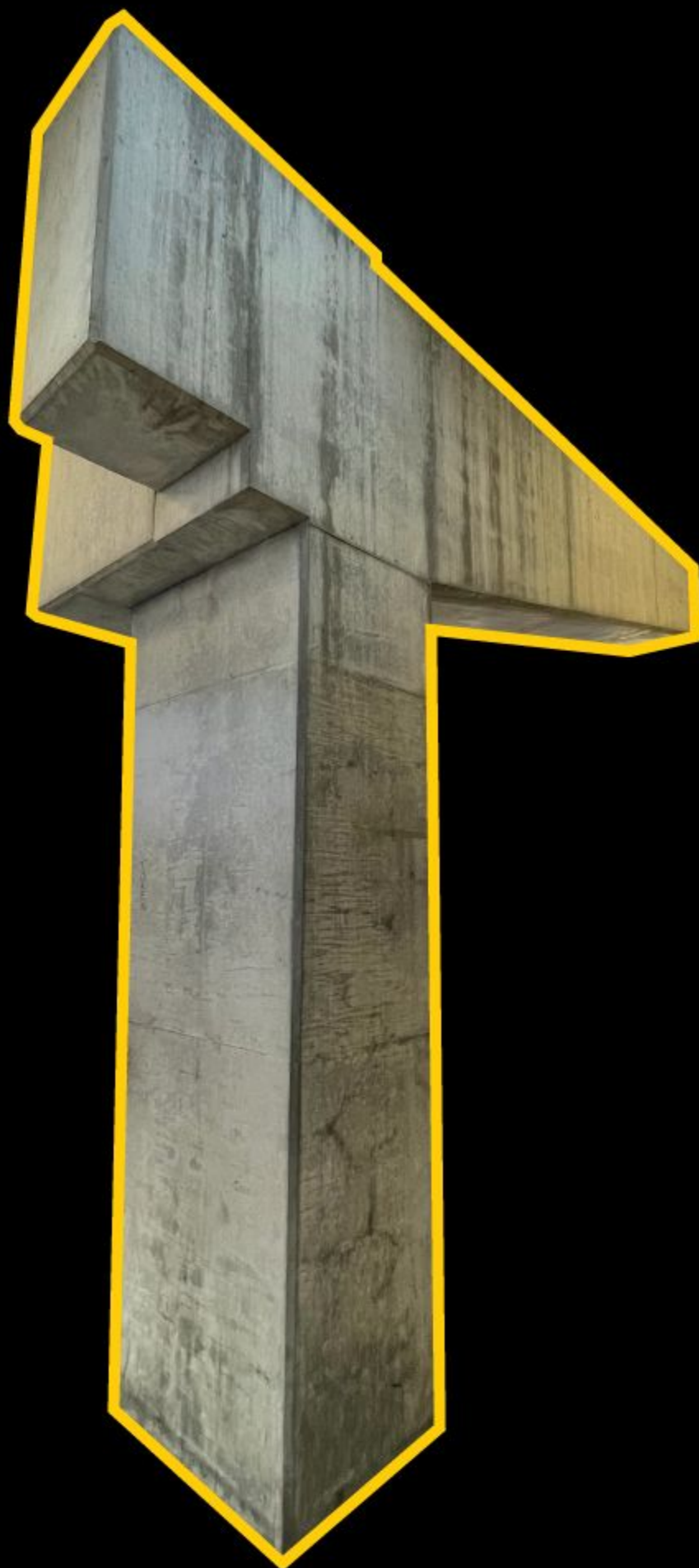
Zim (Brampton Transit)
Union Pearson Express
VIA Rail

As you step onto the platform take a look around. Can you spot the integrated artwork?



 **IBI Group, LEA Consulting and WSP (TSGA Joint Venture) in collaboration with All Design**

Blurring the line between art, architecture and engineering, the monumental columns of Finch West Station required close collaboration between artist Bruce McLean and the station's architects and engineers. No two are alike!






Torralba d'en Salort
Minorca, Spain
 **Anibal Trejo**

Their shapes were inspired by the prehistoric 6,000 year-old stone monuments and columns of the Talayotic culture of Minorca, Spain



Head up the escalator and you'll reach the integrated bus terminal which also employs these playfully shaped structural elements



The columns and canopy aren't only pretty to look at, they are also structurally impressive. Take a moment to appreciate the large span between columns—up to 19m—and the thinness of the canopy's edge!

Creating an impossible to miss neighbourhood landmark was also an important goal in this project

One that was achieved by placing electrical equipment on top of the station (another structural feat) wrapped in a zebra clad box.

You can't miss it!



Ok! Time to head back downstairs and catch the train to our next destination...

outhbound 1 →



YORK UNIVERSITY STATION



 **Foster + Partners with
Adamson Associates**

 **Studio Shai Gil**

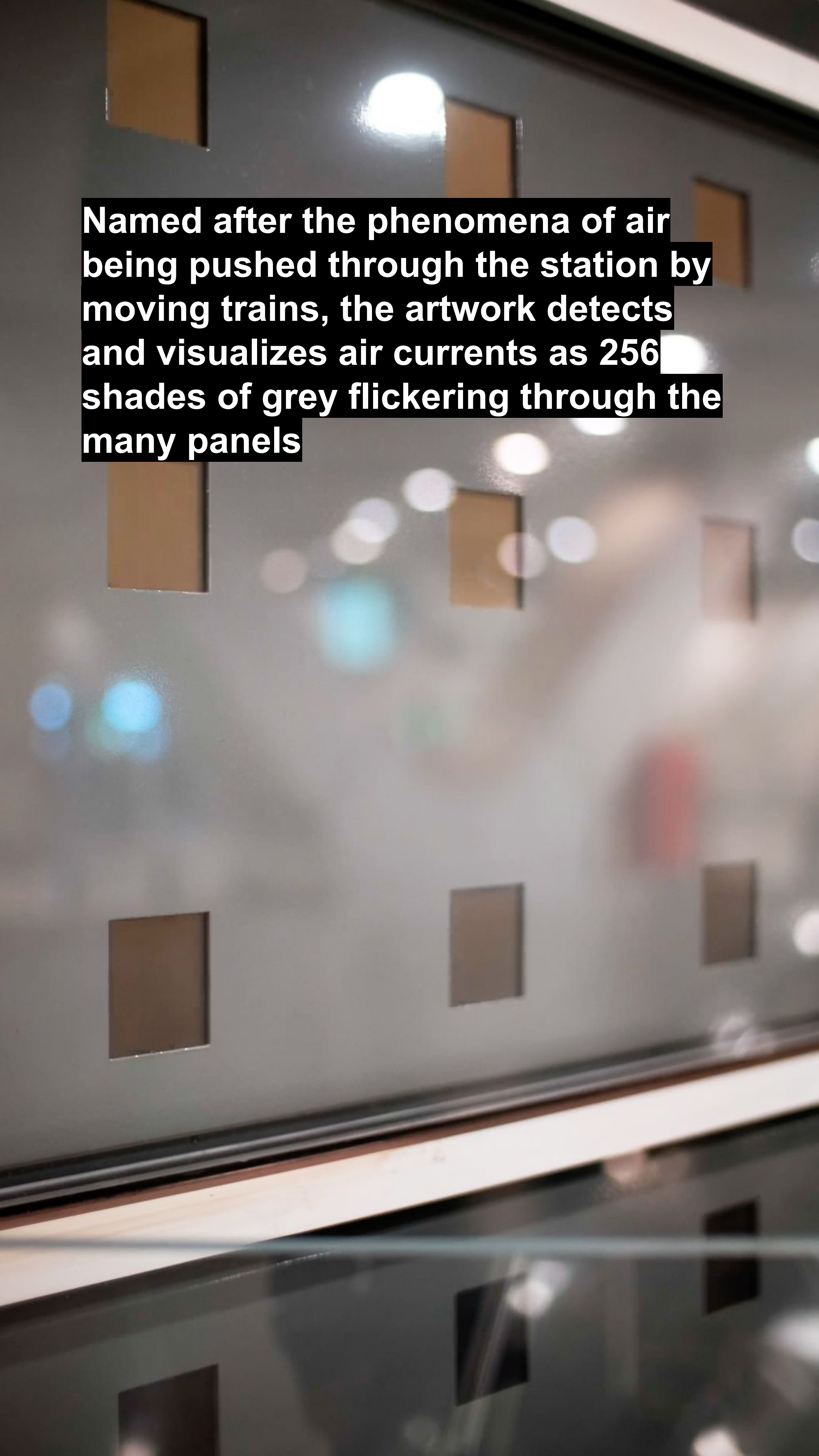
When you arrive, head straight to the escalators. See if you are able to spot **Piston Effect** by Jason Bruges Studio on your way up!



