Abstract

This thesis aims to re-interpret the role of architecture in translating the meaning of travel today by exploring the dynamism of movement creating a sense of place. The issues of sense of arrival and departure are investigated, where the qualities of space emerge from the quantities of people within. It also explores the issue of place, as a space to discern individual and collective identities, especially within huge voluminous transport spaces.

The vehicle chosen is a regional transit hub, proposed as part of a Southeast Asian travel trail connecting the region by rail and sail routes, where Singapore is set at the crossroads. Located at the existing World Trade Centre site, it capitalises on the proximity of the existing cruise centre, with an opportunity to develop the site into an international vacation gateway for travellers and locals.

The proposed scheme grapples with a complex programme of linking the cruise centre and the proposed railway station, with subterranean tracks, together with links to other conventional modes of land transport. Focusing the design on the latter two components, the progression through the complex is orchestrated to capitalise on the dichotomy between land and sea, with the notion of "land's end" as a sense of arrival. It culminates at a central transit space, which is developed as a focus of identity and orientation, whereby routes to/from the various modes of transport converge into a spectacle of movement within. Drawing metaphors from the waterfront, the design manipulates structure, light and volumes to create a sense of place and identity within this matrix of movement.