



Montgomery County Mall Transit Station

Bethesda, Maryland

Category: Institutional Architecture

The transit facility at a densely-developed shopping mall had to move from a prominent location to an unused, hidden corner of the property to accommodate a mall expansion. Surrounded by high-rise buildings, an adjacent overpass and highway, and a future six-story parking garage, the constricted site had to accommodate bays for six full-sized buses, three layover spaces, an

operator's rest space, and covered seating for 60 patrons with heated wind-break areas for harsh weather days.

The exposed construction is cloaked in galvanized corrugated metal panels and translucent polycarbonate. The leading edges of the roof pyramids are tilted upwards to add a dynamic datum and are outlined in linear lighting.

The roof volumes are indirectly lit to provide general illumination and highlight the textures. Branding signage, location maps, and smart sign LED reader board are accommodated on the walls of the utility space at the south end of the facility. The parallelogram-shaped wind breaks have been rendered in the client's logo accent color to embolden the monochromatic scheme.

WESTLAKE TERRACE

7

8

9

6

5

4

MALL RING ROAD

- ① Site Entrance
- ② Handicap Parking
- ③ Stormwater Management Pond
- ④ Operators' Toilet / Utility Room
- ⑤ Layover Spaces
- ⑥ Heated Passenger Shelter
- ⑦ Overpass
- ⑧ Bus Exit Ramp
- ⑨ Future Garage



I-270



DESIGN INSPIRATION

Somewhat concealed, and with the adjacent aerial views providing rooftop vistas, the canopy form was inspired by a split-open geode: a crystalline, hidden surprise. The skewed geometries were generated by the inflection of the bus bays around the island that required coverage for the entering and exiting bus patrons.





Aerial View of Site



View Looking South

Stained / textured paving patterns highlight the geometry and provide a pathway for the visually impaired.



Bus Bay Roof Component Detail



Bus Bay Alliteration



View Looking South from Westlake Terrace Overpass



View Looking South East from Bus Exit Ramp



View Looking North from Mall Ring Road