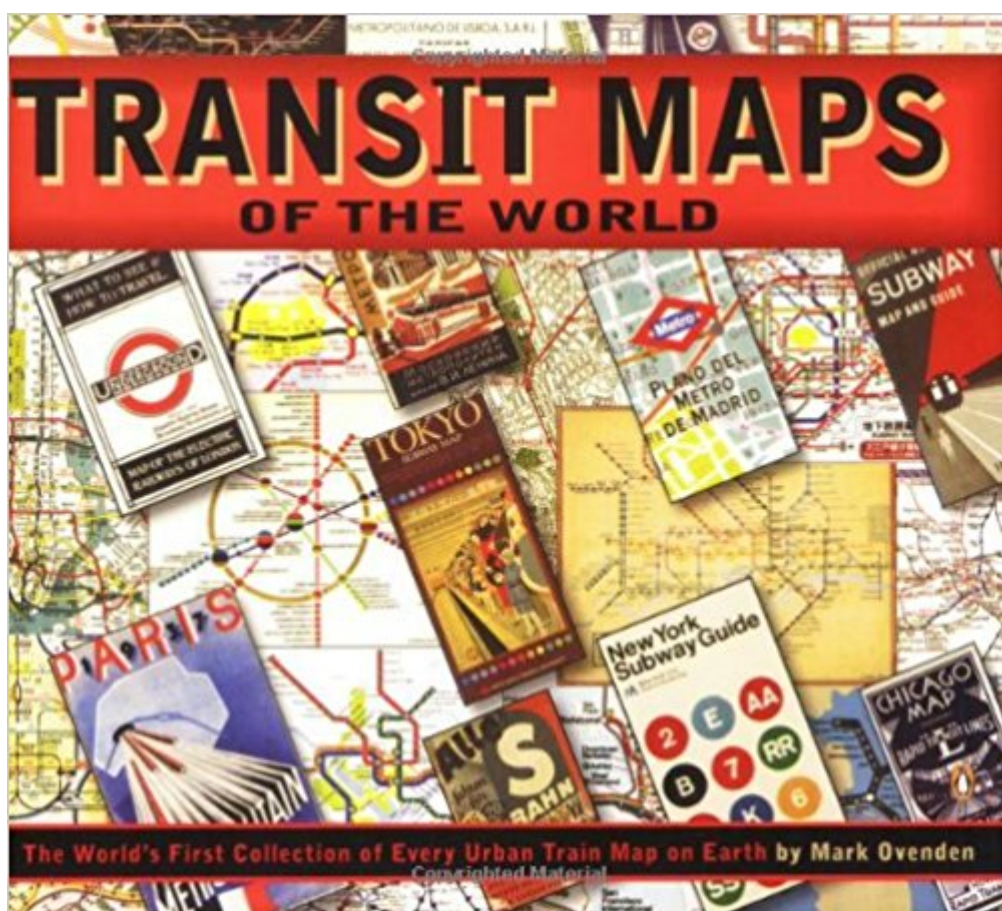


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# Transit Maps Of The World: The World's First Collection Of Every Urban Train Map On Earth



## Synopsis

Transit Maps of the World is the first and only comprehensive collection of historic and current maps of every rapid-transit system on earth. Using glorious, colorful graphics, Mark Ovenden traces the history of mass transit-including rare and historic maps, diagrams, and photographs, some available for the first time since their original publication. Transit Maps is the graphic designer's new bible, the transport enthusiast's dream collection, and a coffee-table essential for everyone who's ever traveled in a city.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Ovenden does what no other design history book has ever done. Transit Maps of the World is a must-have" -The New York Times Book Review "Fantastic" -LA Times "The perfect book" -USA Today "pure catnip" -William Grimes, The New York Times "This book is the stuff that dreams are made of" -Newsday "A fabulous collection. These maps are almost works of art, and can kindle a remembrance of a past trip or a dream of a future journey" -Seattle Times "Impossibly nerdy and thoroughly compelling" -Kansas City Star "This is the kind of book that would be incredibly fun to browse with kids as part of a world geography investigation--and also the sort of thing that makes great bedtime reading if you want to salt your dreams with the possibility of travel to distant cities. Sheer public transit/map porn!" -Boingboing.com "Fascinating" -Peter Greenberg, National Public Radio "Even if you are not a "map person" this book makes it so easy to experience the unique perspective of rail-based transit. Artistically a treat with its interesting colors, shapes and design; it's

a coffee table essential. Ovenden brings a unique perspective to maps and to travel in general. Transit Maps of the World is a must-read for the literary traveller" -Literary Traveller.com "A vibrant tip of the hat to the world's urban train systems" -National Geographic Intelligent Traveller "...look no further for the next must-have book" -Very Short List "The sort of book you couldn't imagine you needed until you got it and now you can't imagine how you could do without it . . . It's fantastic!" -Robert Elms, BBC London "Like a CondT Nast Traveler magazine for jetsetters with subterranean tendencies." -Metro "Delightful." -The Guardian, London "A beautifully illustrated study of the plans that help passengers navigate the world's metropolitan railway systems." -The Times, London "An object lesson in information design." -Wallpaper

