ROMA

ROMA METROPOLITANE

Rome Metro - Line C

Colosseo
Fori Imperiali Station

MetroC
La storia costruisce futuro

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Rome Metro - Line C

Colosseo
Fori Imperiali Station

December 2025

In the heart of Rome, past and future come together at Colosseo - Fori Imperiali station. The city's history resurfaces, inspiring new opportunities for growth and development.

Index

1.

The strategic axis in the heart of Rome

Colosseo - Fori Imperiali station is a strategic stop in the heart of Rome, along the route of Metro Line C. To fully understand the features of this station, it is essential to consider it within the context of the entire line.


Colosseo
Fori Imperiali
ROMA
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The Line that connects the city

Line C of Rome's Metro is one of the city's most significant infrastructure projects for urban mobility. **Stretching 29 kilometers**, the line **will connect the eastern and western outskirts of the capital from east to west, from Monte Compatri/Pantano to Farnesina**. A direct and fast link able to carry **up to 800,000 passengers per day**.

With the opening of Porta Metronia and Colosseo - Fori Imperiali stations, Line C now reaches the very heart of the city, with 24 stations completed, making Rome increasingly interconnected and sustainable.

29 km
of metro line up

20 km
underground line

23 km
completed
from Monte Compatri/Pantano
to Colosseo – Fori Imperiali

24
completed stations

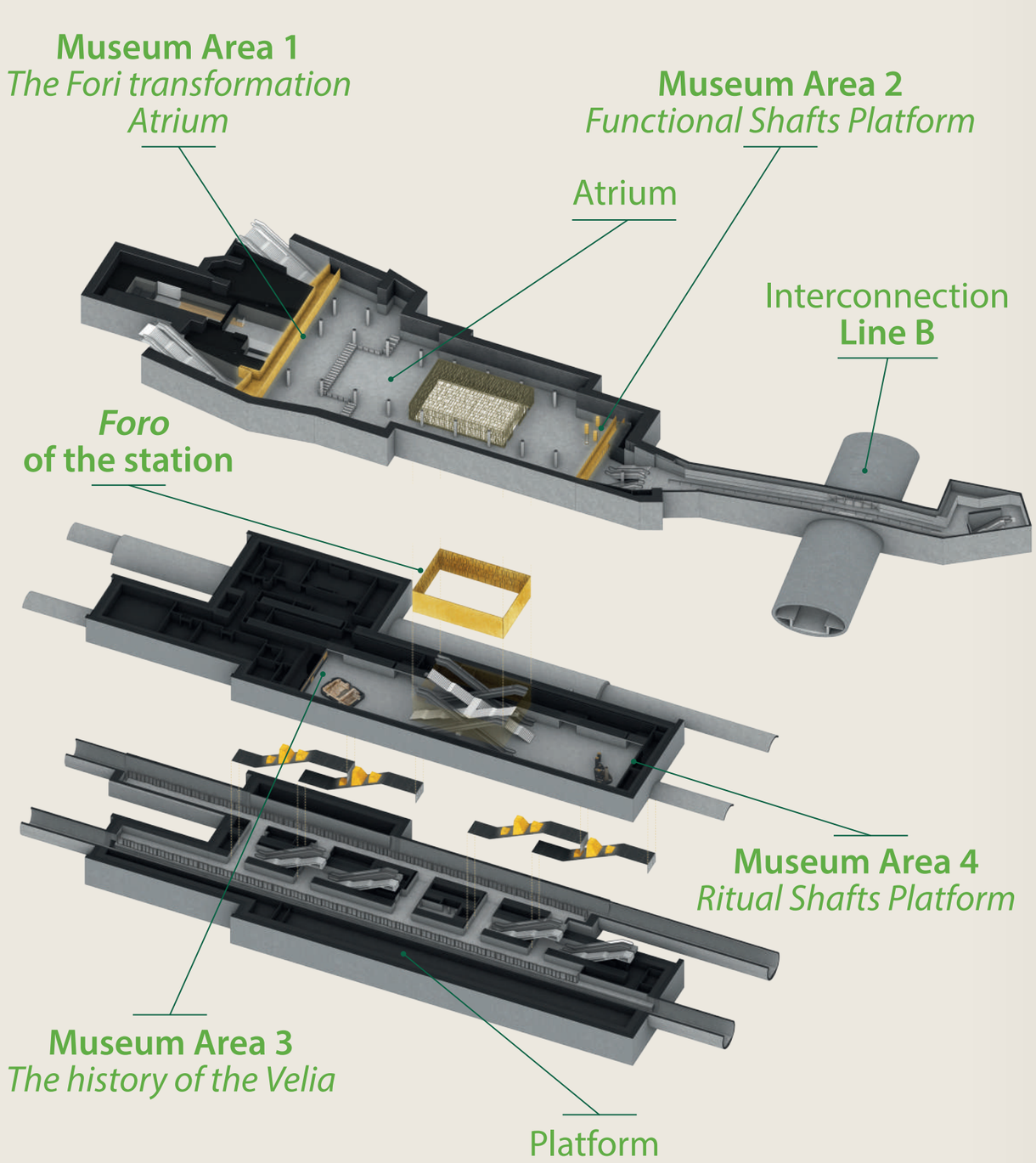
1
station under construction

6
station under design

4 interconnections with existing lines
(Metro A - San Giovanni and Ottaviano | Metro B – Colosseo | FL1/FL3 Pigneto

