

2015 Michael G. Meyers Design Competition

"All Aboard!"

This year, the design problem for the MGMDC is to design a new high-speed rail train station.

Within several years a high-speed train is set to begin daily service between Dallas and Houston. The City of Houston has partnered with the Texas transportation system to build a brand new transportation hub that will feature the station for the new high-speed trains at the old Post Office site on the bayou in downtown Houston (401 Franklin St. Houston TX 77201). This transportation hub will bring the train station together with other forms of transportation in a complex that ties itself to both the bayou and the urban landscape of downtown.

Project requirements

The design for "All Aboard!"

1. Along with designing the high speed train station, select at least two (2) other forms of transportation from the list included in the program below.
2. Include a comprehensive description of your building explaining the concepts behind your design. See essay requirements. Please give your building a name.
3. Develop a distinctive solution that is considerate of the established urban surroundings. Your design solution should integrate and accomplish at least (2) sustainable strategies. (conserve and or generate energy -store and or reuse water- utilize passive solar and wind strategies) Your solution should be pedestrian friendly.
4. Develop distinctive interior and exterior spaces that show an understanding of how these spaces are created within the required program elements. Be sure to consider the relationship between the indoor and outdoor spaces and the overall flow through the space. Explore the use of the building and site beyond traditional transportation hub functions
5. Students should explore the use of interesting materials, structural components and environmental strategies. Your drawings should clearly illustrate these components

program

SITE

ELEMENTS

The following items should be part of your site design and site plan.



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(Think about overall design, pedestrian circulation, and common use areas). Consider how your building and the different spaces should be approached. Think about the design of streets, sidewalks, the bayou edge, views and vistas. How are they landscaped, and what are the elements that contribute to the experience. Always strive to preserve as many of the trees on site as possible. The building is only allowed to be created **within the setbacks**. See the site plan provided.

Site:

- Passenger Drop off zone
- Green Easement: Only meant for landscaping elements; integrate the design with adjacent bayou.
- Parking: A 3 story rectangular garage is provided at the West end of the site. Ensure a connection to your building.

BUILDING ELEMENTS

NOTE: YOUR SPACE SHOULD REFLECT THE NEEDS OF YOUR CHOSEN MODES OF TRANSPORTATION IN ADDITION TO TRAIN STATION NEEDS

Building: 116,000 sqft approx.

6 Train Platforms @ 13,000 sqft ea. Platforms must connect to train tracks	78,000 sqft
Ticketing Counters	3,000 sqft
Central Terminal	30,000 sqft
Employee Offices	10,000 sqft
2 or 3 Cafés / Restaurants @ 1,500- 2,000 sqft	4,000 sqft
Retail / Shopping , 4 @ 700 sqft	2,400 sqft
Public Restrooms 3 Men's @ (700 sqft), 3 Women's @ (1000 sqft)	5,100 sqft
Storage Rooms	2,000 sqft
Maintenance and Mechanical rooms, 4 @ 2,000 sqft ea.	8,000 sqft
Visitor Center	2,000 sqft
Station Control Room / Security	1,000 sqft

Choose at least two of the following transportation types to design space for within your project. Allocate (2,000-10,000) sqft max of program space for each type you choose.

Bus - Light Rail -Taxi Cabs - Bicycle Rentals - Car Sharing – Recreational Water Access

Presentation Requirements

essay (should be firmly affixed to the front of one board)

Your descriptive essay should include some detail to explain your design. Please limit your essay to one 8 ½ x 11 sheet @ 12 point Arial font, approx. 500 words

Suggestions of what to include in your essay:

- Describe your sustainable strategies and how the train station and community will benefit, and enjoy them.
- Describe how the surrounding context influences the design of your building.
- Describe the traveler experience at your building and its surroundings
- What makes your building unique, what will make your users excited to spend time in your building.

drawings

The following **minimum** requirements should be mounted on two 24" x 36" or one 30" x 42" **foam core** (do not submit more than two boards): (Winning entries will be exhibited @ the Architecture Center Houston, therefore to facilitate display, boards **must be foam core**, and must not exceed the allowable sizes)

- 1" = 100' scale **site plan**, showing outdoor features (landscaping) and site improvements, connection to bayou, the platforms, and the roof of the station (and other buildings if applicable).
- 1" = 20'-0" scale **floor plan** of the train station showing walls, doors, windows, countertops, plumbing fixtures, room names, and other descriptive information that defines the space.
- 1" = 20'-0" scale **exterior building elevation(s)** showing façade, roof heights, building materials, windows, and other descriptive information.
- 1" = 10'-0" **building section** of the station showing how spaces are connected or divided and exterior wall material. Show scale of people in the building.
- At least one accurate **perspective** drawings at any scale of an interior or exterior view of your project.
- Any **hand sketches** that document your design process.

model

A 1" = 20'-0" **scale model** of the project is required for team projects. Models can not be larger than 24" x 36"

**Models are optional for individual participants, but all are encouraged to experiment with models to help answer questions about their designs

deadline for submissions

Entries are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, **24 April 2015** at the AIA Houston offices at ArCH (ARCHITECTURE CENTER HOUSTON) **315 Capitol Street, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77002** [phone 713-520-0155]

awards

MGMC reception and awards presentation will be held on Friday, **01 May 2015** at ArCH (ARCHITECTURE CENTER HOUSTON) **315 Capitol Street, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77002** [phone 713-520-0155]. Winning entries will be displayed in an exhibition through 14 May 2015.

Design is a creative process, and this is an ideas competition. Engineering calculations are not required for mechanical, electrical, or structural systems. All participants will receive a certificate of recognition from the American Institute of Architects. There will be a balanced evaluation by jurors from architectural, academic, and other relevant fields of expertise. Awards include college scholarships and scholarships to the UofH Architectural Summer Discovery Program. While the quality of presentation is important, any contestant of any ability may receive an award based on the strength of a concept or inventiveness of an idea.

Complete and attach the 2015 MGMC Student Label to all project boards and models. Labels are available online at:

<https://aiahouston.org/v/site-home/Michael-G-Meyers-Design-Competition/3k/>