Standing at the mezzanine overlooking the platform, you'll get a good overview of some of the thousands of LCD panels that make up the artwork



Named after the phenomena of air being pushed through the station by moving trains, the artwork detects and visualizes air currents as 256 shades of grey flickering through the many panels



Much less subtle but equally as spectacular is the station's daylighting strategy which centres around a generous amphitheatre and multi-storey windows



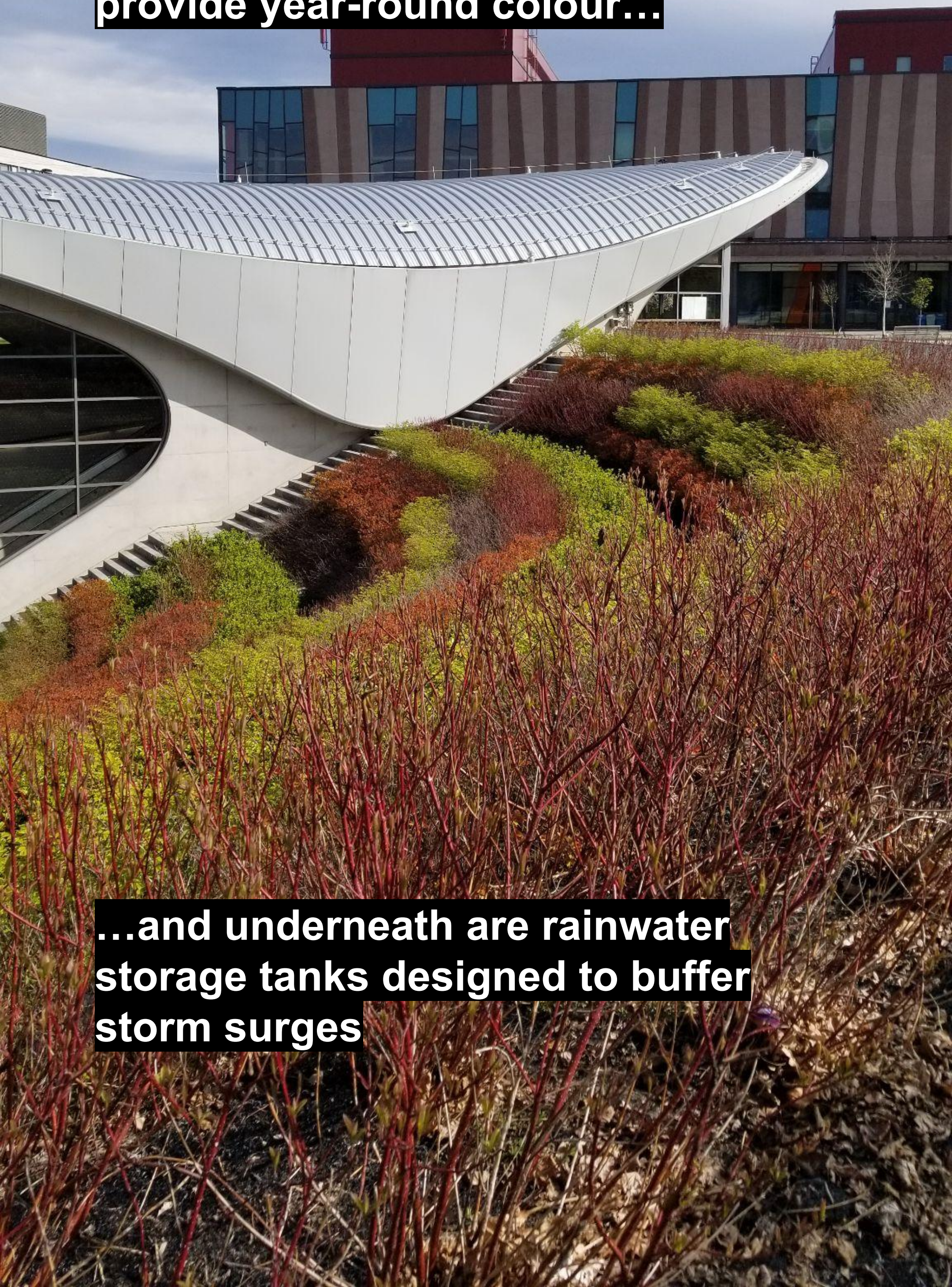
Studio Shai Gil

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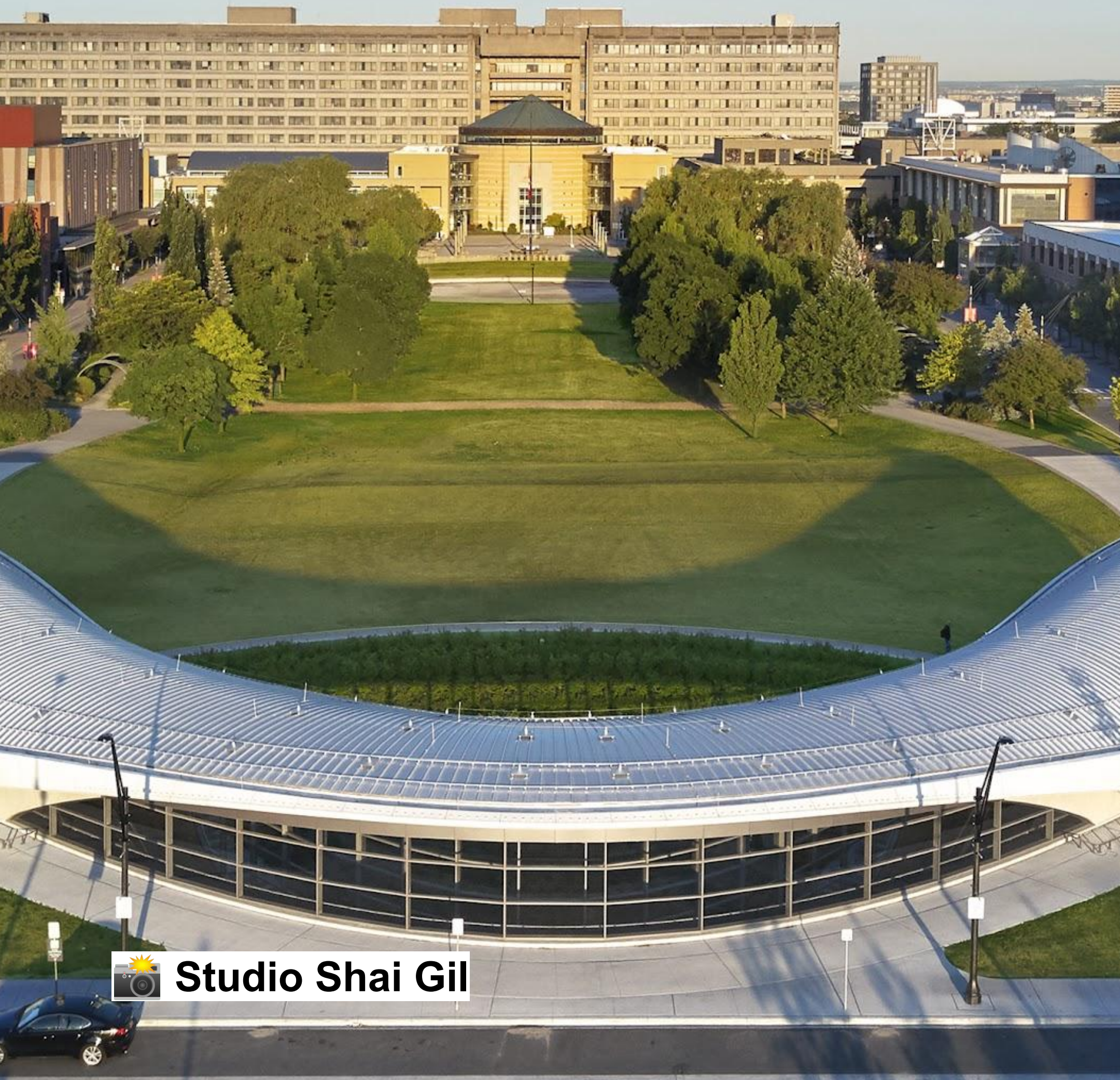
Designed to bring light deep into the cavernous station, the amphitheatre builds on intuitive wayfinding techniques first explored by Foster + Partners in stations for the London Underground and the Bilbao Metro

Outside, the amphitheatre is adorned with native, drought tolerant plants—like fiery red dogwood— which provide year-round colour...

