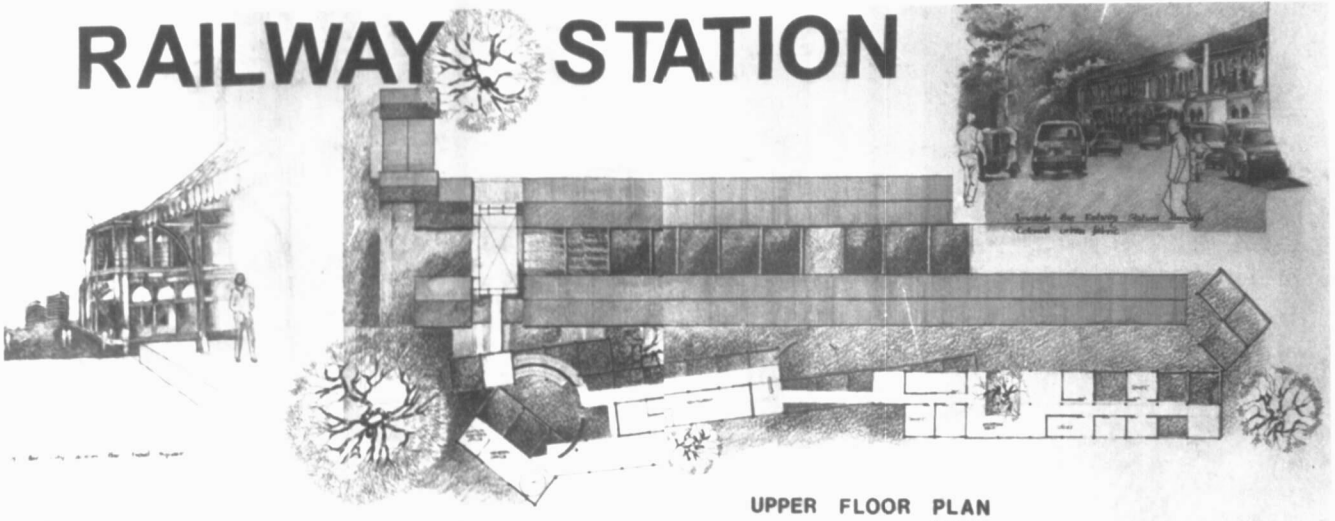
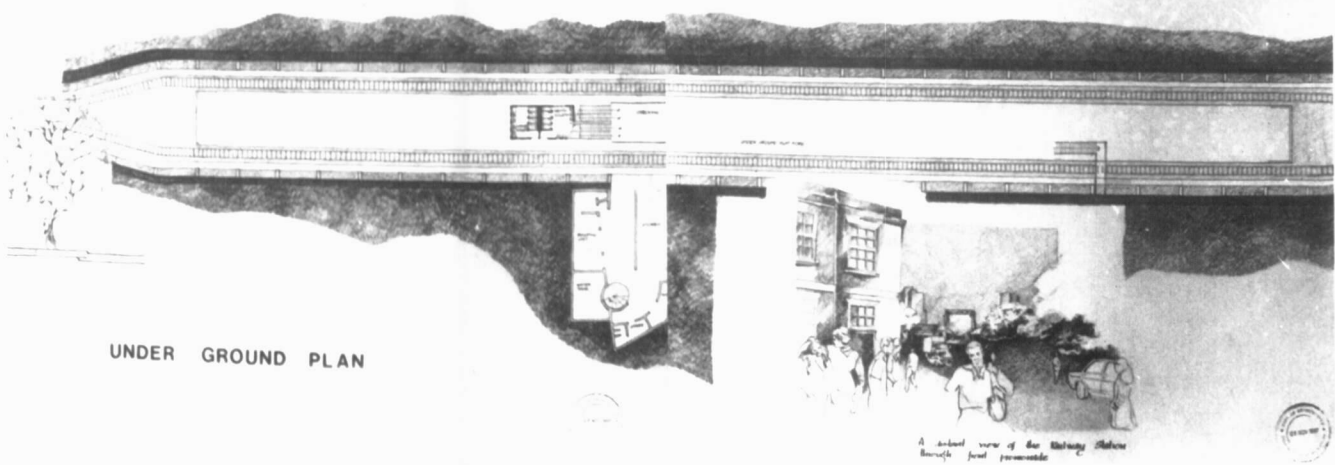


