



(March 8) The Portland Cement Association, a nationwide industry group, has named the Metro Red Line Vermont/Santa Monica station as one of four projects to receive its 2000 "Concrete in Transit Award."

The Vermont/Santa Monica station features a main entranceway whose concrete walls are stenciled with 10,000 questions concerning the design, fabrication, financing and politics of the transportation system and its art.

Textures and bold, simple colors

The station design, a joint effort of the architectural firm of Ellerbe Becket and artist Robert Millar, uses concrete of varying textures throughout. The textures and the use of bold, simple colors aid students and visitors to the nearby Braille Institute and other visually impaired subway passengers. An anti-graffiti coating over the concrete keeps maintenance costs low.

Picked from among 28 other submissions, the Vermont/Santa Monica station design was judged on creativity, transferability, aesthetics, economics and functionality. Also winning awards this year were WMATA's Green Line Aerial Structure, Toronto's Sheppard Subway Don River Tunnel/Bridge and the Historic Canton Viaduct Rehabilitation Project for Amtrak.

The awards will be presented during the American Concrete Institute convention in San Diego, March 30, and again at the APTA conference in St. Louis in June.

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