Colosseo
Fori imperiali Station

A multilevel station
The different areas



32 m
excavation depth

172,000 m³
total excavation volume

29,000 m³
archaeological excavation volume

Structures uncovered

28 Republican-era features

Domus from both the Republican and Imperial periods

4
underground levels

9
elevators

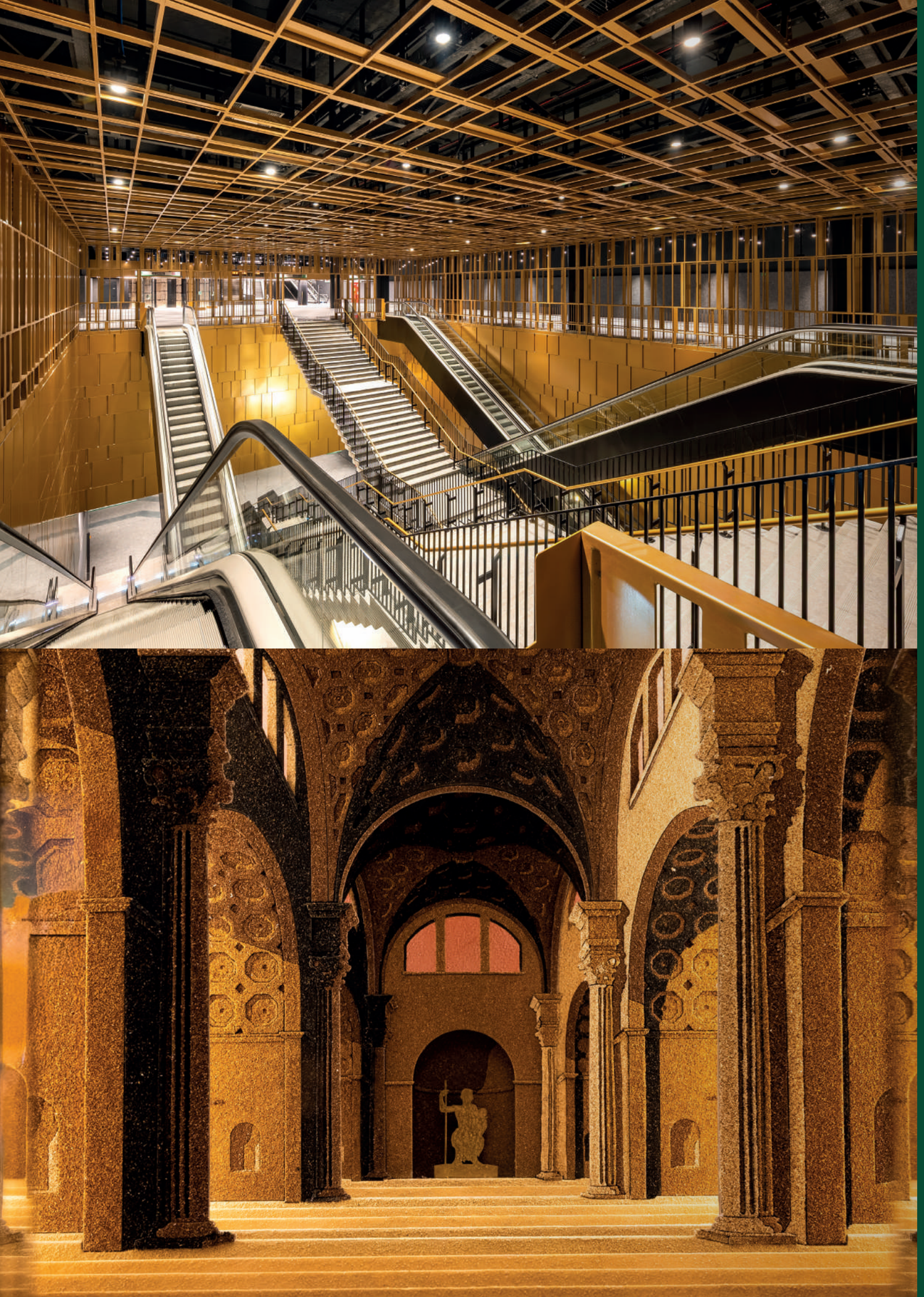
16
escalators

Transfer hub
Line C / Line B

2.

The station: the work and its context

Colosseo - Fori Imperiali station extends across four underground levels and represents one of the most significant hubs of the entire Line C.



Integrated into History

Set in a globally unique location, rich in historical and urban significance, the station was designed with careful attention to its surroundings. Every aspect of the project was conceived to blend harmoniously into the monumental area, from the architectural aesthetics to the museum-style installations housed within.

Inside the station structure

The **station extends beneath Via dei Fori Imperiali, in the area between the Colosseum and the Basilica of Maxentius**. It has a variable **width ranging from 30 to 50 meters and an overall length of approximately 240 meters**. It reaches a depth of **32 meters below street level** and spans **four underground levels**: a museum-style concourse level, which provides direct access to Colosseo station on Line B; **a level for technical rooms**; a mezzanine level, also designed as a **museum space**; and the **platform level**. In addition, the station includes the roof slab and the foundation slab.

A monumental scale infrastructure

Up to
50 meters
wide

Stretching
240 meters
in lenght

Reaching a depth of
32 meters

Featuring
2
surface-level entrances

Home to
2
museum-style exhibition floors

Equipped with
230 meters
of dockside gates


PIAZZA
Passaggio Vietato
Passaggio Vietato
Passaggio Vietato
Ai Treni M
Ai Treni M
Ai Treni M

Moving through a UNESCO World Heritage Area

Rome's underground reveals a **complex archaeological layering: from the Republican to the Imperial era; from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance; up to the urban transformations of the 20th century**. The most recent of these is the construction of Via dei Fori Imperiali, opened in the 1930s as a monumental axis connecting Piazza Venezia to the Colosseum.

Rome's historic center is a place enriched over the centuries by an extraordinary cultural and architectural heritage, so much so that UNESCO has recognized it in its entirety as a **World Heritage Site**. It hosts monuments of outstanding universal value, such as the **Colosseum**, the **Imperial Forum**, the **Palatine Hill** and the **Fori Imperiali**.

