



La Cienega Transit Center and Sustainable Community

Jefferson + La Cienega Transit Center and Sustainable Community is a mixed-use project consisting of housing, retail, commuter parking, workshops, and a light rail/transit interface. The project builds on a strategy developed for increasing the density of housing units in the neighborhood by inserting units raised off the ground plane to create a new pedestrian-oriented small-scale neighborhood in the sky that contrasts with the auto-oriented fabric of the existing ground plane. The lowest twenty feet of the Center is devoted to parking and industrial workshops, in keeping with uses of the surrounding neighborhood. The middle layer of the building serves as a retail center and transit stop for the Exposition light rail metro line. In addition, it is a buffer between the residential level above, and the garage and workshop spaces below. The retail stores are oriented to commuters and building residents. Open/plaza space serves as outdoor eating and sitting areas, and provides a safer place for local street merchants to sell their wares (i.e. fruit, flowers, etc). A mesh canopy covers open spaces: in summer, deciduous vines provide a shady retreat, while in winter, the vines lose their leaves and allow for increased solar gain.

The highest level of the building consists of residential units connected by a catwalk-like circulation element. There are two unit types, a 900 sf unit and a 1600 sf unit. Each space in these units is multifunctional in order to keep pace with changing family structures, to provide for the increasing number of activities done at home, and to maximize efficient use of space. The units are a critique on the current American building trend of larger is better, attempting to show the positive experiences of thoughtfully- designed and efficiently used spaces.

