

Opera: the archeology station



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Can you imagine to be waiting for the subway while observing archaeological ruins of Madrid? **Within not too long we will see, without leaving the metro station, how was this area of Madrid in the seventeenth century.**

The expansion works of this station have unearthed the remains, in excellent condition, of Los Caños del Peral spring and a brick aqueduct that supplied water to the Royal Palace. Both buildings date from the seventeenth century.

The excellent state of maintenance of this archaeological concentration allows imagining how this area was before the creation in 1809 of the Isabel II Square.

Following these findings, the Historical Heritage Management and Metro Madrid study the project. **The idea is to integrate some of the archaeological remains into the subway station.**

The Caños del Peral spring was entrusted by Philip II to the Monastery of El Escorial first architect, Juan Bautista de Toledo. This was the first monumental spring in Madrid, with more than 30 meters long.

The brick aqueduct was the Palace water supply during the seventeenth century. It is in an excellent state of preservation.

The remains of the source had been located in 1991 in an earlier work by Metro de Madrid, being impossible their integration into the platform, owing to technical facts.



Ten feet underground beneath the Isabel II square, technicians work in the Caños del Peral Spring. This fountain supplied Madrilians through a distribution made by waterman and carriers, one of the most important trades in the town.

Excellent State of Maintenance

In the ongoing excavation, the registered structures have been cleared and proven its preservation with a padded front.

Similarly, **during the station expansion work, a new section of the source has been documented**, in particular his north top, a finding that confirms the excellent state of preservation of both constructions, constituting a true monument.

The archaeological and paleontological intervention accompanying the Opera metro station remodeling and the subsequent pedestrianization of the Plaza de Isabel II, has been developed steadily since September 2008.