



Orientation models in the metro to access places of cultural interest

Three orientation points will be installed in metro stations in September 2005. Their effectiveness will then be assessed with a view to extending them to other stations.

District relief models have been designed for the Porte de Pantin, Porte de la Villette and Saint-Denis Basilique metro stations

Positioned at the station exits, they are designed to provide blind and partially sighted people with touch-based information both on the district (in the wider sense) and on access to nearby places of cultural interest:

- Parc de la Villette and the Cité des Sciences at Porte de la Villette and Porte de Pantin Metro stations.
- Basilique Saint-Denis at Saint-Denis Basilique station.

Getting around the city and a district, visualising a cultural site

For sighted people, district maps provide large amounts of information superimposed on a single medium. For a blind person, touch-based information needs to be broken up into different scales. That is why the orientation models are broken down into successive close-ups:

Each station provides five or six successive close-ups

- The district in its relation to the city

- The main axes and landmarks that structure the district.
- The urban layout: buildings, gardens, etc
- The immediate environment beyond the station exit: map of the recommended route to the site.
- Help finding the right exit to access the chosen place of interest.

The orientation models are positioned near the ticket offices on media designed by the RATP, consisting of nickel-plated brass plates measuring 130 cm x 32 cm. The captions are written in Braille and in large print.