



A COMPARISON OF TWO ASTRONOMICAL CEILINGS

Dr Darrelyn Gunzburg
MA CAA Foundations Module



AIM

To understand how the sky has been translated into a painting or image inside two buildings by two different cultures.



Essay 2 questions that might incorporate images in this way:

- C. Consider the role of sky myth in two different cultures.
- D. Are perceptions of the cosmos culturally conditioned?



Apostolic Palace



Apostolic Palace

Palazzo Apostolico

4.5 ★★★★★ · 173 reviews

Palace



Directions



SAVE



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Grand pillared Vatican City residence for the Pope with papal apartments & the Vatican Museums.

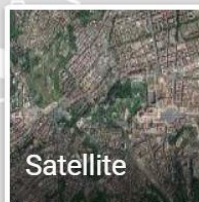


00120 Vatican City

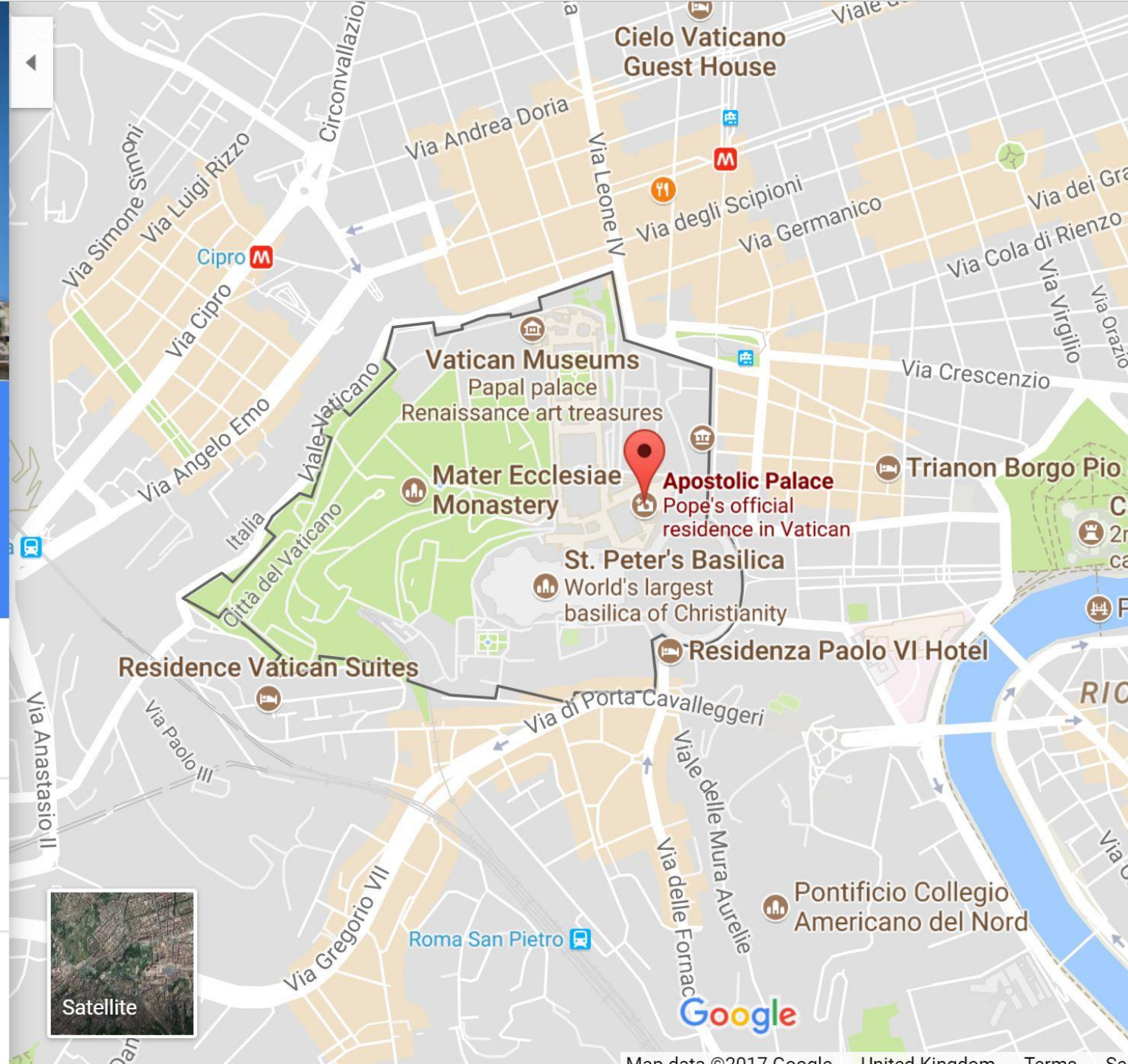


Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Canolfan Sophia
The Sophia Centre



