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First Bus Rapid Transit Station, Cebu Architecture, The Philippines Building, Images

First Bus Rapid Transit Station in Cebu

Transport Hub in The Philippines: New Building – design by CAZA, Carlos Arnaiz Architects

First Bus Rapid Transit Station

Design: CAZA, Brooklyn, NY, USA

Location: Cebu, Philippines

First Bus Rapid Transit Station



19 Bus Stations to Be Built by March 2017, Connecting Cebu, Mandaue, Talisay, and Lapu-Lapu City and Serving Nearly 1,000,000 Riders



Brooklyn-based architecture and design firm CAZA (Carlos Arnaiz Architects), with offices in Bogotá, Colombia; Lima, Peru; and Manila, Philippines, is pleased to announce their newest public works project, a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station in Cebu, Philippines. This is the first major public transit system ever to be developed in Cebu, which has a population of roughly 3.5 million. The system will serve 15–25% of the population, facilitating transportation and alleviating congestion for nearly 1 million citizens. As of May 2016, five of the nineteen stations have been built and are operational.



This modular system of bus stations takes its design from ancient basket-weaving traditions of Cebu, while integrating a mixture of much-needed improvements to Cebu's public transit system. The Cebu BRT project will significantly improve sidewalks, crosswalks, and public lighting throughout the streets of Cebu, while also addressing serious problems such as street flooding. Each roof acts as a water catcher, and is able to direct the rainfall from intense rainstorms away from the street, alleviating the stress of rain on the streets and sidewalks. At the same time, the roof acts as a source of shade, shielding civilians from the intense heat and extreme weather that are characteristic of certain times of year in the Philippines. While this project significantly improves the public transit system, it also keeps in mind the human condition, making new infrastructure into a cultural icon for Cebu City.





Carlos Arnaiz, Principal of CAZA, states, “The Cebu BRT is really the first transit system of its kind in the Philippines, that services an entire metropolitan area, connecting a historic district with the international airport and fast-growing regions on the periphery. The project is a landmark for a country struggling to figure out how to improve the lives of its citizens and resolve transportation challenges with limited resources.”





As part of the project, CAZA was tasked with not only building this interconnected system of bus stations, but also designing the landscaping and furniture around each station. While stations vary in size and scale, they share a standardized system of furniture, such as planters and benches. This seamless and consistent design decision was integral to the overall goal of the project: to connect four unique cities through one revolutionary transit system.



Photography: Frank Callaghan

First Bus Rapid Transit Station in Cebu images / information from CAZA