> The new Line C station is set within an **ever-evolving urban landscape**, where past and present are in constant dialogue.

Interconnection with Line B

The new station acts as an **interchange with Colosseo station on Line B**. The two stations are directly connected via underground tunnel. Furthermore, it represents the second **interconnection of Line C** with Rome's metro network, following San Giovanni station.

3.

Engineering and archaeology

Building the Colosseo - Fori Imperiali station was a unique and unrepeatable opportunity to explore an underground landscape enriched with historical evidence, while also providing a chance of enhancing the past. Engineering decisions were made with full awareness of the surrounding context, carefully considering the impact on the adjacent monumental area. Throughout the design and construction phases, continuous monitoring and structural reinforcement of the surrounding monuments played a crucial role.

Synergies for heritage protection

A key element in building the new stations in the city center, was the **close collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and its competent institutions;** in particular, **for the Colosseo – Fori Imperiali station**, with the Archaeological Park of the Colosseum.
This partnership allowed **the archaeological excavation and building the infrastructure to be integrated into a single shared process**.

This synergy led to a structured **collaboration: a "Handbook of second-phase archaeological investigations" was jointly developed during the final design stage**, to ensure both the **protection of heritage and the progress of construction phases. This document sets out the excavation methods for each site** that must be applied at different depths, and the procedures for recovering archaeological finds. The management of archaeological activities was embedded into the design process itself, helping streamline the project, enhancingits overall efficiency, both in timing and cost management terms.

The design and construction of the museum installations inside the station were carried out in collaboration with the Archaelogical Park of the Colosseum, which funded the preliminary design of the museum exhibition. Thanks to this synergy between the public and private sectors, for the first time in Italy it was possible to formalize archaeological excavation methods within the framework of public works.

Excavating history: the "archaeological top-down" approach

To tackle the geological and archaeological complexity **of the site, a specially designed excavation method was adopted for the construction of the stations in central Rome: the 'archaeological top-down' approach.**

This methodology **involves constructing intermediate slabs during the top-down**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excavation process to counteract lateral soil pressure on the perimeter diaphragm walls - the station's 'external walls.' This approach allows archaeological and stratigraphic excavations to be carried out simultaneously with the construction of the slabs, ensuring the protection of archeological finds while optimizing the construction timeline.

The method was a**lso used in the construction of the Colosseo - Fori Imperiali station, a where the top-down archaeological excavation reached a volume of 29,000 m^3** - roughly equivalent to that of about 300 buses.

Monitoring of Monuments

Throughout the construction of the new stations, utmost attention was taken to protect the historical monuments surrounding the sites. **Their condition was continuously monitored, and preventive measures were implemented to avoid any stress** caused by excavation activities and building activities.

A Technical-Scientific Committee was established as early as 2008, followed by a **four-year Line-Monuments Interaction study, which involved 14 sites and 40 historic buildings and churches along the entire Line C**. During construction, **a monitoring plan was implemented with approximately 30,000 instruments: sensors, topographic equipment** were installed on the main surrounding monumets, **allowing event the slightest variations to be detected in real time**.

This control and monitoring activity was crucial in the Colosseo – Fori Imperiali station area, which is densely surrounded by historical monuments. Among the monuments and historic buildings subject to structural and/or geotechnical safeguarding measures are the **churches of Santa Maria in Domnica and Santo Stefano Rotondo**, the **Basilica of Maxentius**, the **Colonnacce of the Forum of Nerva**, and the **Temple of Venus and Rome**.

Watchful eyes on history

Thanks to the Line-Monuments Interaction study, the historic buildings surrounding the station are monitored in real time.