Satellite



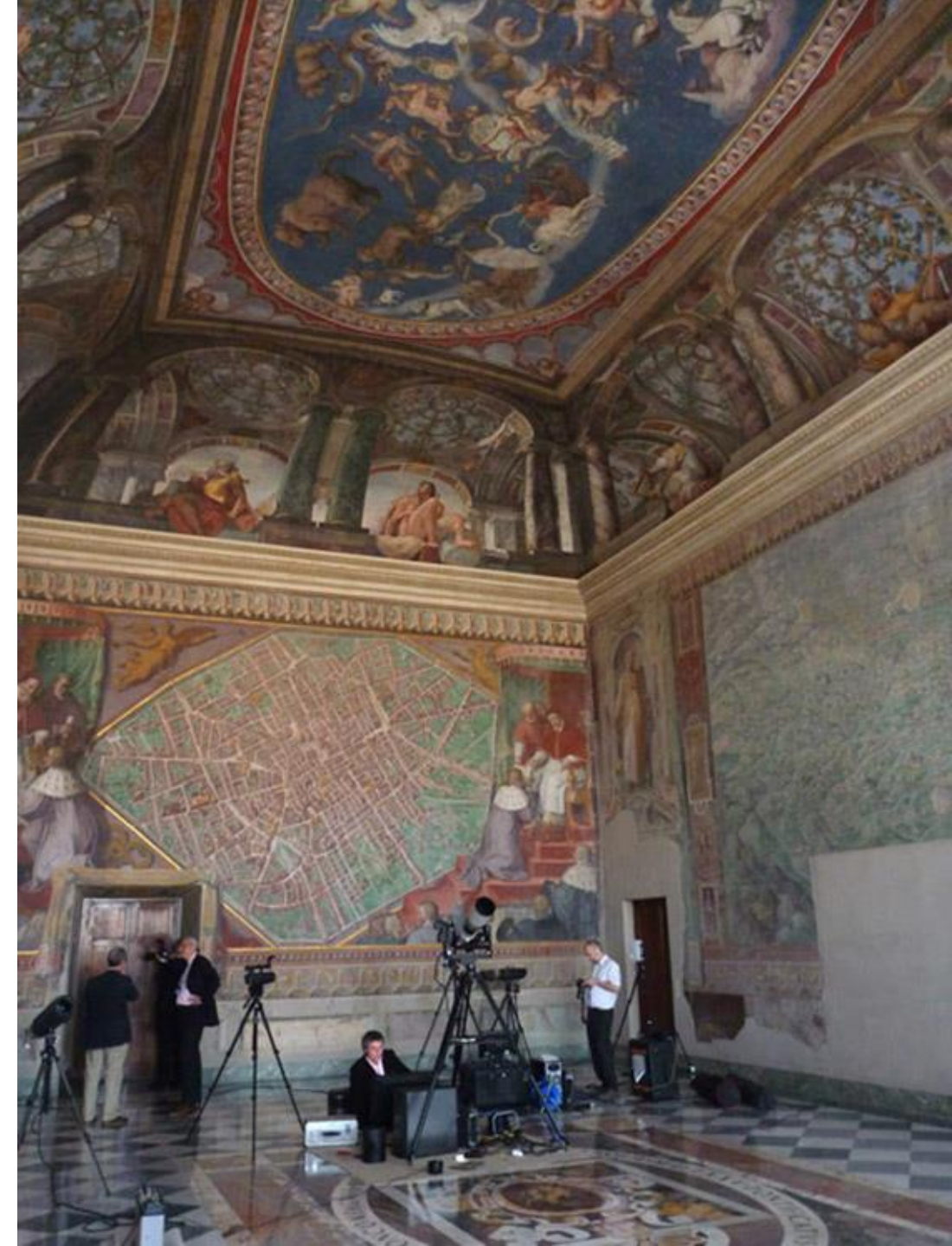
Sala Bologna, Vatican Palace.

