

Nameless Navvies

PHASE/ 01. Research and Design Analysis

Our Goal

To spark awareness about the navvies' contributions and sacrifices to the construction of railroads.

Who are the Navvies?

Navvy is short for navigators who worked on the underground navigation construction from the 1790s to the late 1800s.

- Navvies worked under very **physically dangerous and intense labor** in Britain
 - The Woodhead Tunnel had more deaths than the Battle of Waterloo.
 - Estimated 30,000 people died by 1913.
- Extremely low of **no compensations for death** or injury.
- Much **historical erasure**
- King's Cross Station (opened 1852) and surrounding infrastructure (e.g., tunnels, bridges, and railway lines) were built by navvies





Families

History lessons that the whole family can enjoy



Business People

Many business focused people use the public transportation and can enjoy the installation at the beginning or end of their days



Tourists

Giving awareness that can be circulated to other countries



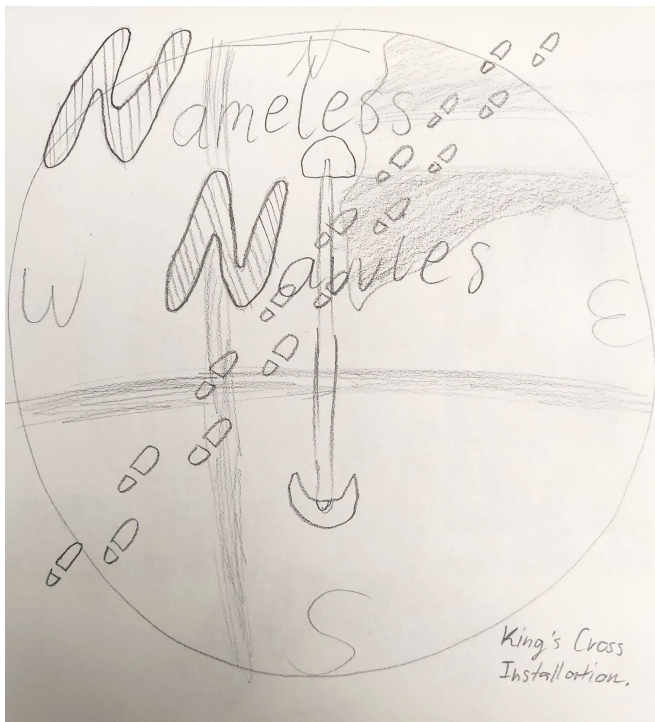
Locals

Allowing new perspectives and reminders of their personal past



Kings Cross Station is a passenger terminus in Camden London. This station sees approximately 150,000 people per day.

Ideal location due to lots of foot traffic in western concourse section



MARKETING

Fliers around the Kings Cross area promoting the exhibition. Online postings and social media interventions.

PHASE/ 02. Concept and Design Proposal

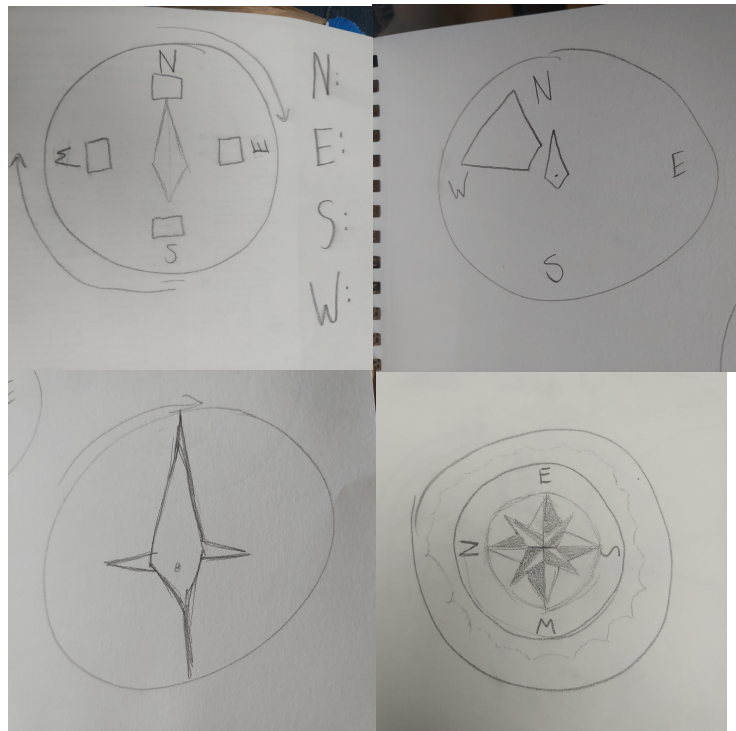
Project Introduction

To spark awareness about the navvies' contributions and sacrifices to the construction of railroads.

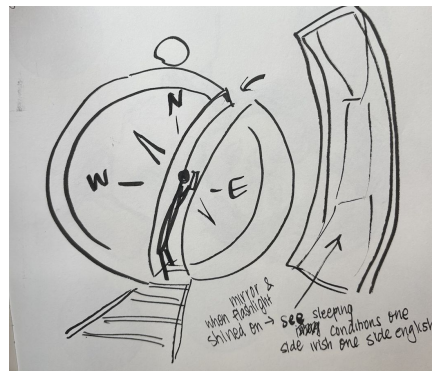
We propose an **interactive** public installation that would be located in the western concourse of King's Cross Station.

