

PLACE ATTACHMENT

INTERACTION

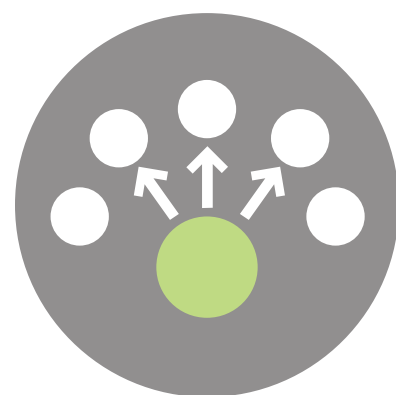
ACCESSIBILITY + LEGIBILITY

Accessibility and Legibility are site features and design components that go above and beyond universal design. Accessibility refers to the access that a site has in relation to other places while legibility accounts for the identifiable features of place that distinguish one location from another. Midway Station benefits from public transportation access, close proximity to frequently used transit routes, pedestrian connections to the greater neighborhood as well as linkages to other amenities within the Hamline-Midway. As far as legibility, the station creates a landmark of itself within the greater context through the usage of signage, architectural detailing and site components and occupant programming.



VITALITY + DIVERSITY

Site engagement plays a vital role in placemaking. Vitality, referring to the energy created through user experience, enhances site engagement in a strong and lively manner through programmatic uses that cater to all occupants of space. Diversity, like vitality, refers to the variety of uses, products and services that create site appeal and reliance all while establishing wellbeing and comfort. Hamline-Midway neighborhood is already diverse in nature with a variety of shops and services to cater the public. Our design expands on this diversity by offering more user dimension through retail, such as the market and restaurant, or services, such as the bike repair shop.



TRANSACTION, DISTINCTION + COMFORT

Site activity can be enhanced through the processes of transaction. Places that serve as staples for shopping and leisurely activity have convincing connections between functional and emotional attachment with place. Beyond transaction, comfort must also be developed through relatable scales of space. The development of corridors, sidewalks, building heights and interior/ exterior spaces must recognize human scale and provide wellbeing and security. Midway Station acknowledges the need for transaction by creating unique retail and service opportunities. The station also enhances comfort through correctly scaled spaces, in both the interior and out, with appropriate floor to ceiling heights and corridor widths.



PLACE IDENTITY

SETTLEMENT

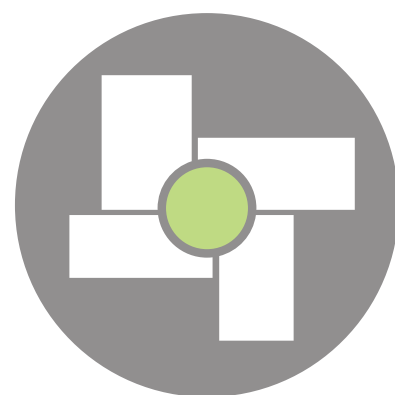
LOCATION

Location is an element that must be decided upon before beginning any form of construction. Its assessment is crucial in developing sense of place, and for Midway Station, location became key in developing form, program and even building typology. Located along the University Avenue corridor where the Green Line light rail lays its tracks, the typology of a transit station was decided upon to capitalize on the movement of people as well as the unique culture created by the new transit system. From there, to spur a TOD revival, a program was created based on the needs and wants of the neighboring region. Form grew from the program, but also from the constraints of the neighborhood and site.



SPATIAL CONFIGURATION

The combination of multiple spaces and enclosures define the attribute of spatial configuration. Through orientation, spaces arrange themselves in ways that alter our senses and often times define our feelings. It can either promote or weaken the chance for activity. The spatial configuration of Midway Station directly affected its program and how occupants of the design utilized its spaces. It became very important for all spaces to work well with each other, especially those directly related to the movement from exterior to interior and vice versa.



ARTICULATION

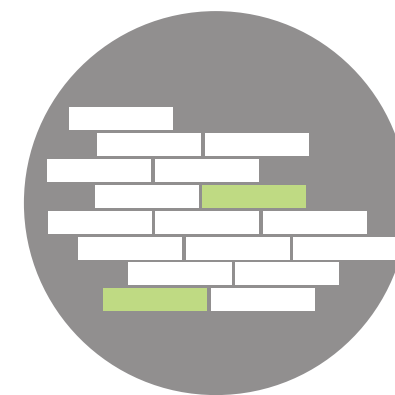
Articulation requires the usage of known cultural symbolism such as language or culture, and it often times is a very strong and unique way to inform place. Our design capitalizes on articulation by expanding upon the unique culture present in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. With a balance of diverse programmatic elements, the station reflects the context of University Avenue. Importance is also placed altering society's view of public transportation. Currently we look at public transit as something non-efficient or for the non-working class. With Midway Station devoting its design, form and program to transportation, our hopes are that a new language is born and a culture supporting public transit emerges.



