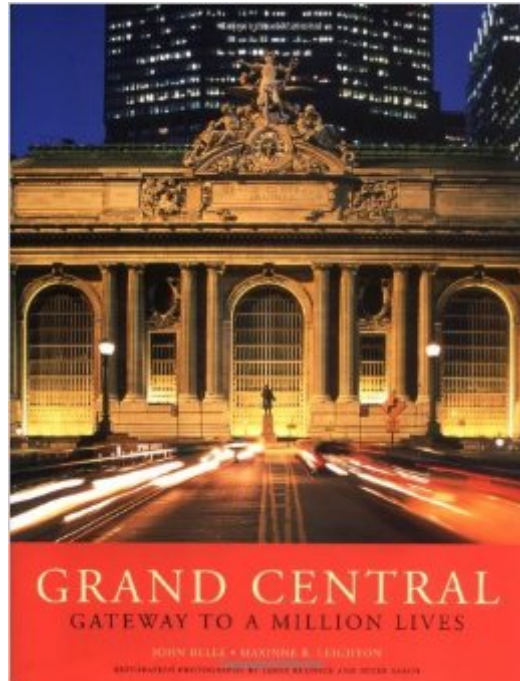


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# Grand Central: Gateway To A Million Lives



## Synopsis

This is the story of Grand Central Terminal in New York City, a remarkable and beautiful building whose birth, survival, and restoration reflect the critical role architecture plays in the expansion of our cities. It begins with the historic struggle to save Grand Central in the wake of the destruction of Penn Station and in the face of economic forces in the real estate industry that were intent on its demise. There follows a chronological history of the previous two stations on the site, the construction of the present building, text and photographs providing a fascinating first-hand account of the \$400 million restoration, and the grand and anecdotal stories that involve the great building.

50 color & 100 b/w illustrations

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #185,327 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #252 in [Books > Arts &](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Since 2000, Grand Central: Gateway to a Million Lives has been one of my favorite railroad books, combining, as it does, my love of railroad station architecture, urban planning, and New York City. Now, the original volume has been updated by an expanded version that provides a transition to Grand Central Terminal's continuing service to New York City as it enters the 21st Century. What makes Grand Central: Gateway to a Million Lives is the many facets to the the story. It's not just a story about one of America's most iconic buildings and indoor spaces, it's a story of continuous challenge and innovation played out in one of the country's most politically-charged cities. In many ways, Grand Central Terminal's story is one of technology, (i.e., the mandated transition from steam to electric power). It's also a story of the way technology changed the way cities were planned and

built. Electricity permitted the tracks to be put underground, on two separate levels. Depressing the tracks and the trains opened the way for massive real estate development, with hundreds of steel-framed buildings built on pilings between the tracks. Grand Central Terminal is also emblematic of the "golden age of public architecture" and the larger-than-life railroad magnates who created civic monuments to their accomplishments and ambitions. Railroad station architecture created the "corporate brands" of the day, and no expense was spared in creating memorable experiences for travelers. Everything positive that Grand Central Terminal stood for could have been lost during the post World War Two decline of railroad travel and the financial losses that accompanied the transition from freight trains to trucks running on subsidized Interstate highways.

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