The **ground-level installation** will feature a **shattered compass** embedded inside a hole, to symbolize both how the navvies worked underground and the exploitation of their labour. The compass needle is a pickaxe and a hammer to signify the work they did. As people walk on the surface, the **glass will appear to crack**. Upon reaching the "breaking point," the glass reveals historical truths. This aims to disrupt the public space by **bringing the erased history of the navvies forefront**. The display then resets and the cycle repeats.

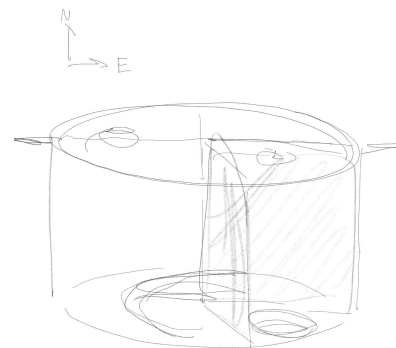
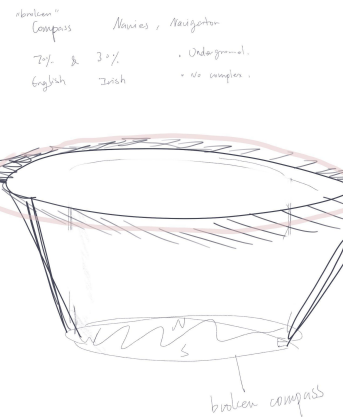




