



## O'Hare station design

This unique station was designed by the architectural firm of Murphy/Jahn, with the design team led by famed postmodernist architect Helmut Jahn. The underground 600-foot long train terminal is 70 feet wide by 30 feet high. To obtain a column-free platform space, the structural system developed consists of large post-tensioned concrete girders which transfer weight from the above parking structure. It was constructed using an open cut excavation, resulting in sloping berms sprayed with concrete.

The design utilizes this platform space by providing full-height curving glass block outer walls that are backlit by light fixtures. These walls vary in shape, pattern and color, but the effect is an undulating prism of rainbow colors framing the entire terminal environment, enlivening what is otherwise a subterranean space. A sense of movement in the space is further accentuated by the transparency of the glass block changing along the length of the station, becoming more transparent at either end of the platform to, according to Murphy/Jahn, "articulate a passenger's arrival and departure." (Source: *Chicago-L.org*)



# Celebrating 40 years of 'L' service to O'Hare