

**Category:** Traffic and Public Transport

**Project:** Europe's first official concentric transit map

**What was the challenge?**

Efficient and dependable orientation is crucial for the transportation infrastructure of a major city like Cologne, Germany. The key to achieving this is a clearly laid out network map. The challenge arose when attempting to adapt a route network map to the rounded shape of the city, in order to enhance navigational clarity. Designing such a map requires striking a delicate balance between abstraction and realism.

**What was the solution?**

We have devised a new map for the city of Cologne, based on meticulous analysis and an original concept by Maxwell Roberts and Benedikt Schmitz. Through careful consideration, we have successfully achieved the ideal balance between abstraction and realism, resulting in a radical departure from previous map designs. The city's distinctive ring-shaped structure has been utilized as a primary guide for orientation, with all lines radiating from the city's center point. Crucial passenger information has been incorporated to supplement the circular design of the map. This intuitively comprehensible network map, with its concentric structure, represents a pioneering achievement in Germany.

**What was the effect?**

The objective of the new map was to facilitate swift and dependable orientation within Cologne's expansive network of transportation lines. It serves as a testament to the substantial benefits that result from combining user-friendly design with advanced navigational features, which ultimately enhance the value of passenger information for all.

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