...and underneath are rainwater storage tanks designed to buffer storm surges



Perfectly aligned to the centre York University's Harry W. Arthur's Common, the station marks the entrance to Keele Campus and provides an important transit connection for approximately 60,000 students




Studio Shai Gil

Take one last look! It's time to hop back onto the track for our next stop right across the campus...



**Arriving at,
PIONEER VILLAGE STATION**



 **IBI Group, LEA Consulting
and WSP (TSGA Joint Venture) in
collaboration with All Design**

Characterized by an earthy material palette, this station embraces its underground nature while celebrating light in unique and expressive ways...

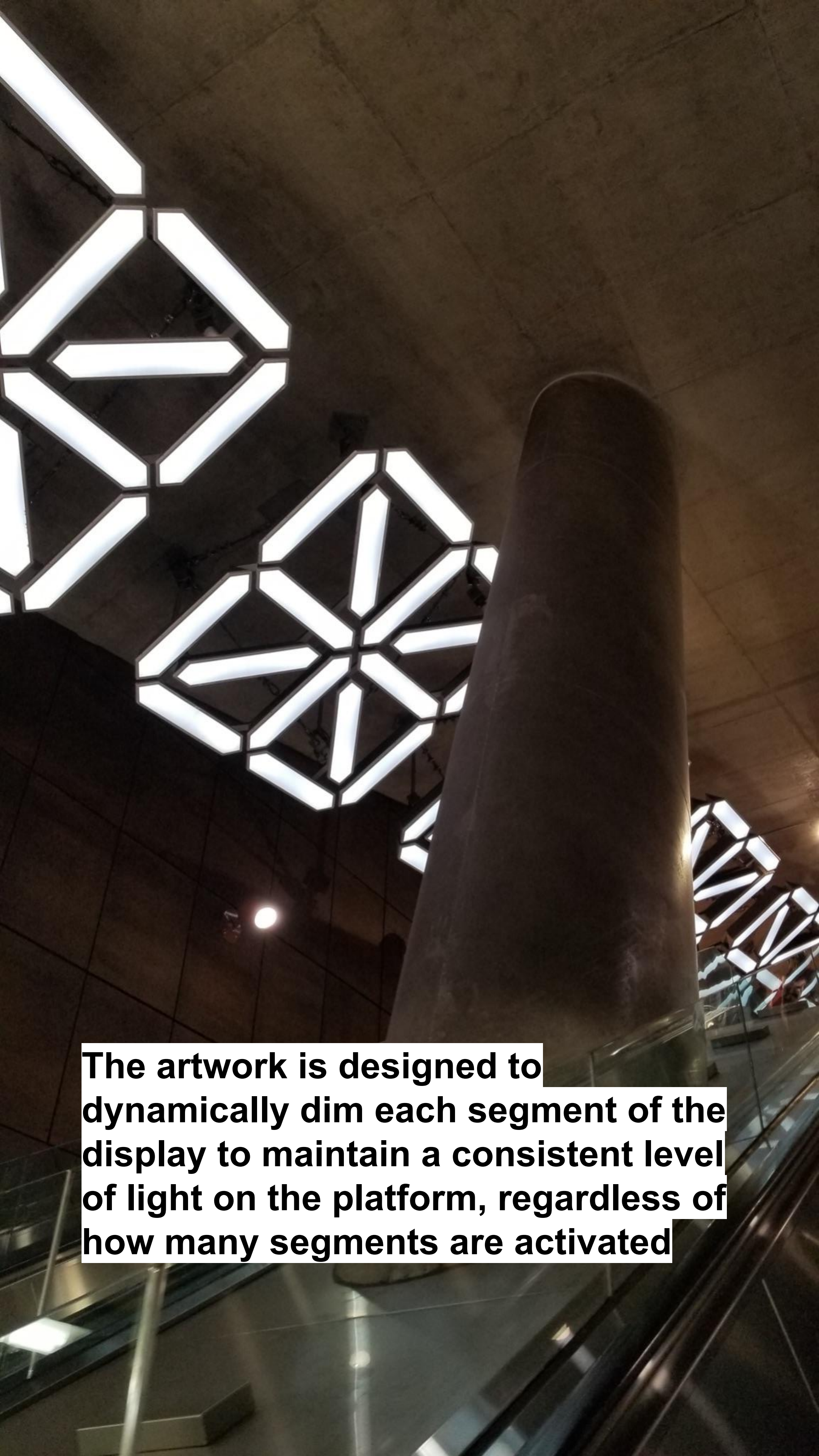




Up above on the platform level you might have already noticed **Lightspell** by realities:united—an integrated art-piece that doubles up as the station's main lighting!

