

# Wallpaper\*

## Cebu's new Bus Rapid Transit line celebrates its first stations by CAZA

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The Filipino city of Cebu is celebrating the opening of its very first rapid transit bus stations, designed by NY-based Carlos Arnaiz Architects

The city of Cebu in the Philippines' Central Visayas region is a bustling place that, until now, has been difficult to get around. Many residents and visitors rely on a piece-meal transport system. 'The only option is privately operated jeepneys (highly-decorated mini-bus-truck hybrids, ubiquitous across the country) that run on short segmented routes, so that a trip from the airport to the city centre involves taking three separate jeepney rides that are not clearly labeled,' says architect Carlos Arnaiz.

However, this should change with the introduction of a Rapid Bus Transit system to service the entire metropolitan area, or 15 per cent to 25 per cent of the 3.5m-strong population. Arnaiz's Brooklyn-based firm Carlos Arnaiz Architects (CAZA) has designed the system's 19 stations, with five already built.

The stations have a form based on the ancient basket-weaving traditions of the area and incorporate a vital weather benefit. Street flooding is a major problem here, so the canopies are angled to catch the rain and direct it away from the streets and into tanks.

Along with the stations' structures, CAZA was responsible for the complementary street furniture – benches, street lights, bins and planters – on a geometric template of angled lines based on their study of objects from the Cebuano arts and crafts

tradition. 'New infrastructure projects need to be both pragmatic and imaginary, so they can open a dialogue about how to localise progress in different cultures,' Arnaiz adds. Meanwhile the colour palette samples hues from Sinulog, Cebu's famous annual street carnival.

This is just one of a number of transport projects that the firm has in the pipeline. These include an international airport across from the fabled Filipino island of Boracay, a multi-modal vehicular centre with an eco-office building perched on top in Bogotá, and a new ferry terminal for Long Island City in New York's Queens borough, built as part of a new mixed-used waterfront development.