Light and daylight played a critical role in the design of this transit hub, which serves 11 subway lines and 300,000 commuters daily. A study of the solar geometry of the site informed the location of a 50-foot diameter skylight oculus. Tilted gently toward the south, it allows for more direct sunlight to enter, and during summer months light penetrates as far as two levels below ground. A cable-net structure with reflective panels surrounds the interior of the space below the oculus, reflecting both the direct sun and diffuse skylight, and folding subtle images of the surrounding environment into the space. The hidden electric lighting illuminates the reflector panels, which in turn provide a gentle ambient light in the interior of the station.

“The designers use an architectural element as a lighting source and used the element perfectly for daylight and for electrical lighting.”

—Lumen Awards Jury