Look around and you'll find several terminals that were designed to allow the public to input 8-character messages that would then be displayed on the massive 16-segment displays






The artwork is designed to dynamically dim each segment of the display to maintain a consistent level of light on the platform, regardless of how many segments are activated

For now, Lightspell remains dormant—concerns about the potential for hate speech, disruptive messages, and legal ramifications have paused the launch of the artwork’s interactive element



However, discussions are underway to bring this artwork to life! Even in its dormancy, it has successfully inspired conversation about what can (and can't) be said in the public realm

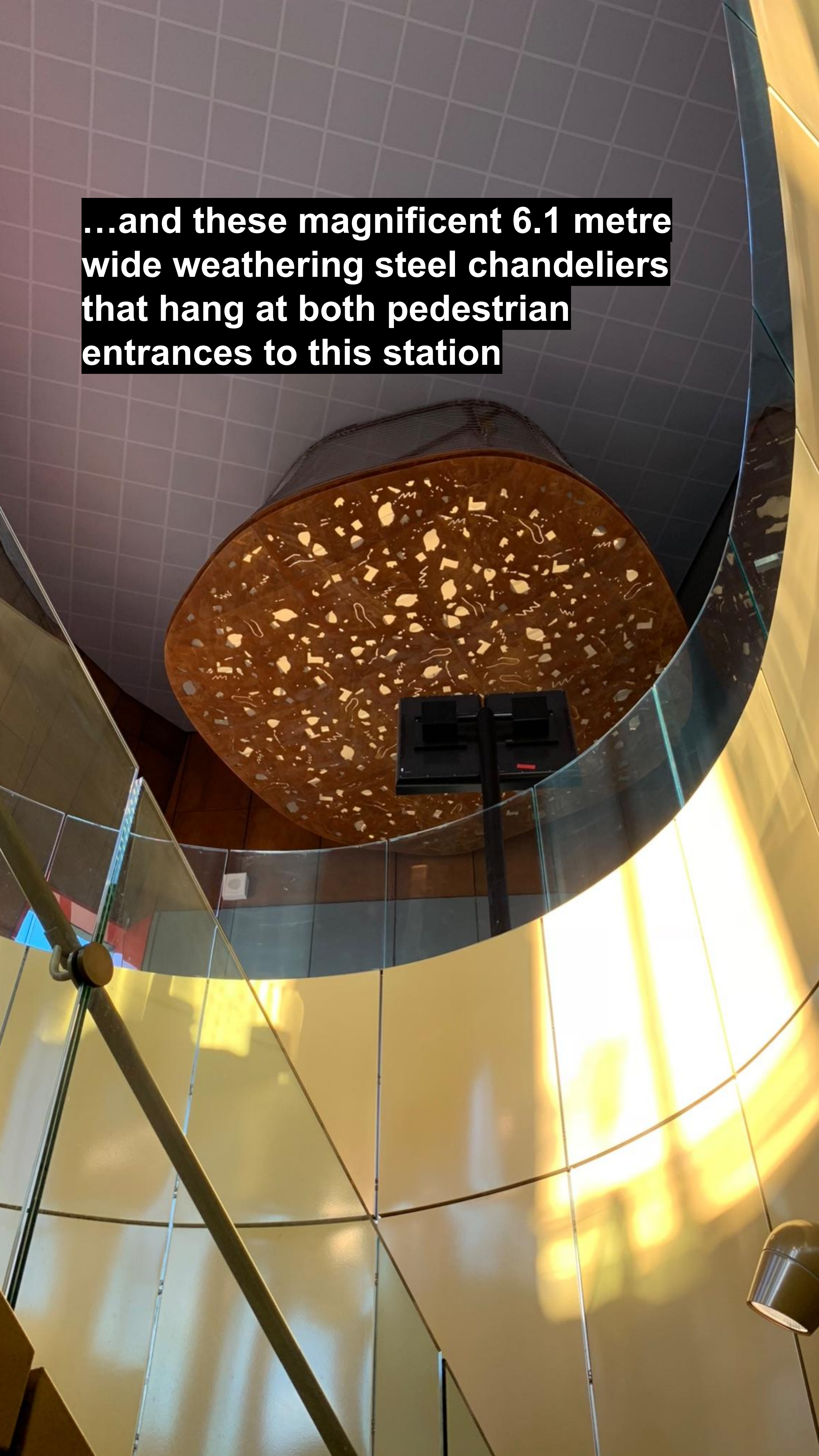


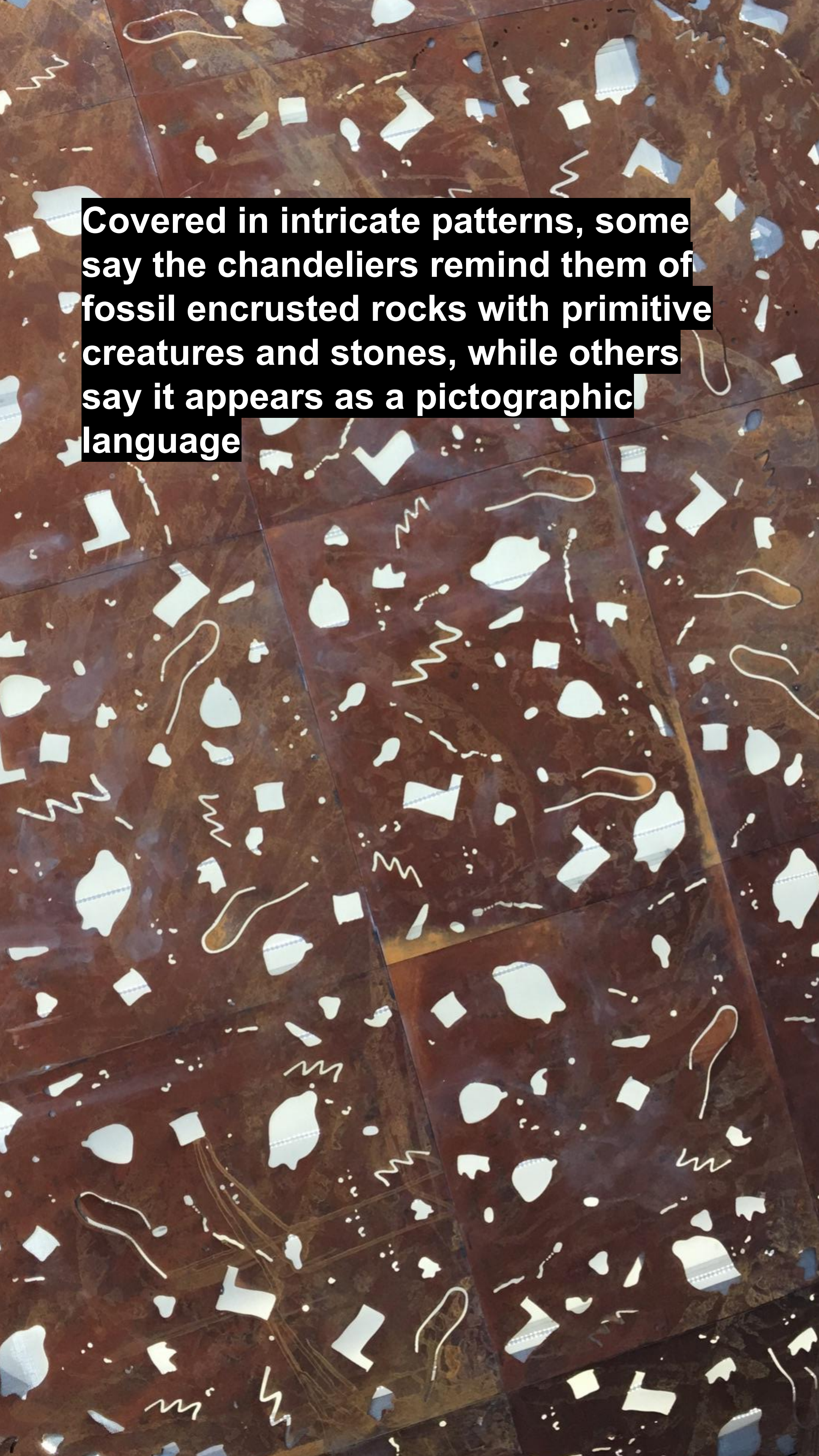
A large, faceted, gemstone-like skylight is the central focus of the image. It is set within a dark, ornate, and highly reflective interior, possibly a mezzanine level. The skylight itself is composed of numerous facets, creating a complex, crystalline structure that refracts light. The surrounding environment is dark, with some ambient lighting visible, including a green light source on the right and a warm light source at the bottom right. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and dramatic.

