Abstract

Despite the advance of electronic communication, World Mobility is fast growing, supported by rapid urbanization, economic growth and individual psychological needs. Unfortunately, this is often accompanied by the severe problems of congestion, pollution and accessibility, which not only hinder further growth, but have the most undesirable impact on our urban roads and daily life. Public transport, especially land transport, is the key element in achieving solutions to more livable and sustainable cities, which presently are mainly land-based. In fact, its best interests are increasingly appreciated and developed world-wide. Of the expertise in this field, architectural talent is most significant in the design of transport shelter, which is one of the vital factors in making public transport an attractive mode of travelling for the mass. As public transport deals not only with vehicular but human movement and behaviour, architecture is thus responsible for meeting both functional and psychological requirements of public transport shelters.

This essay limits its study on the scope of Land Transport. It explores the architectural contributions of transport shelters to the Transport of Delight. Using some local and oversea examples, it looks at how architecture can communicate to the commuters the feeling of excitement, welcoming or expectation at the poignant moments of arrival and departure, besides ensuring them a clearly directional, at best dramatized, transition. It also examines the merits of integrating this transient activities with other much stabler human developments. Most profoundly, the increasing universal demand for a more comprehensive intermodal exchange network has imposed onto Transport Architecture a greater task of incorporating all the transport facilities and their immediate urban fabric in an integrated and holistic entity strongly backed by aspiring architecture.