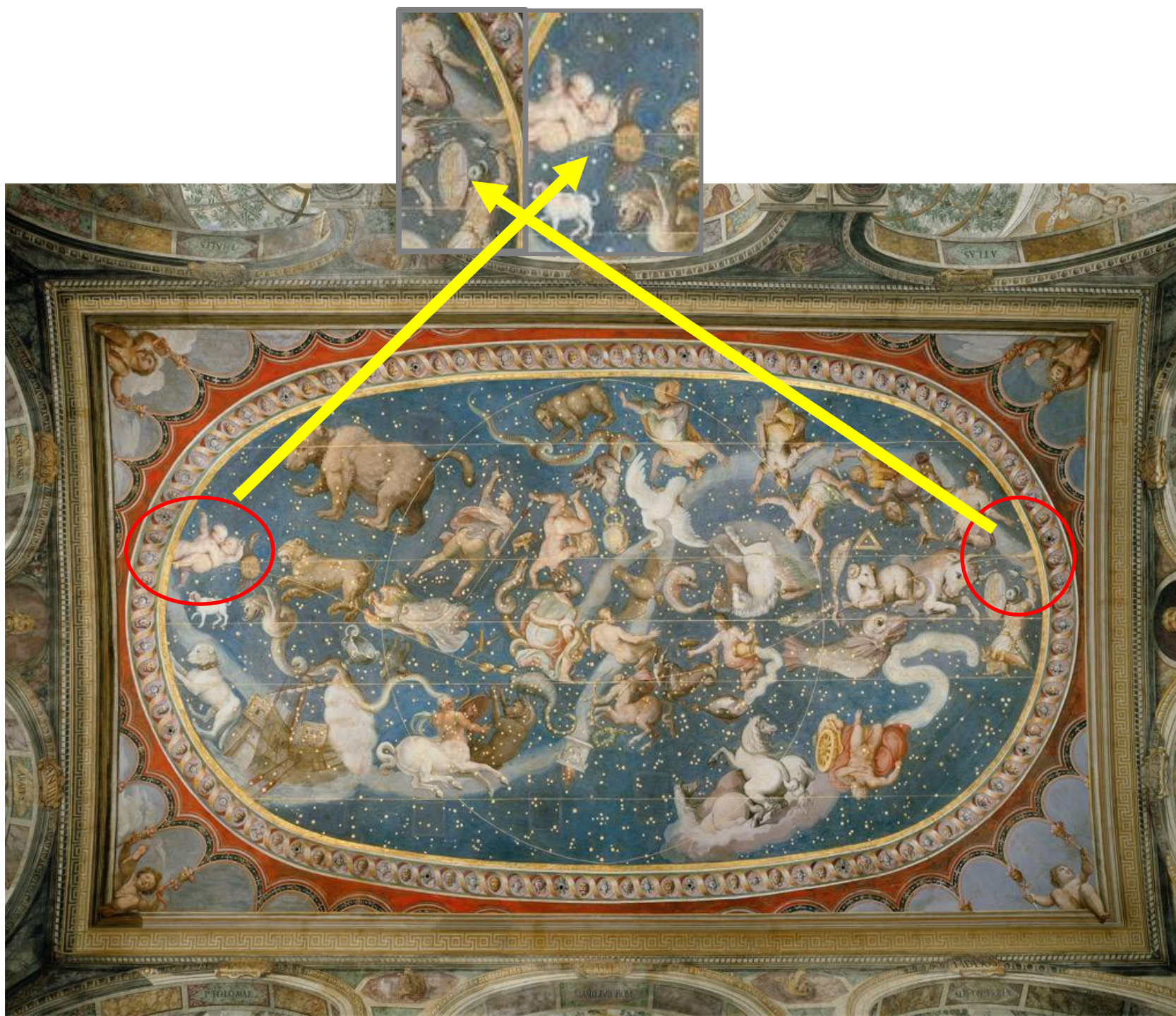
REFERENCE:

Urban, Emily. 2016. 'Mapping the Heavens: The Ceiling of the Sala Bologna in the Vatican Palace.' In *The Imagined Sky: Cultural Perspectives*, edited by Darrelyn Gunzburg. 142-162. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing.



Above. View of the south wall with the frescoed *City of Bologna*, and the west wall with the frescoed *Countryside of Bologna*. Photo: Archivio Fotografico, Musei Vaticani. In the fictive loggias are the following figures: east - Thales, Isis, and Atlas; north - Thoth and Seth; west - Alfonso, Manilius, and Ptolemy; and south - Aratus and Anaximenes. **Right.** View of the south and west walls. Photo: Factum Arte.





Ceiling of the Sala Bologna designed and painted by Giovanni Antonio Vasanosi during the papacy of Gregory XIII, fresco, c.1570-1575, Sala Bologna, Vatican Palace, Vatican City. Image: SCALA Archives.



Ceiling of the Sala Bologna, designed and painted by Giovanni Antonio Vanosino during the papacy of Gregory XIII, fresco, c.1570-1575, Sala Bologna, Vatican Palace, Vatican City. *Image: SCALA Archives.*



Golden stars fill the background of the ceiling, and the Milky Way, represented as a grayish-white line, cuts through the celestial landscape and splits into two paths between Cygnus and Ophiuchus.
Photo: Archivio Fotografico, Musei Vaticani.