Born in London in 1963, Mark Ovenden evinced an early fascination with trains and TV that has remained with him over the course of his life. Following college he pursued a number of positions in local government and on the radio promoting progressive attitudes towards gay issues before getting a full time job at BBC Radio 1 as a producer. In 1998 he joined MTV as a freelance Music Programmer, where he gave birth to another production company which went on to produce shows for Atlantic252. There Mark was later taken on as a presenter of a weekly record review show with Chris Coco and as their specialist programmes producer and later breakfast newsreader. When Atlantic252 closed down Mark moved to Ministry Of Sound where he helped set up their DAB station, Ibiza unit and later, as Head of Radio there, ran a popular FM version of the station. Mark moved into consultancy after this working with Purple radio and the DRG. In 2002 while still working in his spare time on his book project he moved to a fledgling TV channel as Channel Manager. Mark Ovenden's Metro Maps of the World was published in November 2003 to great critical acclaim. It has since been re-written and updated for the American market and is now published by Penguin as Transit Maps of the World. Mark currently resides in Paris where he is researching his next book on a century of cartography of the Paris Metro Map. He is also working on several other book projects, a radio sit-com, and a TV travel show.

For anyone interested in visual design and cartography, the book is an incredibly rich source of information, thanks to the hundreds of pictures and detailed notes on authors and time of introductions of various designs. And it is a well designed book with some very nice touches (titles in akzidenz grotesque as a tribute to the Unimark NYC metro system!). The fascination of the author with mapping transportation systems is evident in every page and his style is extremely enjoyable. Having said so, its scholarly value on visual design, way-finding and usability is

questionable. To give but three examples: the network diagram of Rome, Italy, is praised as "a minor work of art" while it is actually one of the worst diagram ever conceived from the point of view of design and usability, truly an insult to Rome and to all its visitors. The 2007 metro diagram of Moscow, an all-caps monstrosity, is described as "the culmination of seventy years of innovation in map design on one of the most impressive and effective mass transit system". In presenting the Berlin map of 1990 Spierkermann's deliberate highlighting of the - still non existing - unifying ring is not even mentioned.

I have a very inventive grandson. He likes to use google maps to find real places that he sees in movies...etc.....He has especially wanted to find the places where Dr Who has showed up in his blue box. But he is very interested in the whole world and how it all goes together. He is 9 years old and is diagnosed as Autistic. He has made great strides in his interpersonal skills and his school work. Now reading far above his grade level. His interest in the world can take strange or should I say different turns than one might expect. He has strong opinions on most subjects.....and while he interacts and learns differently than us so called normal folks he has revealed himself to be perceptive and inventive. I find myself being in awe of his talents.

Not everything you ever wanted to know about transit maps, but certainly the best primer on the subject that I've ever seen. The organization of the book is excellent, the graphics are clear and it reads very well. I have yet to find another book on the subject that has the breadth found here. It's a great book for all ages to understand the difference between maps and diagrams, graphic design techniques used for transit system maps, the evolution of transit maps over the centuries, etc. Particularly fascinating are the in depth views on some of the oldest systems in the world - the feature on the U-Bahn in Berlin is particularly fascinating, telling the story of "ghost stations" in East Berlin during communism. Did you know that NYC is the only system in the world that uses a map instead of a diagram as its system "map"? I did not, but now I do. Awesome book.

Any infrastructure lover, designer, map enthusiast or even the daily commuter will find this book quite interesting. It provides transportation maps from tons of cities around the globe, including some in depth information and curiosities about it's design. It's nice to see see how each city adapts Harry Back's original design concepts for the London Underground map to it's own needs.

The book is primarily about the maps themselves, taking you through the different motifs used

throughout the history of all the main transit systems. So I suppose you could call it a book about graphic design. It also serves, however, as a terrific reference of every subway/rail system in the world. It's a terrific book to leave out for company to browse, and a great gift for someone who is really into trains, transit, city planning, or urban geography. I got it as a gift for my boyfriend who loves to travel, has been all over Europe, and who loves trains. He couldn't have been more thrilled with it.

If you're a train or map buff, this book is for you. It has maps of every urban transit system in the world. In the old days these were called "interurbans

Fascinating collection of transit maps from around the world. If you love to travel & have used local transit, this is great. There is also a newer updated edition, but this is more than adequate. For some maps you may need a magnifier, but that is the only drawback.

One of the best and most detailed books about the world's metro/subway systems. Compares and contrasts the different systems and shows how they are presented to the public in picture format. This book contains dozens of detailed pictures illustrating how metro systems distort their maps for the sake of clarity and also how their transit maps change in design over the decades. One challenge faced by transit map designers is how much secondary information to include, such as rivers, parks, main roads, connecting bus links, handicap accessibility, other rail lines and proximity to local landmarks. Transit Maps of the World presents these issues to us showing how individual transit map designers have to consider which information to exclude to make their maps easy to read.

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