London Overground station colour standard for the built environment

Issue 4
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Foreword

Why colour is important
Colour, and the subtleties of shade, are the most effective means at our disposal for distinguishing one object from another.

Of the millions of colours available for achieving this differentiation it is important that a palette of only a few is chosen for application to TfL stations in order that finished environments are aesthetically pleasant as well as safe.

In this document, two palettes have been identified; one for application to traditional stations and one for modern ones.

By treating colours as materials, as no different than bricks or aluminium, rather than just ‘paints’, the following two palettes compliment rather than jar with their environments. Moreover, the use of colour is intended to be judicious and preference should be given to the retention and exposing of natural materials wherever possible.

Warm and cool greys sit side by side with creams and oranges so that no one colour is an artificial primary colour, a reflection of how we perceive different shapes in the natural world.
The stations depicted in this guide are intended as examples only. In practice each station to be decorated should be considered in its own right, but certain principles of colour application should remain constant and it is these themes that this guide intends to show.

For instance: objects over head-height (canopies, light fittings, footbridges etc.) should be painted a light grey so they effectively disappear into the background; walls should have a low band of dark colour before their main, lighter, colour starts to provide contrast and combat the accumulation of ground-level dirt.

Bare in mind that colours applied to stations are intended only to compliment natural materials if any are present.
## Colour palettes – traditional

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dark colour</th>
<th>Contrast colour one</th>
<th>Contrast colour two</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Accent colour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>NCS 0858010</td>
<td></td>
<td>NCS 2005 Y20R</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>RAL 0758020</td>
<td>NCS 0710 Y30R</td>
<td>NCS 0858010</td>
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<td>NCS 0710 Y30R</td>
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<td>NCS 0858010</td>
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<td>NCS 0710 Y30R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Colours shown here are indicative only. Refer to the specific colour references when specifying finishes.
### 2.1 Colour palettes – modern

<table>
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<th>Dark colour</th>
<th>Contrast colour one</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>NCS S 0502 Y</td>
<td>NCS S 0585 Y50R</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Colours shown here are indicative only. Refer to the specific colour references when specifying finishes.
2.2 Colour palettes – natural materials

Wherever possible, natural materials should be used rather than painted surfaces. The following images are intended as examples only.

Metallic finishes

Natural stone finishes
3 Station entrances – traditional
3.1 Station entrances – modern
Ticket hall

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5.1 Platforms – modern
5.2 Platforms – modern (with footbridge)
These standards intend to outline basic principles and therefore cannot cover every application or eventuality.

In case of difficulty or doubt as to the correctness in the application of these standards, please contact TfL Corporate Design.

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