Compass ideation



Initial idea





Performance Art Piece

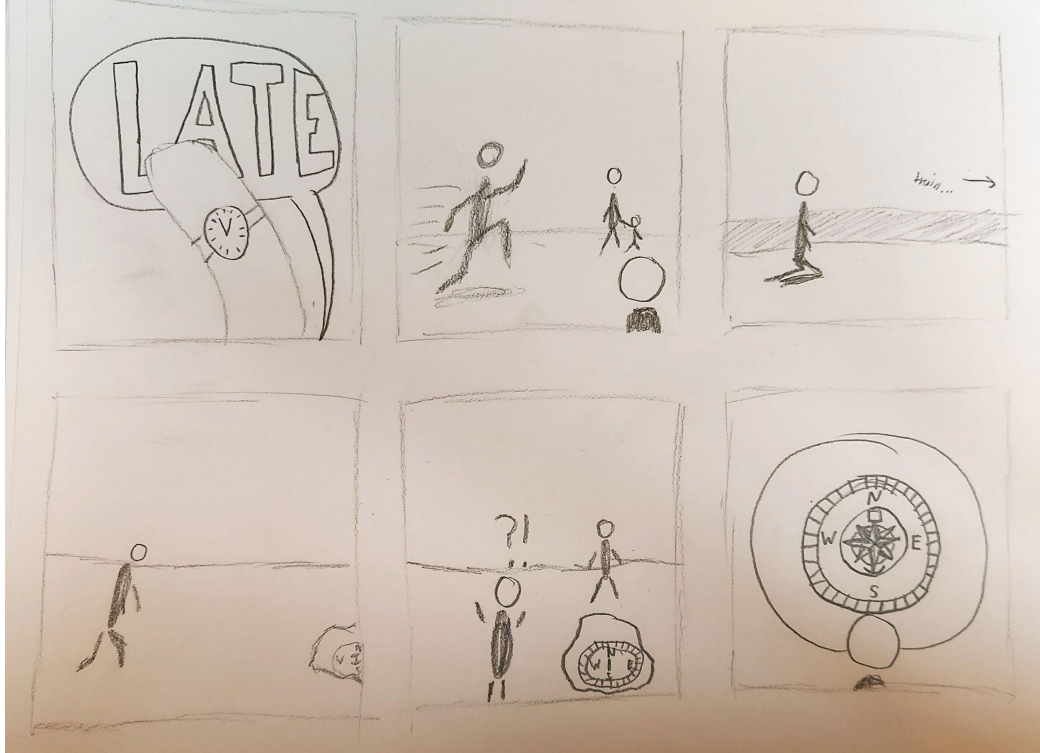


Perspective hole in floor



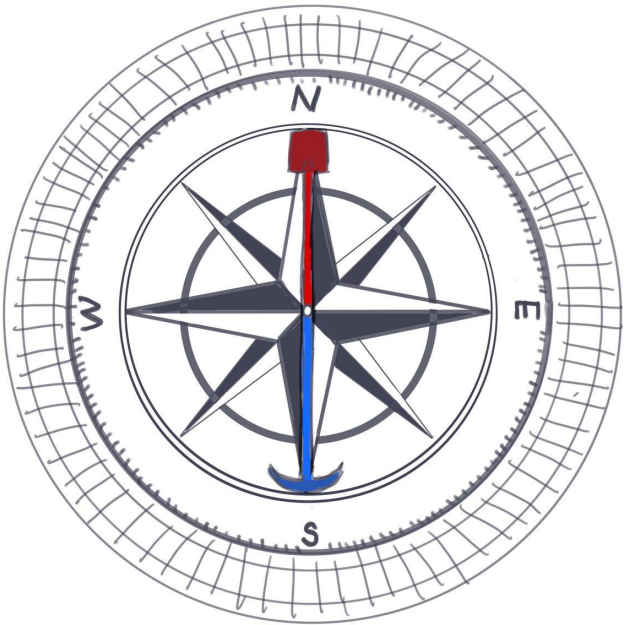
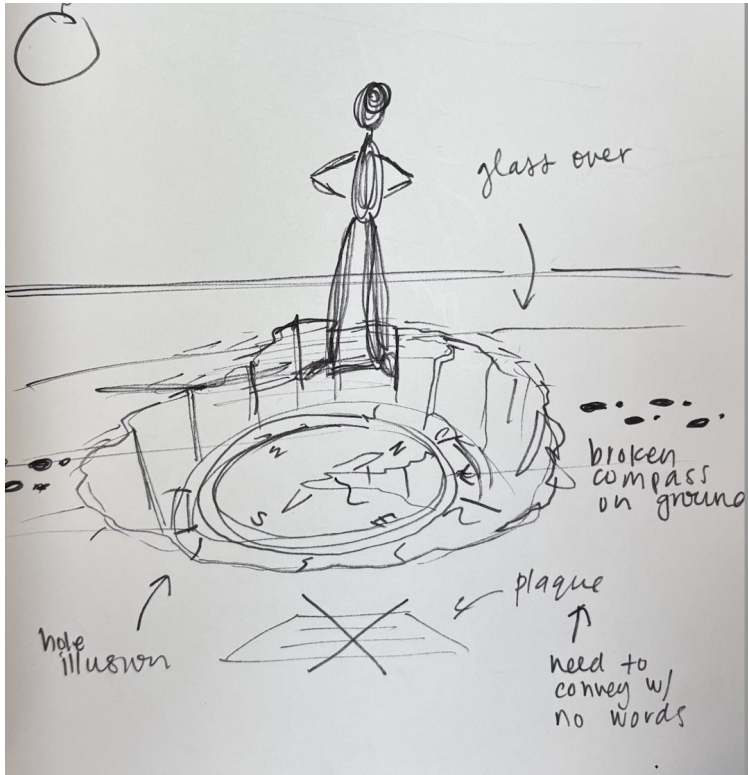
Walk on glass overlooking art

PHASE/ 03. Detailed Design Solutions



STORYBOARD

A person running late for their train and eventually missing it. Now having to wait for the next train, they notice the installation and are able to admire it with the new found time they have in the station.





#4991F6

RGB 73, 145, 246

#4A300A

RGB 74, 48, 10

#FF0109

RGB 255, 1, 9

#EAE9EF

RGB 234, 233, 239

color.adobe.com



Switchable glass, changes between clear and opaque when electricity is ran through. Allows for images and words to be shown on the glass



Metal to create the compass



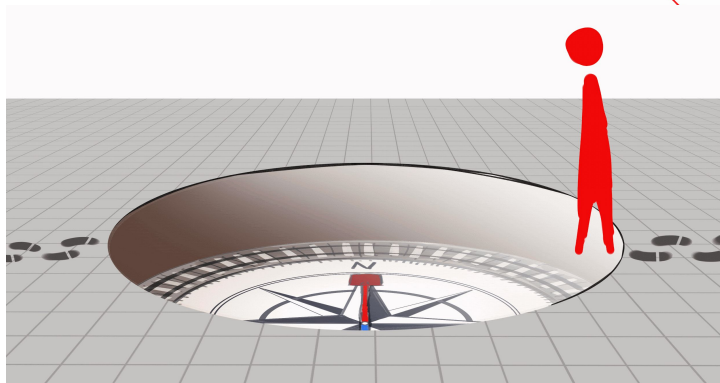
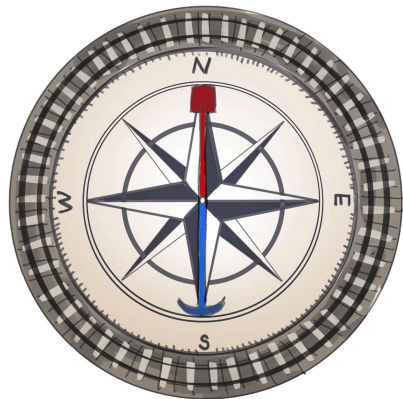
Dirt for the “hand dug” hole



Paint for illustrating on compass

PHASE/ 04. Design Documentation and Intent





STORYBOARD

1. Glass-covered hole in the pavement and a broken compass resting still at the bottom.
2. After first step, a faint crack appears beneath the pedestrian's foot with a subtle vibration
3. Another crack branches out and a historical fact briefly about the navvies.
4. More cracks spread with facts appearing and fading with each new step.
5. The compass needle starts shaking
6. The entire glass visually "shatters" with a large vibration
7. Finally the core messages appears
8. Glass will reset



We should be
remembering our past,
not covering it up.

