

NARRATIVE

The Pedestrian

Escaping the chaos of street life.

Purpose: Passage / Exploration

Familiarity: Unfamiliar with the area

Time: Unknown

Frequency: Irregular

He or she is in the area out of consequence, often for passage between two known locations. The Pedestrian is seeking an escape from the usual turmoil of the city streets.

The pedestrian is traveling with an end point in mind. The interior is not only a place of refuge, but of path. There should be limited "end points" in the tunnel itself and a clear method of egress while providing the user with a place of rest and retreat.

ENTRY

Each of the four entry points should provide a unique experience for the user, allowing a variation of sequences dependent upon the route the occupant takes.

Emphasize the nature of the space from the exterior – how does one see that the entry points lead to the underground? What allows the pedestrian to identify an alternate route in a place they frequently travel?

MAIN ACCESS (EXISTING TUNNEL)

The Main Access should allow ease of egress while accommodating maximized spatial variation. The pedestrian may pause in the space however may be rushed so ease of travel is critical.

PERSONAL GATHERING SPACE

Provides momentary isolation away from other pedestrians (both visual and auditory). As the occupant is likely to be commuting between two places, the Personal Gathering Space provides temporary relief en route.

The Student

Escaping the demands of education and routine passage.

Purpose: Going between classes

Familiarity: Familiar with the area

Time: Limited

Frequency: Regular

The student seeks an escape from the street level experience; the journey between classes is an indirect route of travel segmented by dangerous crosswalks, busy sidewalks, and loud traffic. Possibly the weather is unfavorable and they seek protection from the elements as they travel the two block distance. He or she may be on a pressing schedule between classes or they may have spare time. The space should accommodate not only passage but a place for the individual student or a small study group to convene.

MAIN ACCESS (EXISTING TUNNEL)

Natural light is relatively important, but not essential. Sound buffering is also important, as the existing tunnel is highly sound reflective.

PERSONAL MEDITATION SPACE

Maximized natural daylight.

Seating space for up to five people.

Located within the main passageway, however visually and audibly disconnected. Brief visual connection to the Main Access.

The Businessperson

Escaping the demands of the workplace.

Purpose: Going on lunch

Familiarity: Familiar with the area

Time: Limited

Frequency: Regular

His or her journey begins at the office where he/she is surrounded by quickly-paced coworkers, ringing telephones, and demanding clients. The lunch hour is the limited period in the day where the individual can find momentary peace away from the workplace.

Quietness and/or isolation may be desired. Access to natural light is preferable, as the individual spends his or her day in an office building. Breaks are limited and he or she will be looking to use their time efficiently; the public gathering spaces at the entry points will be most appropriate since they are well lit and quickly accessible. Providing a feeling of escape at the entry point level is thus essential.

ENTRY

Maximized natural daylight. Space for rest at the point of entry should accommodate those who are on brief recess.

MAIN ACCESS (EXISTING TUNNEL)

Access to natural daylight is relatively important. A clear and easily maneuvered path (avoid any maze-like qualities, such as branching off in various directions, without directly relating the individual to their surroundings).

PERSONAL MEDITATION SPACE

Maximized access to natural daylight. Spaced for anywhere from a single person to a small work group of up to five people. Visual and auditory buffering allows a place of retreat for midday breaks as well as small on-the-go work meetings.

The Inquisitor

Escaping monotony.

Purpose: Exploration

Familiarity: Unfamiliar with the area

Time: Unlimited

Frequency: Irregular

He or she is in the area for leisure, exploring new places out of curiosity. The Inquisitor is open to a variation of experiences and seeks out the new or unexpected.

The Inquisitor is constantly analyzing and evaluating the environment, thus he or she should be immediately drawn in at street level. When he or she enters the space there is an immediate desire for the element of surprise. The interior should be designed for a variation of spatial opportunity.

ENTRY

Each of the four entry points should provide a unique experience for the user, allowing a variation of sequences dependent upon the route the occupant takes.

Emphasize the nature of the space from the exterior – how does one see that the entry points lead to the underground? What makes an individual, when given many options, choose to enter this space specifically?

MAIN ACCESS (EXISTING TUNNEL)

Maximized variation (mental time lapse: sequential versus elongated experience).

PERSONAL MEDITATION SPACE

Momentary isolation away from pedestrians, both visual and auditory. As exploration can overwhelm the senses, the opportunity for meditation and recollection is essential.