

WTC Transportation Hub's Iconic Oculus Begins to Take Shape

At the heart of the World Trade Center (WTC) redevelopment project is renowned architect Santiago Calatrava's Transportation Hub, a multibillion-dollar transit project that will restore and enhance the levels of service that existed at the site before September 11, 2001. In addition to a new station entrance to the Port Authority Trans Hudson (PATH) rail line through a PATH Hall approximately the size of three football fields, this massive project also includes climate-controlled, underground connections between multiple New York City Transit Subway lines and the World Financial Center in Battery Park City, with a range of retail services throughout.

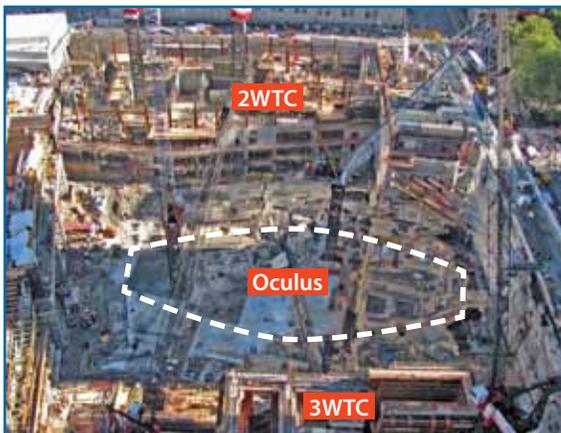
Much of this underground infrastructure for the impressive Transportation Hub project is already well under way, although not obviously visible to passersby on the streets of Lower Manhattan. But all of that is about to change: the structure that will become the above-grade entrance to the Transportation Hub—called the "Oculus"—is just beginning to take shape as slabs and foundations are being installed on the east side of the site. With the removal of a large crane that was used to construct much of the



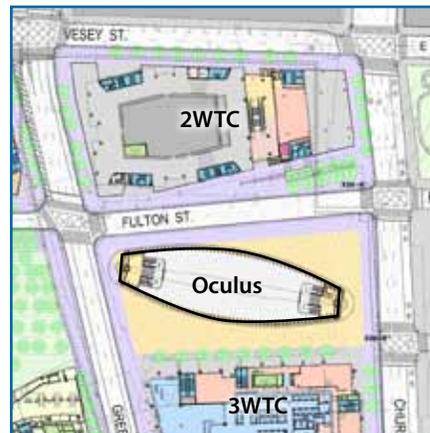
Final street-level rendering of the WTC Transportation Hub Oculus.

below-grade infrastructure of the Hub, the portion of the site that will house the iconic Oculus structure is now free to begin rising.

Over the coming months, the Grand Hall of the Oculus—approximately one and a half times the size of Grand Central Terminal and located approximately 60 feet below the surface—will begin to rise to grade. Starting next summer, enormous pieces of the above grade, glass- and steel-ribbed Oculus will begin to be installed above street level. The commencement of construction on this emblematic Oculus structure, designed to represent the wings of a bird taking flight, is both exciting and representative of the Port Authority's goals to remember, rebuild, and renew the WTC.



Foundations and slabs for the WTC Transportation Hub Oculus begin to take shape on the east side of the site.



In the Spotlight: Santiago Calatrava



Santiago Calatrava (Photo credit: Suzanne DeChillo/
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Santiago Calatrava is considered an elite designer of our time. Because of the unique multi-disciplinary perspective of this Spanish architect, sculptor, and structural engineer, his designs are heralded for bridging the gaps between art, architecture, and engineering. Although he is considered by many to be a modernist, his designs are also very personal and human in nature, as exemplified by the concepts and inspiration behind the WTC Transportation Hub: the freedom of a bird being released and taking flight.



Santiago Calatrava sketch of the inspiration for the WTC Transportation Hub design.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS AROUND THE WTC SITE

One World Trade Center

Located in the northwest corner of the site, 1 WTC will feature slightly more than three million square feet of leasable space, comprising offices, an observation deck, world-class restaurants, parking, and broadcast/antennae facilities. When complete, the building will be the tallest in the country, reaching 104 floors and 1,776 feet above street level, including the spire atop the structure. This iconic tower is already changing the New York City skyline, with steel erection climbing from the 84th floor in early October to the 86th floor by the end of the month. The aluminum and glass curtain wall panels that form the skin of 1 WTC have reached the 56th floor.



Top of Spire,
1,776'

Tower Roofline
1,368'

86th floor,
1,046'

64th - 69th floor,
Vantone/
China Center

21st - 40th floor,
Condé Nast

Street level



Four World Trade Center



In the southeast corner of the site, 4 WTC will rise to 64 stories (approximately 975 feet above street level) when complete and will house the future headquarters of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Construction progress continues on this tower as steel erection will reach the 43rd and 44th floors by the end of October. The metal and glass panels around the exterior of the building, at the 17th floor in the beginning of October, continue to be installed, quickly at a pace of around one floor every three to four days.

Vehicular Security Center (VSC)



The VSC will be a state of the art underground security structure that will serve as the screening point for all vehicles entering the future WTC site. As construction progress continues, excavation and soil/rock removal is ongoing at the VSC site. Additionally, foundations continue to be constructed in preparation for installation of structural steel, which has begun on the western portion of the site, requiring the mobilization of a large crane in the vicinity of Liberty Street and West Street/Route 9A.

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