Keep making your way upstairs and more light-filled elements will emerge, such as...

...this gemstone-like skylight bringing daylight deep into the mezzanine level...

...and these magnificent 6.1 metre wide weathering steel chandeliers that hang at both pedestrian entrances to this station





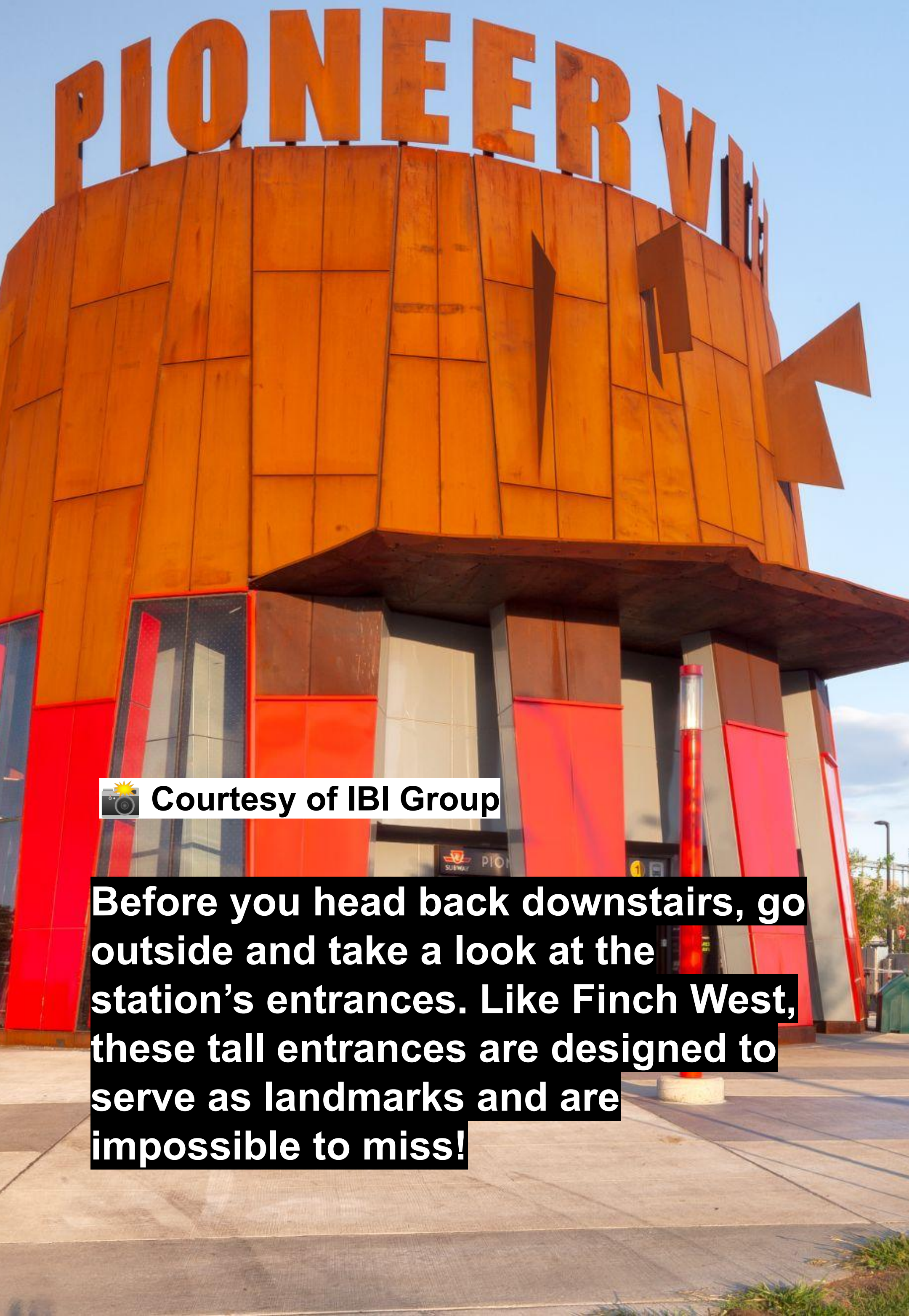
Covered in intricate patterns, some say the chandeliers remind them of fossil encrusted rocks with primitive creatures and stones, while others say it appears as a pictographic language

When asked about the why behind all of these little details, architect Will Alsop answered...

“Most people using the subway on a Monday morning are probably going to a job they’d rather not do...

I wanted to create a space that excites the spirit, at least for a few minutes.”

Weathering steel, unlike regular steel, is designed to rust



 **Courtesy of IBI Group**

Before you head back downstairs, go outside and take a look at the station's entrances. Like Finch West, these tall entrances are designed to serve as landmarks and are impossible to miss!

Head downstairs and grab a seat at one of these integrated concrete benches to wait for the next northbound train towards...



