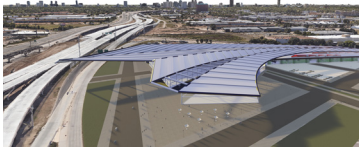
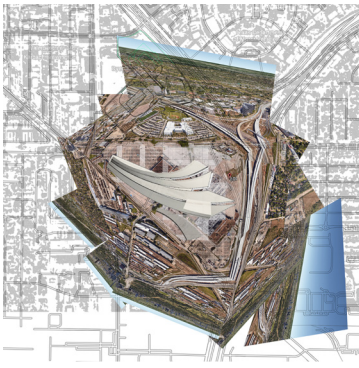


# NEWS

## TEXAS CENTRAL TRAIN COMPETITION

GRADUATE STUDENTS: RACHEL ROBERTS, KIANA KARIMI, ALEX NELSON, SUSAN BUTUK, ATHEETHA ROY, MARIAM FALLAH



\*Student designed

Graduate students from the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design recently participated in an architectural design contest held by Texas Central, the private developer of the Texas bullet train. Students across Texas were asked to help produce an inspiring vision for the high-speed train passenger stations. Entries were based on creative vision, technical accuracy, quality of submittal materials and overall presentation. The competition drew 45 proposals, representing almost 100 Texas architecture students. Thirteen finalists made presentations Nov. 18 in Dallas. Our students who moved on to the presentation stage were: Rachel Roberts, Kiana Karimi, Alex Nelson, Susan Butuk, Atheetha Roy, Mariam Fallah. Below are some of the thoughts they had looking back at their designs and the competition experience.

### How did you go about selecting the location for your bullet train stations?

The competition guidelines allowed us to select Dallas, Brazos Valley or Houston as locations for our designs. Given that we study in Houston, we chose Houston. Each student's assignment was to provide a design for a potential site base. We identified the NorthWest Mall as being: 1) The ideal location for the incoming rail 2) a new location that could connect to the rest of the city in the future via public transportation 3) an opportunity to revitalize the currently under-used site.

### What research did you conduct before starting your designs?

In studio, during the site selection phase, we analyzed the surrounding urban context, identifying the potential connections to the rest of Houston and the immediate vicinity surrounding the site. We looked at precedents of Train Stations and High Speed Train Stations around the world looking both at the architectural and urban characteristics that allowed them to be successful projects. Texas Central also conducted an online seminar giving us a background on the project requirements, visions for the future of the high speed rail and the technical considerations that would affect our designs.

### What do you think is the most important design element for future passenger stations?

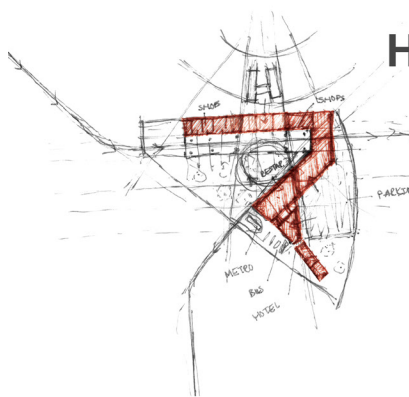
The most important design element to consider for future passenger stations is the flow of traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular. At the urban scale, given the stations status as a transportation hub, it should allow visitors to be well connected to the rest of the city via light rail, bus, taxi, or uber. In terms of architectural, the main element to consider is how the pedestrian traffic is distributed. A 'fast lane' for visitors using the High Speed Train and a 'slow lane' for users interested in other elements of the project, in our case, retail.

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## Tell us about your experience presenting at the competition finals in Dallas.

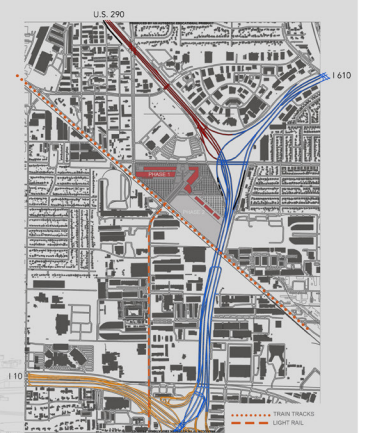
The experience at the competition was comprised of anxiety and excitement. On the one hand the fear of making a mistake, on the other the opportunity to learn and experience something new. The overall presentation taught us a great deal on how to convey our ideas to different audiences. The Texas Central Competition was overall a great learning opportunity both at the academically and personally.



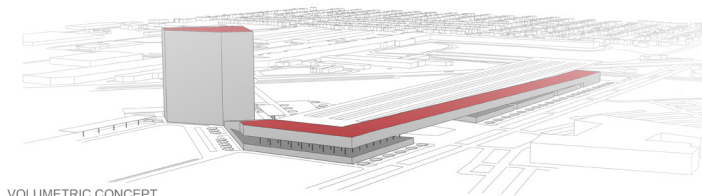
## HOUSTON HIGH

INTENDED TO SERVE PASSENGERS FROM HOUSTON AND DALLAS, THE NEW HOUSTON TRANSPORTATION HUB TRAVELS BEYOND THE PERIMETER OF THE SITE, TRANSCENDING CITY BOUNDARIES AND ACTIVELY ENGAGES THE COMMUNITY AND ITS USERS. WITH THE EMPHASIS ON THE CYCLE OF MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND FORM, THE CONCEPT OF ITS SNAKING GEOMETRY BEGINS WITH THE NEW SLOPING SHOPPING CENTER FOR HOUSTON THAT GRADUALLY INCLINES, WELCOMING THE AMENITIES OF THE TRAIN STATION, ENCOMPASSING THE PLATFORM, AND DESCENDING TO ENGAGE PASSENGER ARRIVAL. AS ONE CONTINUOUS BUILDING, IT ALLOWS THE COURTYARD TO BE A WELCOMING POINT FOR HISD NEWCOMERS, LIGHT RAIL RIDERS AND TRAIN PASSENGERS. AS A NEW DESTINATION FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, THE INITIAL DEVELOPMENT IS INTENDED TO GROW, TO BECOME A NEW EXTENSION OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT AND REVITALIZE THE EXISTING COMMUNITY.

## SPEED



INFRASTRUCTURE



VOLUMETRIC CONCEPT



NORTH ELEVATION



TRAIN STATION PLATFORM