Instrument count by monument

290	608	180	200
Colosseo	**Basilica of Maxentius**	**Temple of Venus and Rome**	**Muñoz Wall**

Over 1,700 devices and sensors

Colosseo - Fori Imperiali Station Area

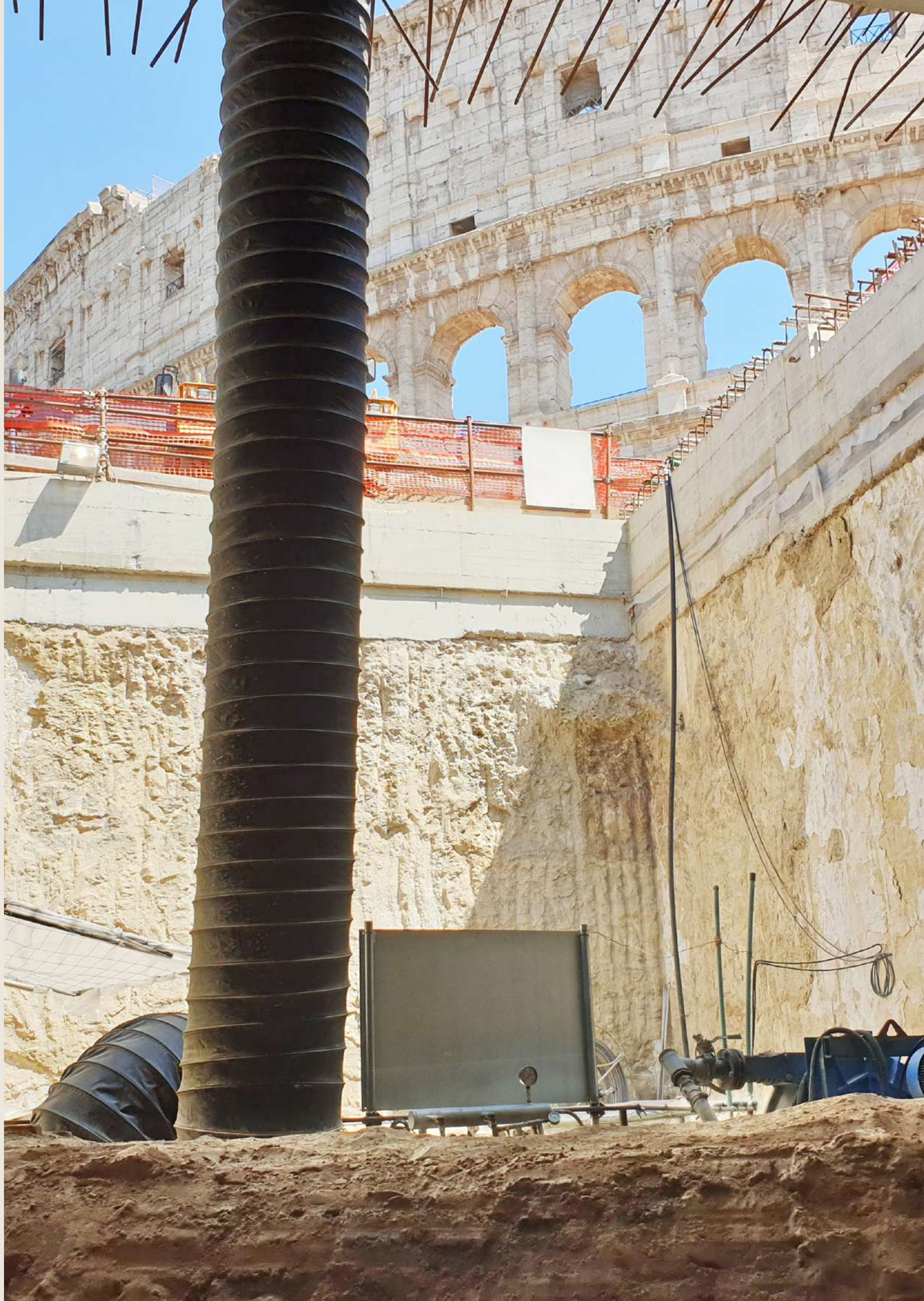
The engineering challenge

Given the historical and urban context, building the station and its connection to Line B required **cutting-edge engineering solutions**.