A representation of *The Fall of Phaethon*, which, although not a constellation, is an allegorical warning against hubris commonly painted on ceilings. *Photo: Archivio Fotografico, Musei Vaticani).*



‘There is a tendency for modern historians to focus on the relationship between astronomy and Catholicism in the post-Galilean era and argue that the two were always at odds. This notion, however, is overtly simple and emphatically false. Indeed, at the time of the Sala Bologna’s decoration, Copernicanism had yet to be condemned and Galileo’s observations would not be made for another thirty-five years. **The Sala Bologna therefore represents the Church’s official attitudes towards astronomy, as it does not question the nature of the heavens, but instead portrays them as God’s creation.** It is telling then that it is the only ceiling of its kind, given its chronological position on the cusp of what we now know is the scientific revolution of the next century, a time when the spiritual implications of such inquiries could no longer be ignored by the papacy.’

Urban, Emily. 2016. ‘Mapping the Heavens: The Ceiling of the Sala Bologna in the Vatican Palace.’ In *The Imagined Sky: Cultural Perspectives*, edited by Darrelyn Gunzburg. 142-162. Sheffield: Equinox Publishing, p.162.



Grand Central Terminal, East 42nd



Grand Central Terminal

4.6 ★★★★★ · 2,017 reviews · ££

Train Station



Directions



SAVE



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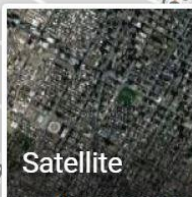
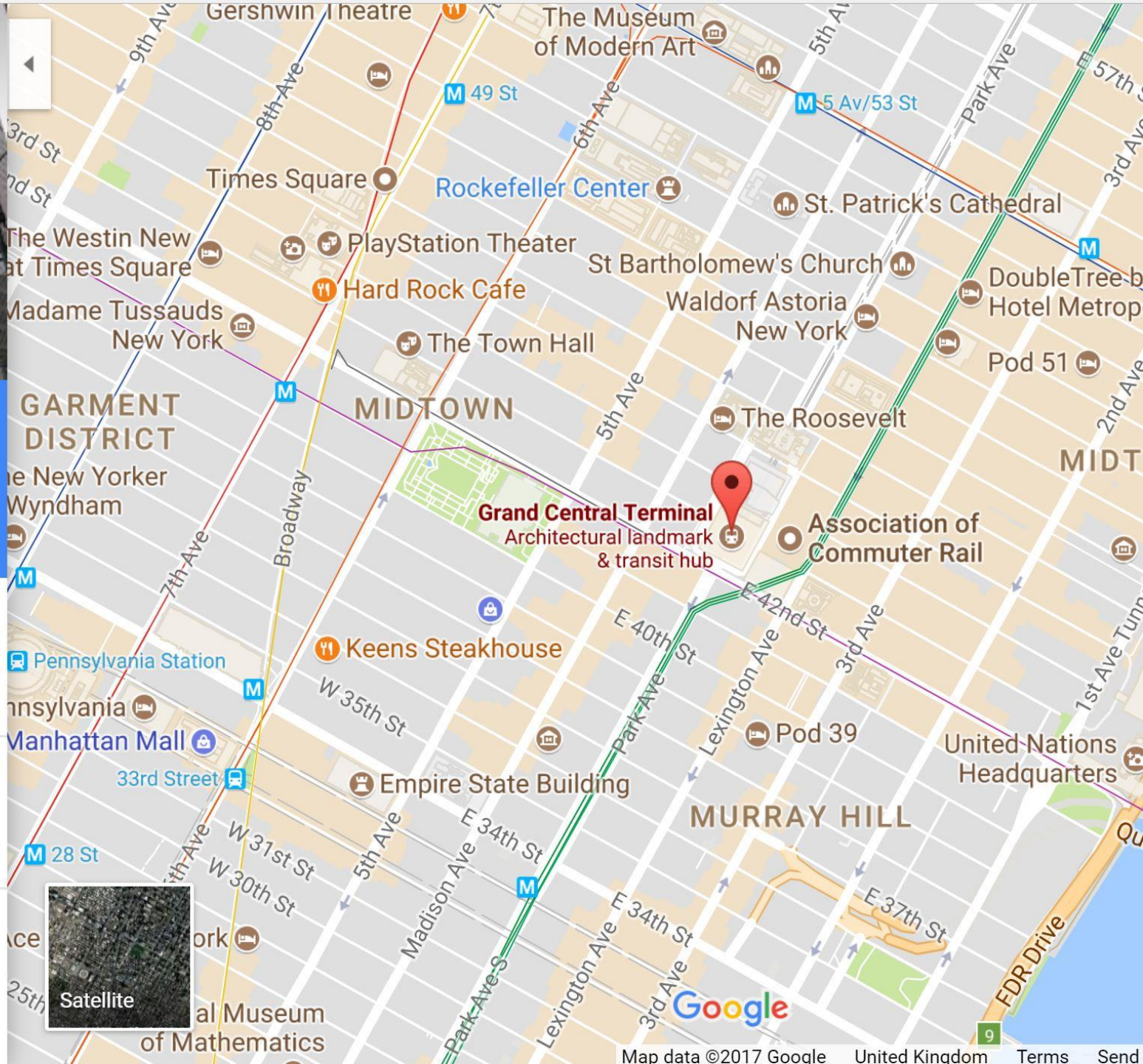
Iconic train station known for its grand facade & main concourse, also offering shops & dining.



