

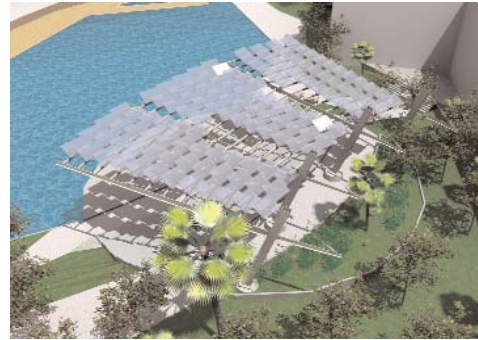
Culver City Urban Revitalization



Los Angeles has long been the city of the automobile. Future growth, however, is dependent upon leaving the car behind and using public transportation. Los Angeles is about to embark on a new era of city improvement by expanding its public rail system. How can these improvements be capitalized upon to improve and revitalize areas of the city?

This project connects the terminus of the new Exposition Light Rail Line with the nearby downtown of Culver City. The 34.5 acre area between the two is in need of new life. By injecting an urban park into the area, and surrounding it with high-density housing, retail centers, public functions, and outdoor spaces, the entire area becomes a pedestrian oasis within the city. Ultimately the whole project is a transition to a new era of thought about urban design and a transition within Los Angeles to redefine itself amidst growth. Several elements are introduced to give order, promote movement, and establish a similar architectural language: path, waterway, and events.

The path becomes the connector that transitions a person from one side to the other. The waterway elicits movement along this path and frames spaces for outdoor gathering. The events are architectural elements made of steel that give unity and identity to the area.



A Focus has been placed on the design of the special events. Events are micro-scale program elements and are special places within the park or along the path that have extra meaning, establish hierarchy, or create a unique sense of place. They can be of any size: as small as a bike rack or as large as a long span steel canopy. Their function is either specific, as is the case with awnings and such, or their function can be generalized and adapted to different uses. They are designed from a kit of parts. Each event is created by using elements of the kit that are scaled to the appropriate size. The kit creates an architectural language for the urban park and increases the uniform identity of the whole area.