LANDSCAPE

THINGS

Every landscape is comprised of natural elements that must not be departed from when addressing place. These elements, or 'things', are noted by their characteristics too. For instance, stone adds value of hardness and longevity while a mountain reflects characteristics of height and mass. Our adaptation of the primary natural 'things' - rocks, vegetation, and water - to the urban environment lends a nostalgic meaning or sacredness to the site. Though what most people conceive to be 'natural' is no longer present on our site, the use of materials gesture to a distant, more natural past in St. Paul all while maintaining a nod toward the future.



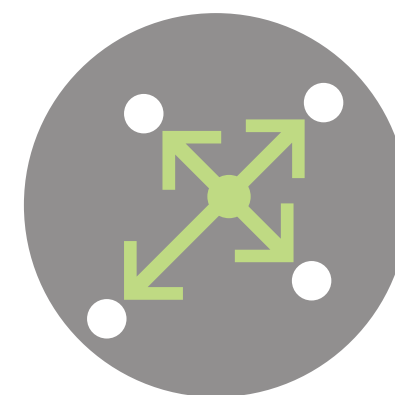
COSMIC ORDER

Cosmic order refers to our ability to understand organization in constant states of flux. Such organization is usually based on the course of the sun; however, it can also be recognized from geographical forms as well. In most instances, the sun places importance on the cardinal directions of North, South, East and West. In Egypt, on the contrary, importance of direction is symbolized by not only the sun but by the natural flow of the Nile as well. Midway Station follows the understandings of cosmic order by orienting itself on the already defined forms of St. Paul's street grid. Importance of direction is also placed towards the two downtown centers of Minneapolis and St. Paul in the West and East directions.



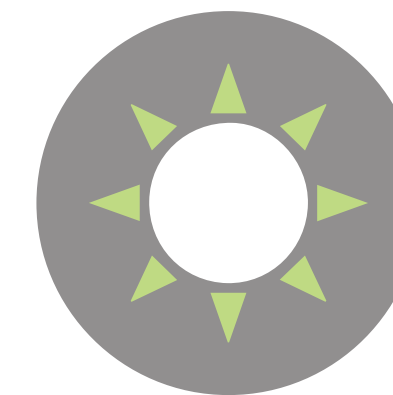
CHARACTER

Character is making the most of a site and all that it is worth. For example, fertile soil thirsts for farmland, mountaintops reach towards the gods and valleys sing to their hillsides. "What does the land want to be?" For Midway Station, character influenced both program and form. The site in which the structure lies is very shallow but wide, linear in nature. It is located along the University Avenue commercial corridor and adjoins the new Green Line Light Rail system along with multiple bus routes. In order to accommodate, the station is true to the linear form of the site and linked closely to the transit systems. Also, multiple forms of commercial activity are present: retail spaces, offices, and services.



LIGHT

Light is a source of illumination, a symbol for the divine and an energy constantly sought after. In our transit hub design, light largely influenced the development of our program and its spatial layout. Equipped with high, floor-to-ceiling windows, the station benefits from vast amounts of natural daylight. Flooding into the interior spaces, the light not only allows for passive heating in the winter, but it also illuminates deep into the interior spaces. Our program reflects this advantage, with our most commonly used spaces being on the southern portion of our building with the less used spaces, mechanical etc., on the north half.



TEMPORAL RHYTHMS

Place is directly affected by all items of that natural world that are constantly changing, and the phenomena which distinguishes place cannot be separated from these rhythms. Vegetation, light, seasons and temperature, for example, influence a variety of design decisions for the built world. Hamline-Midway reflects these decisions by showcasing them through programmatic elements. In the exterior open space, programmatic uses revolve around the seasons, time of day, the stages of vegetation and weather. On the interior of the building, day-to-night hours affect the occupant load, while the seasons and climate affect the openings and closings of The Midway Grill patio and the market's breezeway.