89 E 42nd St, New York, NY 10017, USA



Canolfan Sophia
The Sophia Centre



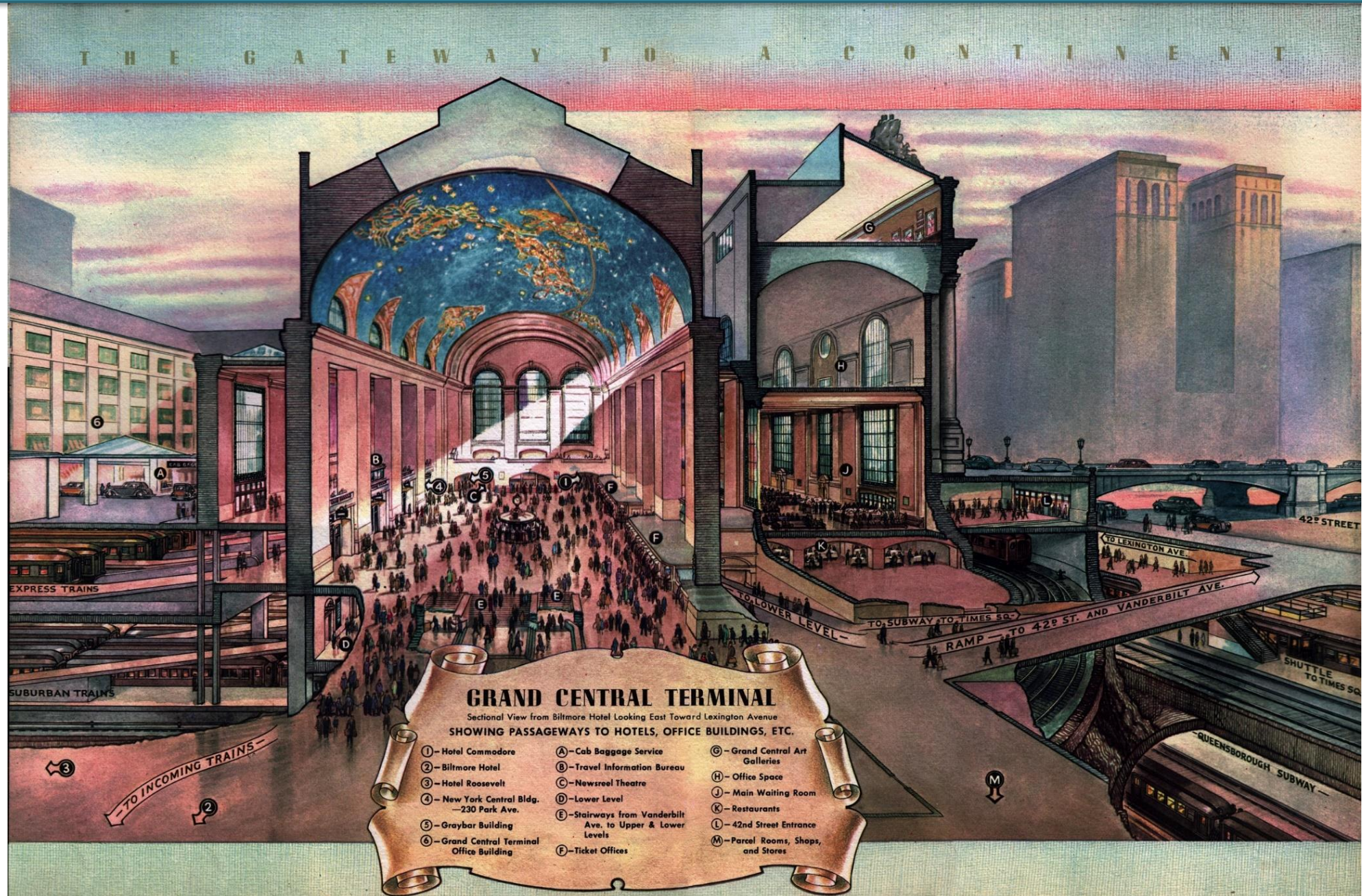
Satellite

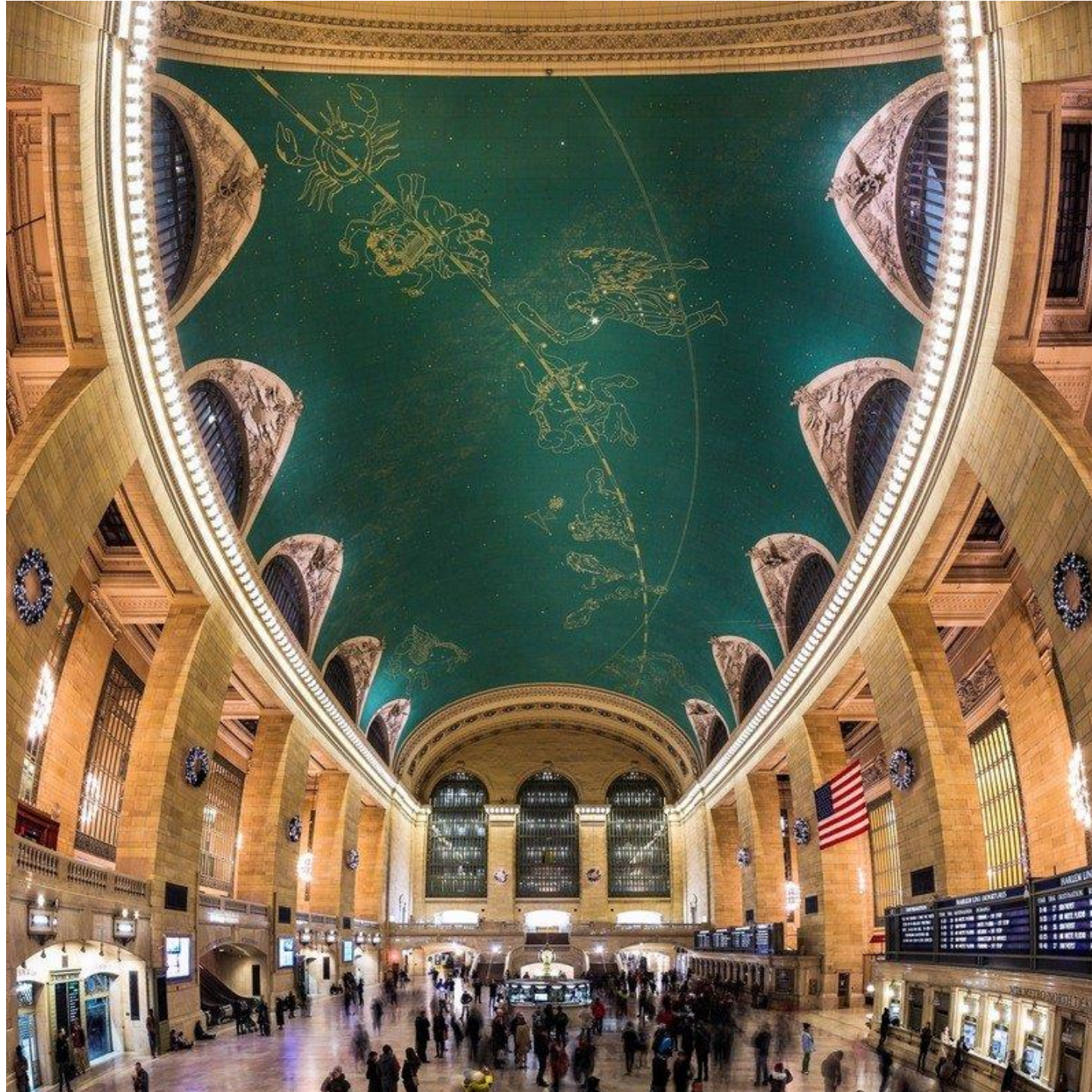


Grand Central Terminal

