The almost sixty year social-communistic Castro regime has driven the island of Cuba into isolation. Infrastructure on the island fully relies on the nation’s own capacity and since the special period like everything else this is in an overall state of decline and scarcity. However Cuba understands that it cannot longer stay isolated and economically dependent. Therefore Cuba is changing and slowly opening up to the world.

The ongoing neglected state of maintenance together with a scarcity of resources and insufficient logistics of industries have made the capital Havana an inevitable city that opposes business and services and underutilized potentials in order to become a modern city. The opposed question is how can Havana become a more contemporary city with a high level of mobility?

The main goal of the building is to connect people, neighborhoods and infrastructure together by merging different transportation options into one building gesture. This main building principles of unity, clarity and connectivity symbolizes a strong transportation typology, that will form a transition zone from the old city to future developments, from fine to bigger scale and from residential to a commercial character. The building has a perpendicular orientation relative to the infrastructure and so forms a bridge that binds and orders all infrastructure lines and giving the traveler full possibility of transfer between.

### Scenarios

- **2014**
  - Development of a tram line that connects the city center with the new developments of the former port.

- **2018**
  - Opening of the new HABANA CENTRAL STATION.

- **2020**
  - First high speed line completed in Cuba that connects Havana with Santiago de Cuba.

- **2028**
  - Chinese invest in new railway line that improves the connection between the airport of Havana and the city center.

- **2035**
  - New railway line opened linking Havana with its new port of Mariel.

- **2040**
  - Chinese invest in new station for Havana to secure the train network and improve mobility.

- **2050**
  - Development of a tram line that connects the city center with the new developments of the former port.

- **2060**
  - Profits from port redevelopments are injected to restore the crumbling city center.
Because of the big size of the station (320 x 52m) the appearance can feel quite big. In order to not feel lost under the massive canopy like structure a cassette system of 2 x 2m is designed to give scale to the space it covers.

A station is not only more a place were people commute to from place to place, but has become over the years an attractive area to go to for different purposes than travel. A station therefore needs have sufficient space that provides for those new station activities. The big canopies are used as big urban tribunes that invites people to climb, sit and enjoy the view.
CASSETTE ROOF

The 2 by 2m rib cassette roof system presents itself in the continuous and infinite nature of the building. By creating translucent skylights in the roof, the concrete structure literally feels lighter.

The roof is held up by very special designed columns that evolve into two different appearances: a cruciform for the top canopy and an umbrella shape for the lower canopy.

The umbrella column fluidly merges with the lower canopy creating one mold. The two canopy’s are in contrast with the other in terms of expressions, dimension and column shape but they meet as one connected structure and in expression of materiality.

STRUCTURE

The roof is held up by very special designed columns that evolve into two different appearances: a cruciform for the top canopy and an umbrella shape for the lower canopy.

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UMBRELLA FLOOR

The umbrella column/concrete design combines the square canopy and umbrella floor. The floor canopies are in contrast with the square is formed from roof elements which the umbrella as one connected structure and in expression of materiality.

The umbrella column/concrete design combines the square canopy and umbrella floor. The floor canopies are in contrast with the square is formed from roof elements which the umbrella as one connected structure and in expression of materiality.

REPETITIVE ELEMENT

COLUMN COMBINATIONS

BUILDING FRAGMENT
**HABANA CENTRAL**

**Jelmer van Zalingen**

**Cuba Graduation Studio**

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**01 CASSETTE DETAIL | 1:10**

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**02 CASSETTE BASIN CONNECTION | 1:10**

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**03 FLOOR & BALUSTRADE | 1:10**

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**04 COLUMN CONNECTION | 1:5**

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**05 COLUMN & ROOF | 1:10**

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**06 COLUMN CONNECTION | 1:5**

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**07 FLOOR & BALUSTRADE | 1:10**

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**DETA LING**

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**LIGHTING PRINCIPLE**

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**CLIMATE PRINCIPLES**

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