THE NEW DOWNTOWN RAILWAY TERMINUS

Thesis Abstract

The thesis is a response to the contemporary condition of urban mobility. Mobility is the way of life in cities and this phenomenon can be most vividly observed at centres of transportation - from mass rapid transit stations to bus interchanges. It is at these destinations where pedestrian motion and different kinds of vehicular motion, propelled by advancements in transportation technology, are most dynamically engaged. It is also at such destinations, where interaction between strangers and acquaintances takes place.

In addressing the phenomenon of urban mobility, the thesis attempts to deal with space and motion, how patterns of movement could articulate and order space. The notions of transition and making connection, essential at transportation nodes, are themes that the thesis further strives to explore.

The chosen vehicle is a railway terminus in the city. Located in the new downtown, where urban mobility will be intense, the railway station is the most southern stop of the currently proposed Trans-Asian high-speed electric train network in Singapore. The station, however, is not to be an isolated terminus, but closely integrated with other forms of transportation systems in the city. As it is, the journey of a commuter does not begin or end at the station, but moves on to another form of transportation, towards his final destination.

Incorporated in the programme are subsidiary retail and eating establishments, and other ancillary facilities, transforming a transport facility into an activity node for contemporary living. The railway terminus is the anchor of a transportation centre, making connections with the city without, and exuberant with motion and life within.