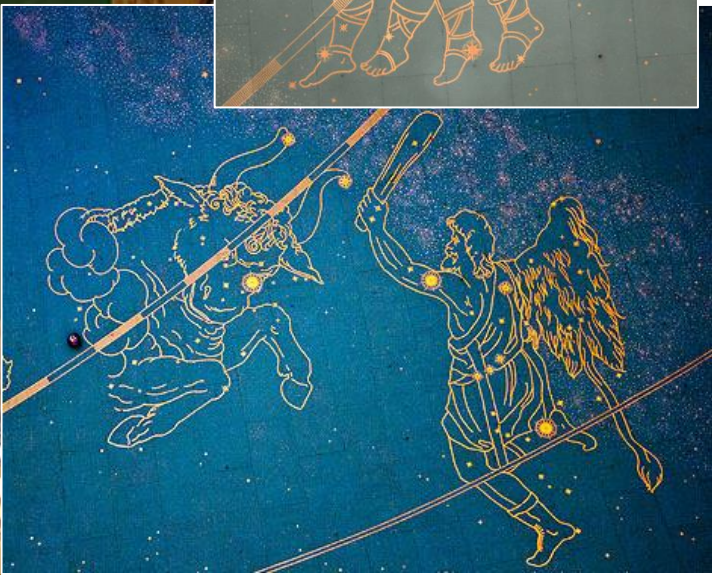
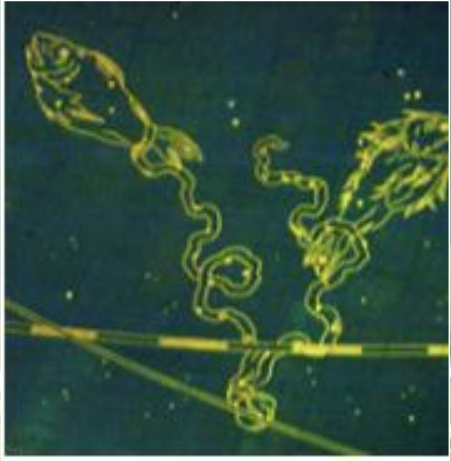
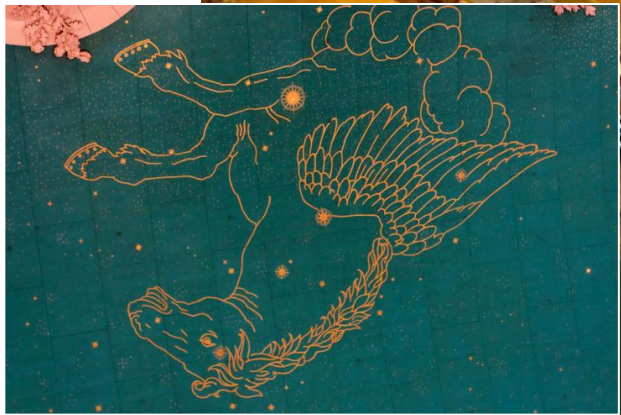
Grand Central Terminal - Sectional view from Biltmore Hotel looking east toward Lexington Avenue – 1939.

From *The Gateway to a Continent; Grand Central Zone* (1939) The Cooper Collection of Transportation History (private collection).

