

**Lambert Terminal, 17701 Lambert International Blvd., Unincorporated
1951-56, Hellmuth, Yamasaki**



Originally called the Lambert St. Louis Municipal Airport Terminal Building, the building designed by Hellmuth, Yamasaki and Leinweber is the only building in the St. Louis area ever to win a First Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects. It was referred to as the Grand Central of the Air and has been considered one of the finest buildings for air travel ever erected in this country. It was designed in the International Modern style with the main part of the building consisting of four thin-shell concrete cross vaults separated by wedge shaped glass panels, while the walls are entirely of glass.

The building was primarily designed by Ninoru Yamasaki, with an able assist from Gyo Obata. Consultants for the engineering of the thin-shell concrete roofs included former city engineer William C. E. Becker, civil engineer Anton Tedesko, and architect Edgardo Contini. Seating for the interior was designed by George Nelson and manufactured by the Herman Miller Company, and sculptor Harry Bertioia crated a wall-size sculpture, subsequently destroyed, to screen the restaurant.

The design was generally considered the first to express in modern architectural terms the poetry of flight. In spite of its acclaim and influence, Lambert Terminal has not been well treated by its owners in recent years. The City of St. Louis had considered the demolition of the building in 1995, 1996 and 2000, although no further actions have been taken.