

Bright Spaces: Russian Metro Stations, Theaters, Palaces

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Construction on the Moscow Metro was initially postponed by World War I, the October Revolution and the Russian Civil War, but it opened successfully in 1935 with a single train line and 13 station stops.

The St. Petersburg Metro officially opened on Nov. 15, 1955, with seven stations initially.

Building of the underground train network was a massive undertaking, both of engineering and design. Soviet workers provided the labor and architects incorporated the design concept of "svet" (light) and "svetloe budushchee" (a bright future). The stations boast high vaulted ceilings, intricate light fixtures, polished marble and stained glass.

To this day, they are testament to the Soviet Union's extravagant architectural ambition.

[David Burdeny](#)'s photographic series of Russian metro stations, theaters, museums and palaces capture these impressive spaces devoid of life, yet replete with light.

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