



LIVENING UP THE COMMUTE:

# Shanghai's new Metro stations with eye-catching designs

A three-dimensional mural of the city skyline on either side of the Huangpu River spans both walls from end to end in Wuzhong Road Station on Line 15. — All photos by Alexander Bushroe

**Alexander Bushroe**

The daily commute is one of life's most mundane activities, yet it is a central component of daily existence for most of us.

Whether it's from behind the wheel of an automobile on traffic-snarled streets, on crowded trains or buses waiting to squeeze out at your local station, commuters usually focus on the tasks of the day at their destination: work, home or elsewhere. In time, the journey itself is reduced to rote muscle memory and repeated as though on auto-pilot.

I, as a daily rider of the Shanghai Metro subway system, am part of the herd. The masses of humanity and arms, legs, bags, umbrellas and everything else blend together and, unless something particularly strange happens, nothing around us really registers in our minds. Not to mention that we're all with noses in phones constantly as well.

I have, though, in recent years, made an effort to pay more attention to the little things. As is one of the focal points of this column, many things we see on a daily basis offer more than just practical utility. Sometimes there is more present in a space than is readily apparent, or there might be something worth examining hidden in plain sight.

As I've made a conscious effort to reflect more upon my surroundings and remove myself from the ranks of the smartphone zombie horde during my commute, I've realized that the Shanghai Metro really does have some interesting quirks of design. Some of the stations, particularly those recently completed within the past two years, are actually quite appealing to the eye.

Between December 30, 2020 and the same date a year later in 2021, three completely new



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THE COMMOTION METRIC

Metro lines opened for commuters. Line 14 runs east to west right through the heart of the city; Line 15 runs north to south, west of the Inner Ring Road through Putuo, Changning, Minhang and Xuhui districts; and Line 18 is also north to south, beginning in Baoshan, passing through Yangpu at the North Bund and into the Pudong New Area.

As I incorporate these newly opened Metro lines into my journeys around the city, I've come to appreciate the unique designs and special traits that many of these stations have. From grandiose, colorful atriums to benign, hidden Easter eggs, several stations have a lot to offer commuters.

Let's take a look at some of the most interesting new subway stations opened in Shanghai since 2021.