The excavation was enclosed within a **massive protective shell** made of reinforced concrete diaphragm walls - over a meter thick and reaching depths of **up to 48 meters**. Thousands of **sensors and monitoring devices** kept constant watch, detecting even the slightest vibrations in real time.

One of the most complex tasks was **creating the interchange. To make it possible, part of the existing tunnel vault had to be cut**, and a bridging **structure installed** to allow **access to both tracks without interrupting service**. The connection was built directly above the active tracks, with two longitudinal beams forming the backbone of the new structure. Precast elements were then added, followed by the completion of the base and roof slabs.

> In a subsoil where every centimeter holds centuries of history, every step, every meter excavated, and **every engineering decision became a dialogue with the past**.



4.

A museum station

Colosseo - Fori Imperiali will be much more than a metro station: it will be a true 'archaeo-station,' where the daily journey blends with history.

What is archaeostation?

An archaeostation, or 'museum station,' is a metro station **where mobility spaces coexist with museum-style exhibits showcasing archaeological discoveries**, creating a true journey through history. This station model has already been already successfully implemented at San Giovanni station and is now being extended along Line C at Porta Metronia, Colosseo - Fori Imperiali, Venezia, Chiesa Nuova, and San Pietro stations.

The architectural concept behind the museum layout of the station

Different archaeological findings emerged during the excavations, including, in particular, Republican wells. **The well itself became both an inspiration and a metaphor for the station's design: just as the well digs into the ground in search of water, the station descends into the underground to uncover traces of the past**, bringing history back to light.

The **spaces convey this sense of depth through three key design elements**: dark claddings for walls and columns **with a matte, 'raw' material**; a contrasting **luminous and 'precious' surface envelops the areas dedicated to the historical narrative**, particularly the large central lattice structure; and **light defines the volumes**, thanks to a carefully designed lighting system.

The exhibition project, funded, scientifically directed, and curated by the Archaelogical Park of the Colosseum, was developed with the participation of the Department of Architecture and Design of Sapienza University of Rome. It offers a journey through history to be experienced step by step, from the concourse level down to the platforms.

The journey begins: the station concourse

The station's museum-like atmosphere is evident from the very first steps. Visitors are greeted by **a spacious concourse designed as an exhibition space, marked by colonnades and ceiling spotlights**. In this publicly accessible area, located before the turnstiles, display cases and video installations narrate the story of the evolution of Via dei Fori Imperiali.

Republican shafts

Even in the concourse, visitors come across the 'protagonists', the Republican-era shafts. There are **28 shafts, dating from the 5th to the 2st century B.C.**, 19 of which are lined with shaped tuff slabs. Numerous artifacts discovered within these shafts suggest they were used for **ritual offerings** related to water.

Within the station, **the shafts are brought to life through a spectacular exhibition**: in the concourse, just before the passage leading to the interchange with Line B, **'glass columns' recreate the original volumes of the shafts, transforming them into display spaces** where bronze water-drawing vessels can be admired; along the back wall, the tuff structures of the wells reveal their inner architecture. This area is dedicated to the **"functional" wells**, highlighting the **essential role they played in everyday life**.

The presence of the shafts continues to the lower levels. One has been reassembled with its original tuff slabs, while others have become **'shafts of light'**: circular sections descend from the ceiling, tracing the original path of the wells and illuminate the area below, which features votive offerings discovered during excavations and a map showing the locations of the wells that were found. Here, the display explores **the wells' second life - their role as ritual deposits**, where offerings connected to the sacred nature of water are brought together.

A special "eye" on the Colosseum

Starting from the concourse level, another striking element welcomes travelers heading towards the interchange with Line B. The connecting corridor, featuring a reflective installation, ends in a hidden corner that opens up to an unusual and breathtaking view. On the ceiling, **the *oculus*, a window onto the Colosseum, offers a unique perspective on one of the world's most iconic monuments**. This glimpse enhances the awe and grandeur of the building, making it appear even more imposing".

