

PURPLE LINE

Art-in-Transit

College Park Metro-UMD

Lynn Basa

COLLEGE PARK: Theme and Materials

PLT4-S-817-A



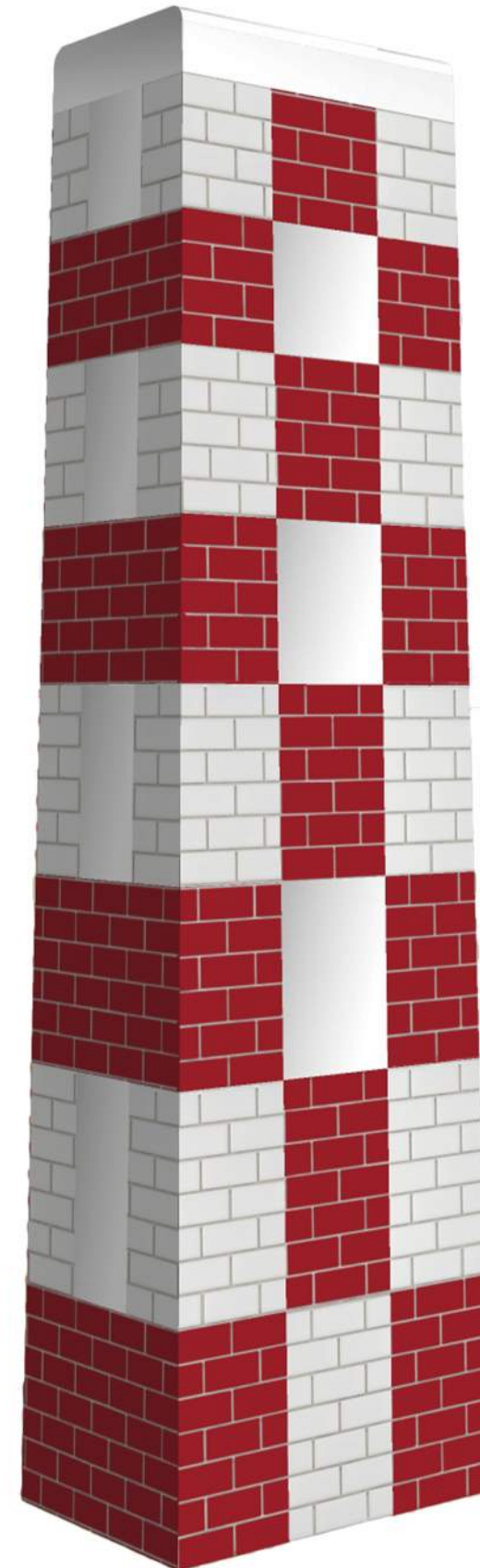
The oldest continuously operating airport in the world is across the street from the College Park Purple Line station. Nicknamed the “field of firsts,” the College Park Airport is the site of many notable moments in aviation history: Orville and Wilbur Wright taught the first military aircraft flying lessons there (1909), first testing of a machine gun from an airplane (1912), first mile-high flight (1918) first postal U.S. Airmail service (1918), first controlled helicopter flight (1924).



Before red and white checks were officially adopted as a safety standard by the International Civil Aviation Organization to make stationary objects near runways immediately distinguishable from their surroundings, College Park Airport manager, George Brinckerhoff used the motif on racing pylons for air shows. He wanted to make aviation accessible to the general public and used red and white to create a festive air.



At the College Park Purple Line station the red and white checked pylons perform a navigational function related to their historic use. Re-imagined as sentinel beacons, the pylons make the station immediately identifiable to users whether they are on the train, bus, bike, walking up from the Metro, parking their car, or from Campus Drive. They also serve as way-finding by marking the entrances to the platform from the bus stops and Metro. The dimensions of the pylons are purposely monumental to allow them to stand out in a landscape dominated by elements that are larger than human scale.



Brick is a traditional building material in the Baltimore area, comfortably familiar and historically resonant. It is also highly durable, vandal resistant and requires no more maintenance than the surfaces of the paving and buildings that surround it.



Glazed brick, high-resist polycarbonate, LED, structural concrete block

Purple Line College Park station -- REVISION 8/6/17 by Lynn Basa

