Regional Transportation Commission
UNLV Transfer Station

Project Category (choose one) - See category descriptions in the Call for Entries Packet
☑ Built Architecture ☐ Unbuilt Architecture
☐ Collaborative Achievement ☐ Academic Projects

Type of Project: Public Transportation

Completion Date: December 2013

Type of Construction: Type II-B

Materials Used: Structural Steel, Metal Deck, Perforated Sheet Metal

Building Area: 6,512 sf (covered outdoor area)

Statement of Design Approach (describe initial thinking and considerations for the project):

The RTC UNLV Transit Center is a multi-modal open air transit hub on the campus of the University of Nevada Las Vegas. The primary focus of the project is to enhance the image and user experience of public transit by creation a space dedicated to transit that also services as a user-friendly social hub for the campus. Sheltered outdoor waiting area are organized into social-friendly seating groups where students can congregate on their way to and from destinations. The project’s goal, above and beyond serving its necessary function, is to enhance campus life by creation a plaza-like atmosphere, which will in turn encourage students use public transit as a part of their daily lives.
Natural paths of pedestrian movement to and from the Transit Center were the initial focus in terms of spatial organization. Once those paths were established, remaining pedestrian space was divided into human-scaled areas for seating groups and bicycle storage. Pedestrian-friendly spaces on the site are contiguous to one another to create a low-stress, plaza-like pedestrian realm. The focus of the site layout is to encourage harmonious co-existence of pedestrian, bicycle, bus and car traffic.

The structures on site provide the seating areas with shade from the summer sun, while perforated metal vertical screening reduces the impact of high winds on user comfort. The shade canopies are augmented by lines of trees throughout the pedestrian movement areas, providing natural filtered shade to enhance user experience while reducing the canopy area and therefore the carbon footprint of the construction.

The project achieves a contemporary appearance on a modest budget through the creative use of materials, including painted steel canopy frames, raw galvanized metal decking and galvanized perforated metal wind screens. Environmental responsibility is a focus of the design, best exemplified by LEDs used for general lighting and a lush but water efficient xeriscape.

The visual identity of the Transit Center is linked visually to the UNLV school community by a series of signage features. A feature tower at the central pedestrian entrance to the Transit Center features UNLV and RTC logos perforated in metal and backlit to create a photo-worthy pixelated lighting effect. Tall monument signs at each end of the site further reinforce a sense of place.

By combining the characteristics of a functional transit hub and a sociable urban plaza, the Transit Center is above all else designed to be a catalyst for creating new generations of mass transit riders.
2016 AIA NEVADA EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AWARDS

NORTH VIEW AT ENTRY/FEATURE TOWER
UNLV TRANSIT CENTER

EAST VIEW FROM UNIVERSITY ROAD

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UNLV TRANSIT CENTER

WEST VIEW AT CENTRAL CIRCULATION
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UNLV TRANSIT CENTER

NORTH VIEW AT ENTRY/FEATURE TOWER
UNLV
TRANSIT CENTER

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EAST VIEW AT CENTRAL CIRCULATION
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BICYCLE STORAGE AT CENTRAL CIRCULATION
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UNLV TRANSIT CENTER

MONUMENT SIGN AND SEATING AREA
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SEATING AND CENTRAL CIRCULATION
SIGNAGE AT NORTH BUS LOADING
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TRANSPORTATION CENTER

EAST VIEW FROM UNIVERSITY ROAD
UNLV TRANSIT CENTER

NORTH VIEW AT ENTRY/FEATURE TOWER