Entering the station's "Forum"

As visitors move from the concourse level to the lower levels, the station reveals a monumental spectacle: **a golden structure outlines a majestic lattice space**. At the foot of the stairs, **visitors reach an intermediate level that hosts two additional museum installations**: the first is dedicated to the shafts, and the second showcasing Republican and Imperial-era structures. These include, among other elements, a *laconicum*, a small thermal room from a Roman *domus*, offering an unexpected glimpse into the past.

> This is the station's 'forum,' a space where passenger flows converge the opulence of Imperial Rome is evoked through golden cladding and finishes.

Buildings from the Republican and Imperial eras

Residential structure also emerged during the excavation works. In particular, **a *domus* was uncovered featuring a *laconicum*** - a small thermal room typical of **high-end Roman residences**.

This discovery holds historical significance as it illustrates **the transformation of the area from the late Republican to the Imperial era**, revealing the **intense process of monumentalization** that, over the centuries, **turned a residential district into the site of Emperor Nero's *Domus Aurea***.

The unearthed structure has been relocated into the station's interior through a dedicated exhibition that enhances its value. Accompanying the narrative are multimedia installations, along with the flooring of the domus and materials recovered from a previously unknown Republican-era votive deposit.

From history to mobility

The journey continues as travelers descend to the platform level travelers reach the platforms. They are accompanied by **the station's consistent color scheme**: even the stairs leading to the trains echo the station's theme, with **dark wall finishes**, **golden ceiling elements**, and **pointing lighting from above**.

History offers a final farewell, so to speak, with a subtle gesture: along the walls of the platform corridors, decorative elements depict the architectural layouts of several monuments along Via dei Fori Imperiali - **the Colosseum, the Temple of Venus and Rome, and the Basilica of Maxentius, the Forum of Augustus and the Forum of Nerva**.

A WINDOW ON HISTORY
UNA FINESTRA SULLA STORIA

5.

The history and the future of Rome

With the construction of Colosseo - Fori Imperiali station, the city of Rome strengthens its transport network, paving the way for a more sustainable and forward-looking mobility system.

A *"continuous"* line

Colosseo - Fori Imperiali station represents **the next step of Line C**. But it is also a journey that continues, starting from Porta Metronia and reaching the future Venezia station, before continuing towards Chiesa Nuova, San Pietro, Ottaviano, and Clodio/Mazzini, Auditorium and Farnesina. This is more than just **a new space for mobility**: it is the concrete realization of a vision in which the city's millennia-old heritage is integrated with the **needs of a modern European capital**.