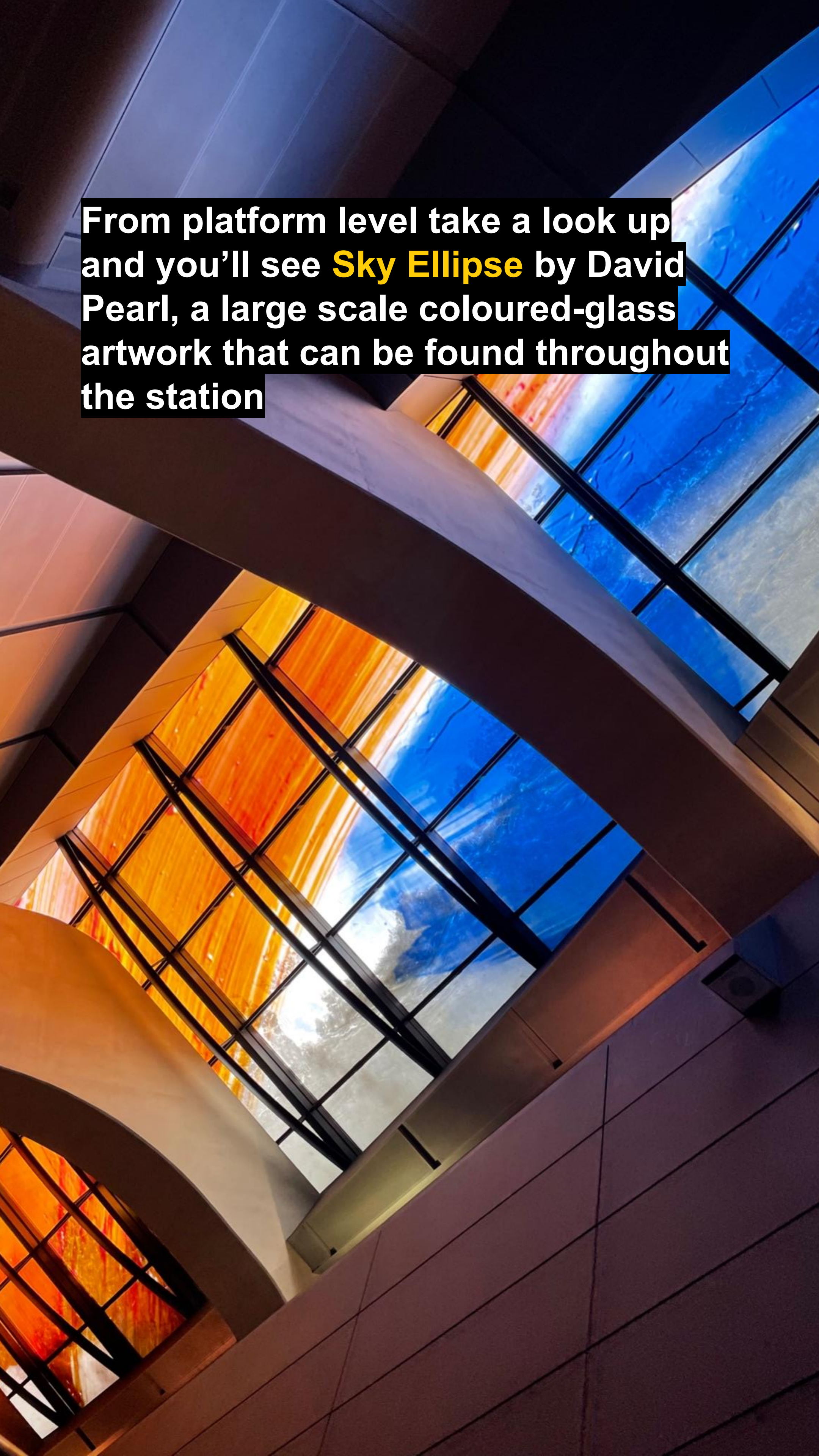
HIGHWAY 407 STATION

HIGHWAY 407

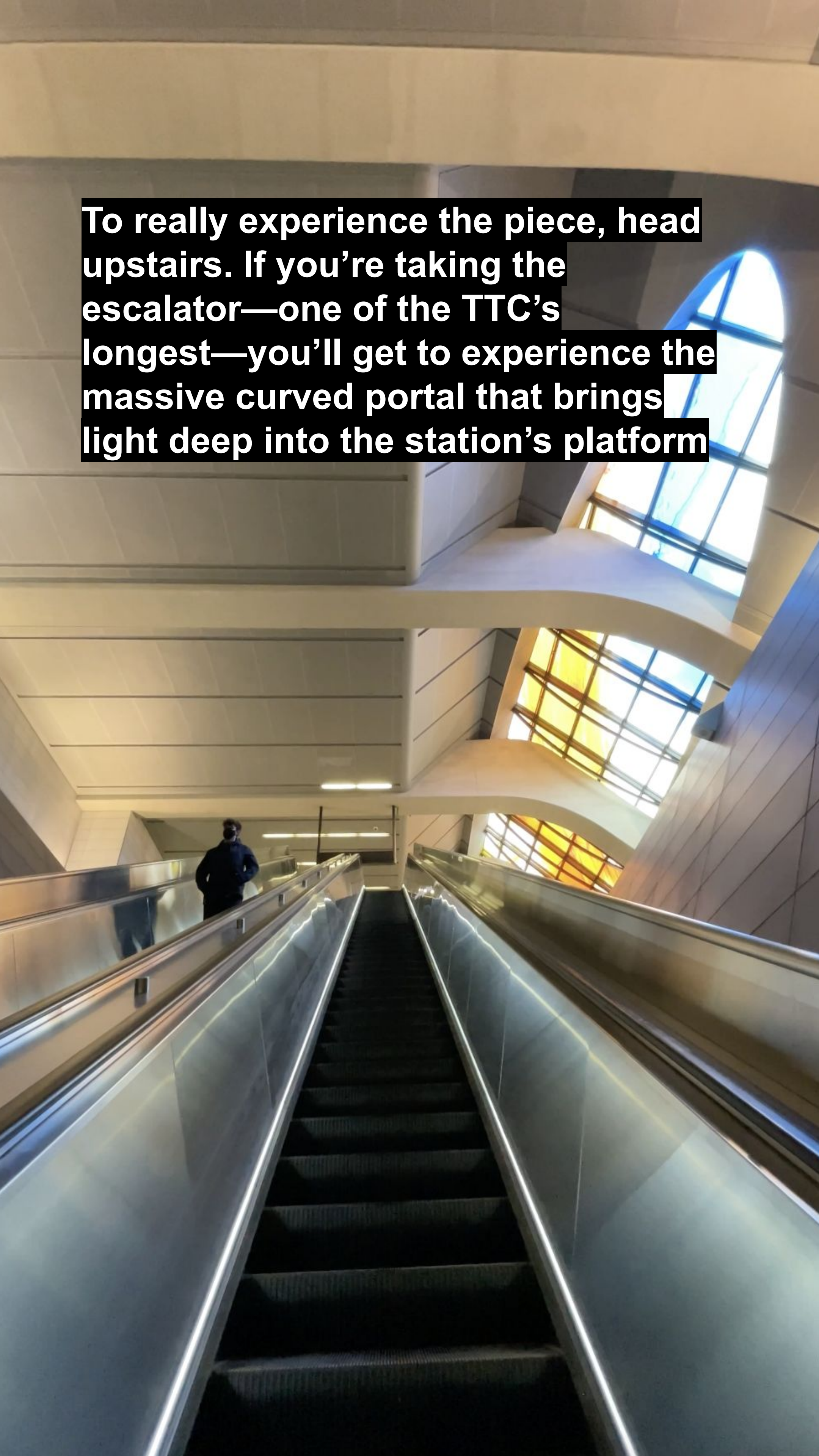


AECOM with Aedas Architects

From platform level take a look up and you'll see **Sky Ellipse** by David Pearl, a large scale coloured-glass artwork that can be found throughout the station