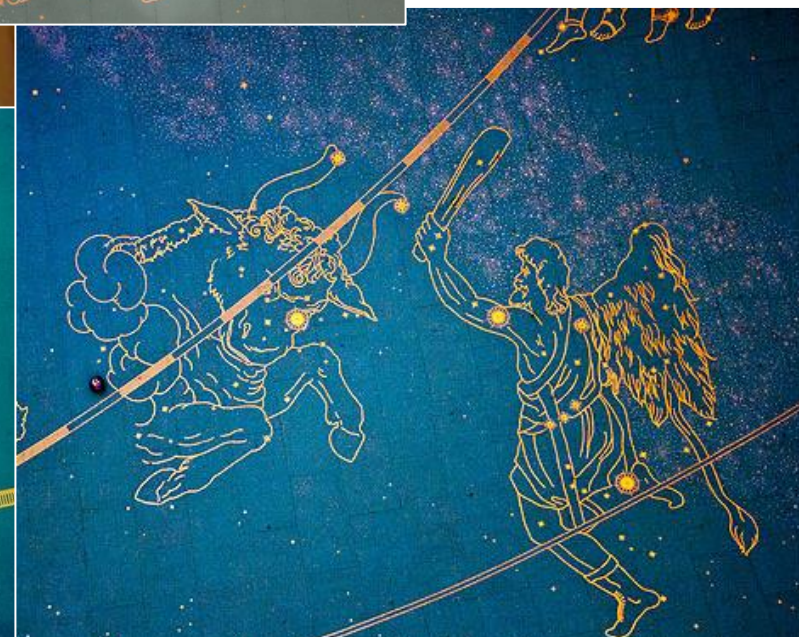
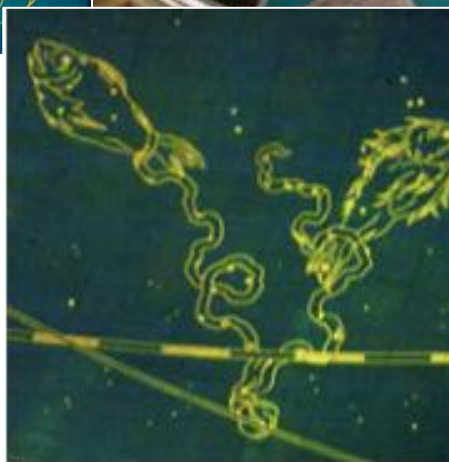
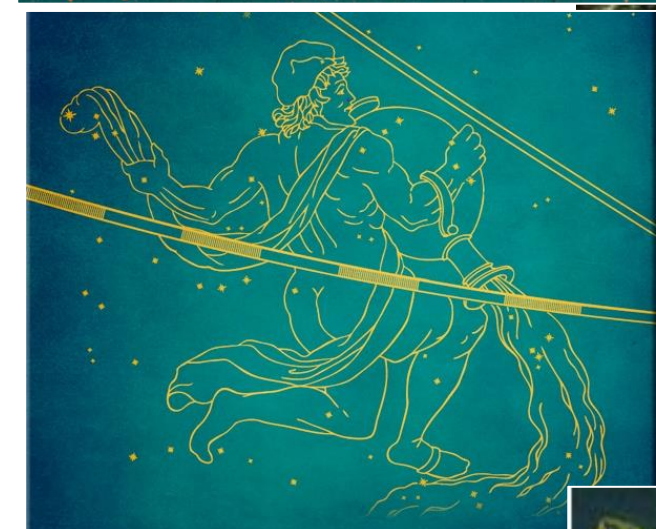
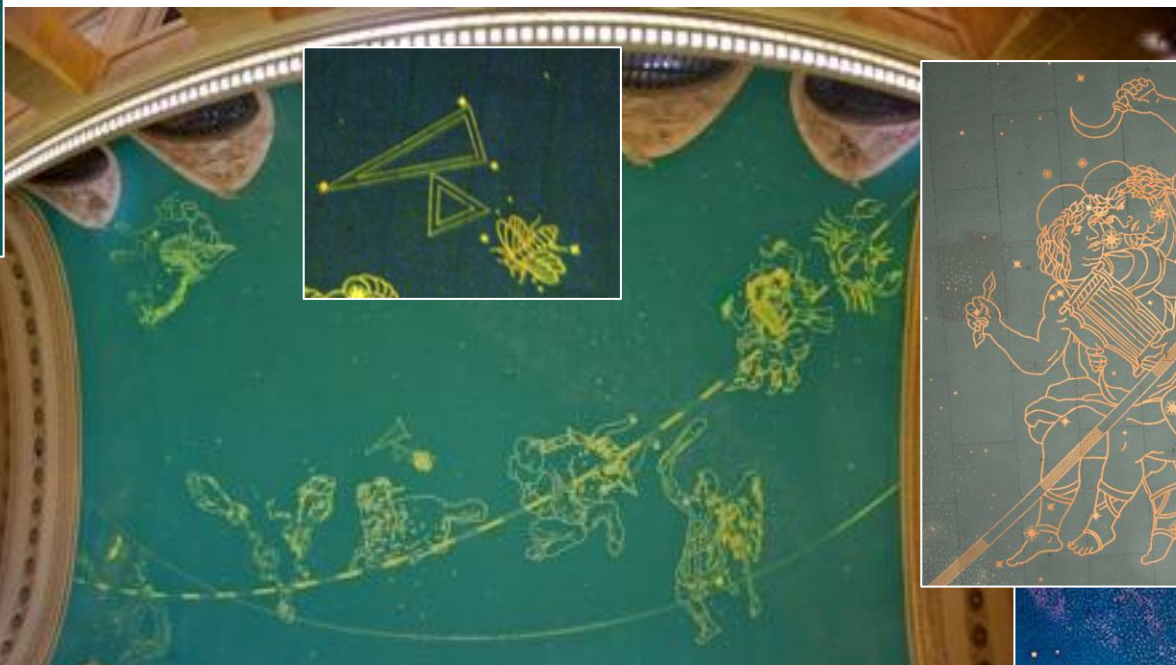




Grand Central Station, New York. *Photo: Mihai_Andritiou / Shutterstock*



Ceiling - Grand Central Terminal





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Website: <http://www.atlascoelestis.com/index.htm>