The heart of sustainable mobility

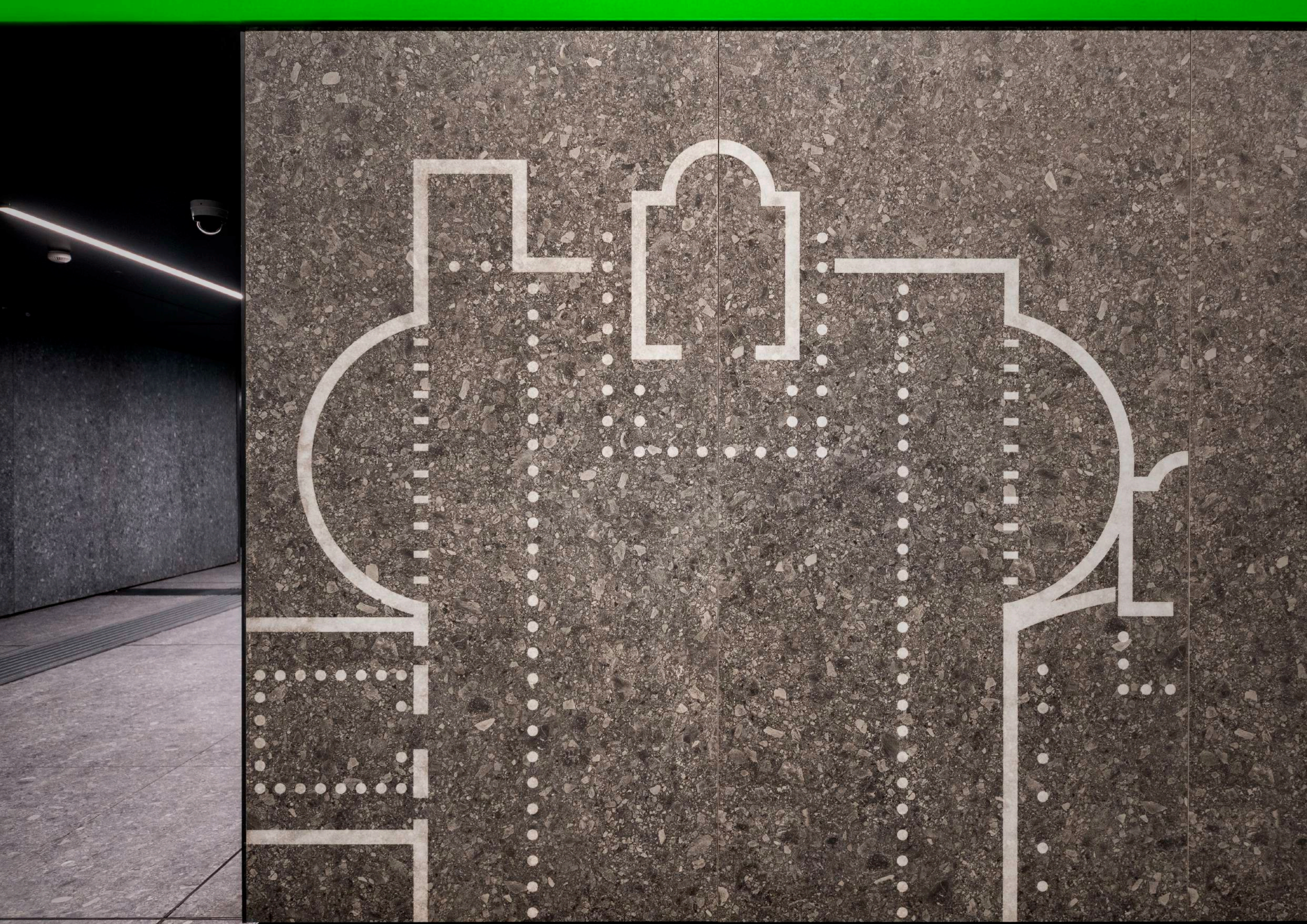
The interchange with Line B makes the station **the central hub of a 'network effect.' This translates into greater sustainable mobility**: new opportunities to access public transport in a highly congested area.

An impact that grows along the entire line:

-310,000 t/years

of CO_2 emissions

-400,000 cars / day



Rome looks ahead

Beneath its surface, millennia of civilizations meet years of planning, archaeological discoveries, and cutting-edge engineering solutions. The present takes shape in an urban space that gives back to the city a vibrant, accessible place, capable of combining function and beauty, movement and memory. **Colosseo - Fori Imperiali station stands as a visible sign of how Rome can renew itself without losing its identity, building the future from the depth of its own history**. It's the story of a city that knows how to dig into its reach new heights—and that can become a benchmark, a model to follow.

In the heart of Rome, beneath the gaze of the Colosseum, a capital embraces the challenges of our time with new tools, while staying true to its roots. Because in Rome, the Eternal City, **history builds the future**.

Roma Metro - Line C
Colosseo - Fori Imperiali Station

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Museum exhibition with funding, curation and scientific direction by

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Photography
Edoardo Montaina, Moreno Maggi

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Havas PR

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