To really experience the piece, head upstairs. If you're taking the escalator—one of the TTC's longest—you'll get to experience the massive curved portal that brings light deep into the station's platform





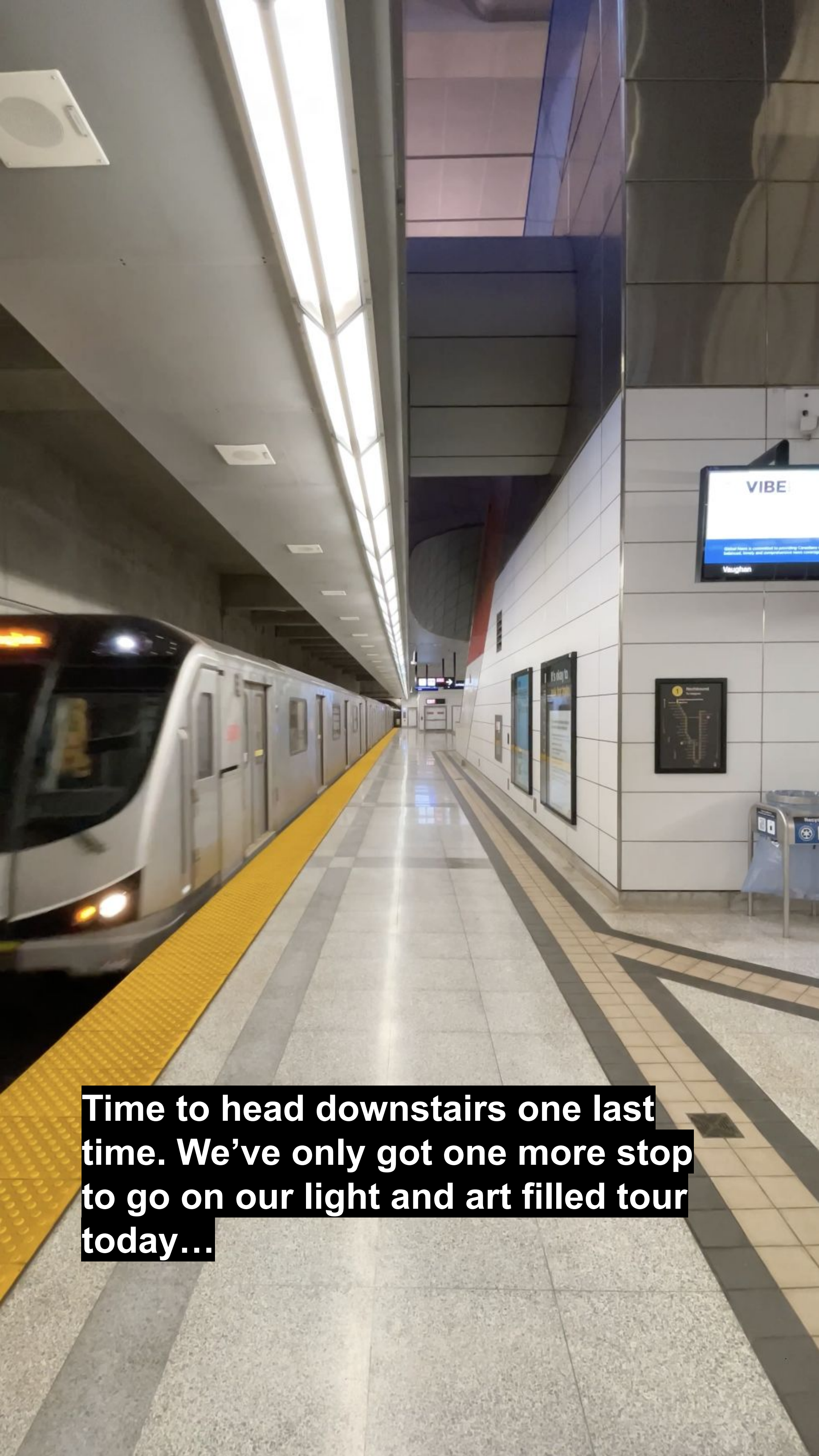
The strokes of colour on this 45-metre wide skylight (as well as on all other stained glass in the station) are made using a ceramic screen printing process that maximizes colour transmission



..and while the skylights are the greatest spectacle, this treatment can be found in other subtle locations —like adorning the escalators as you continue upwards towards the GO bus terminal



...and once you reach the very top, you won't be able to miss this part of Sky Ellipse! Its large swaths of colour project throughout the polished stainless steel and concrete building, completely enveloping the station in its fantastic glow



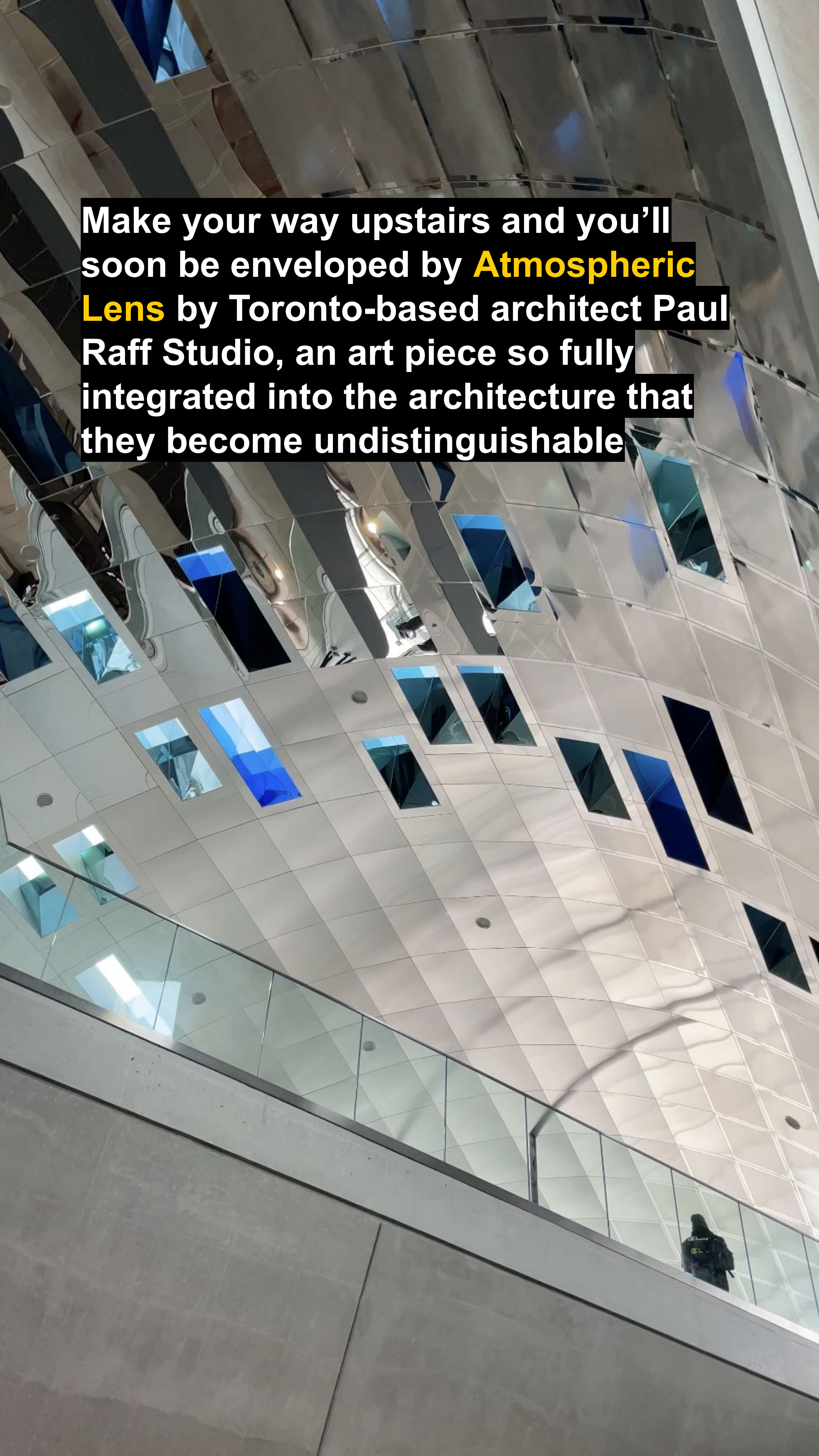
Time to head downstairs one last time. We've only got one more stop to go on our light and art filled tour today...

...the kaleidoscopic
**VAUGHAN METROPOLITAN
CENTRE STATION**

**Grimshaw Architects with
Adamson Associates**

 **Studio Shai Gil**



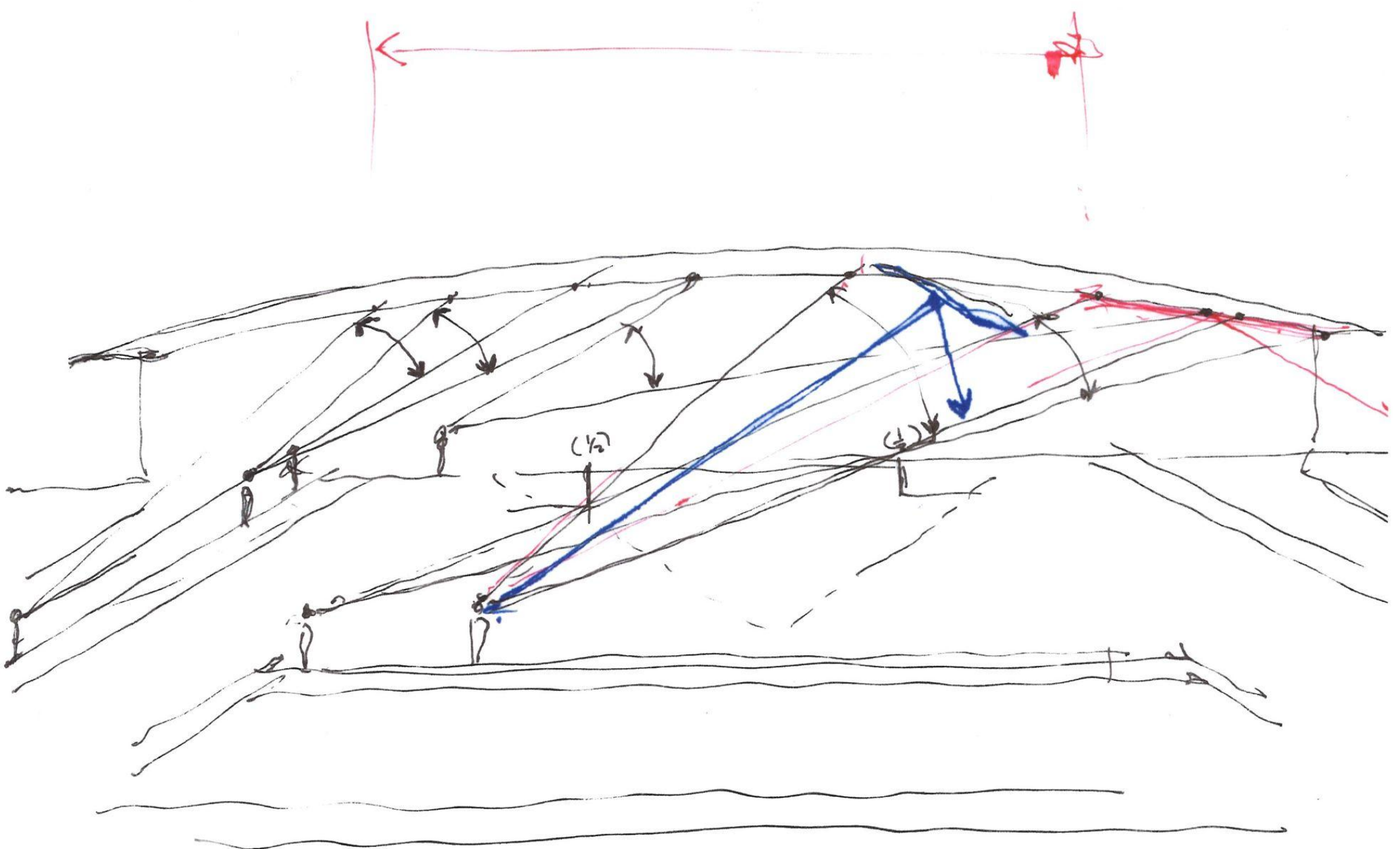


Make your way upstairs and you'll soon be enveloped by **Atmospheric Lens** by Toronto-based architect Paul Raff Studio, an art piece so fully integrated into the architecture that they become undistinguishable

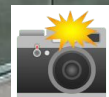


Paul Raff Studio

Connecting interior movements to celestial ones, the artwork consists of numerous elements integrated into the 16,000 s.f. ceiling that transform the station's elegant dome into a light-manipulating instrument



The ceiling is lined with steel panels, ranging from polished to matte, creating a dynamic cubic collage of reflections that capture the movement within the station...




Studio Shai Gil



 **Studio Shai Gil**

...up above, a series of carefully punctured and shaped skylights, many of them colourfully lined, have been aligned with equinox and solstice sun angles to bring daylight deep into the station



When it all comes together and the sun hits just right, the entire entrance pavilion becomes a daylight-powered kaleidoscope that connects passengers to the celestial movements above—a breathtaking finale and a testament to the integration of art and architecture!

Head outside and you'll see the beginnings of a massive new development (first proposed in 2009) that will become the new downtown core of Vaughan



 via City of Vaughan

Connecting two municipalities with a subway is a sign of how our city-regions are evolving and growing—becoming more integrated and connected than ever before



We've reached the end of the line, but the exploration doesn't have to stop here!

Join the TSA on one of our many in-person walking tour throughout the summer, including our in-person Spadina Line tour, and learn more about our city's built environment!



Jocelyn Squires

TSA

...and remember, when exploring bring some water, stay safe on the platform and make sure to practice physical distancing!

TSA

**...and don't forget to
share your explorations
with us!**

**A special thanks to all
the contributors who
made this tour
possible!**

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