RAILWAY STATION



UPPER FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/800



UNDER GROUND PLAN

Students page

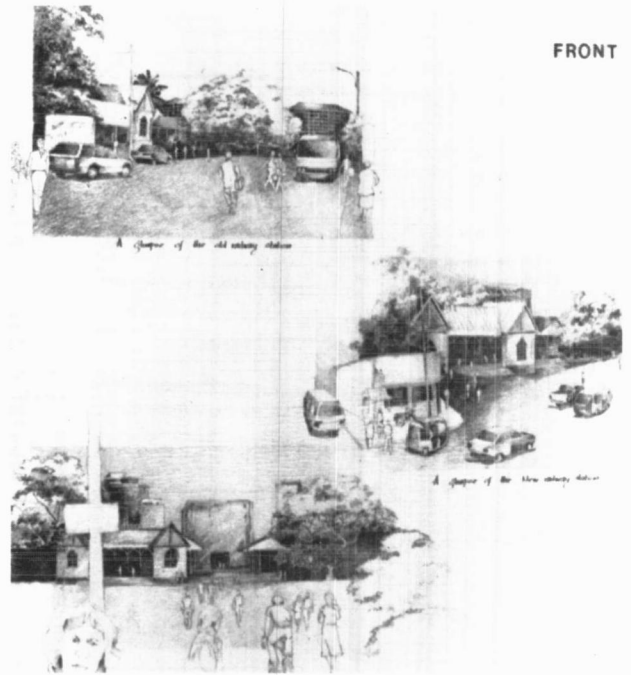
Comprehensive Design Project The Redesign of Slave Island - Railway Station

By Milinda Pathiraja

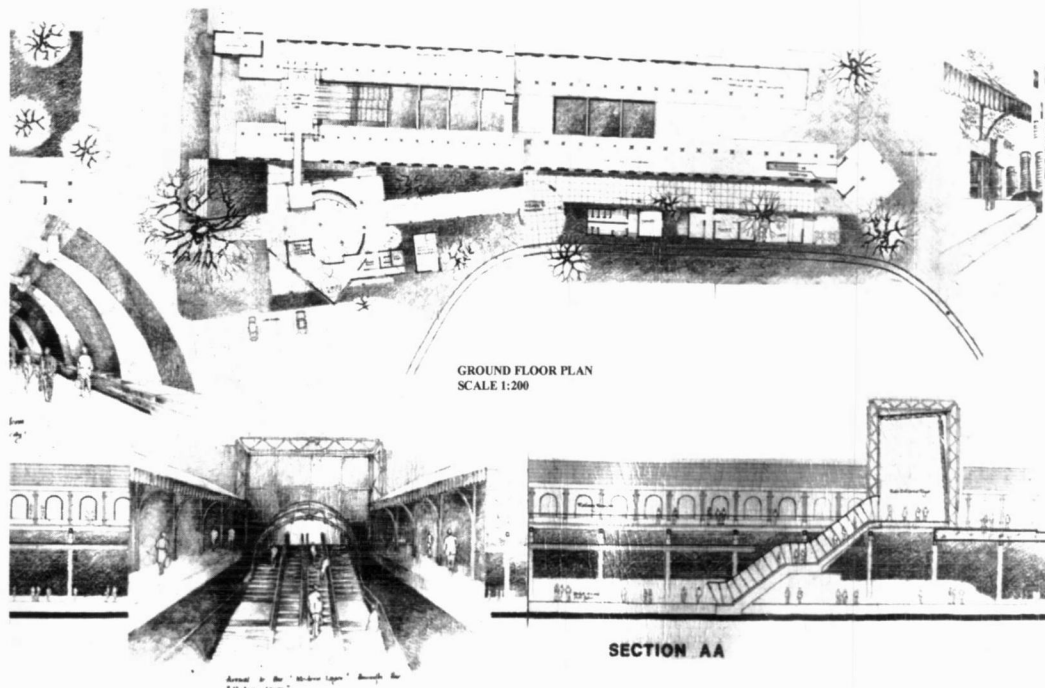
Mobility is now one of the most important objectives of a modern, competitive society and in terms of the contemporary metropolis, an important part of the urban structure. It is this supposition which lies behind the project, thereby articulating the transportation infrastructure within the Urban morphology, to create an overall development. The basis of the conception is that, any kind of development, no matter how many diverse modes used, must possess a solid affinity with the historical layers of its context and this could be experienced by the persevere.

The first image in reflection of the design, however, was derived from a scene in the Bengali film "Patar Panchali" by Satyajit Ray where a train has dramatically used to symbolize the intervention of modern development to the traditional Indian context.

FRONT



The existing context consists of several layers; The Indigenous layer ('Bo' trees, old residential buildings, shop houses, temples and Kovils etc....), The Colonial layer (Colonial office buildings, ware houses, Beira Lake, Planning of streets & squares etc....), and the contemporary layer, evolved as a result of the infusion of the previous two layers. At the same time, there is a potential for a new modern layer to emerge from this historical context as it is in the middle of two major growth centres of Colombo, one at Fort and the other along Nawam Mawatha. The 'Old Station' and its surrounding as such, can be perceived as a time



machine reflecting the infusion of traditional and contemporary developments. This project aims to use "The Train" to connect and absorb all these meanings (textual, contextual, historical and cultural) – grown layers upon layers – together with a layer of modernism and future where people/commuters can see, experience and feel it. Accordingly the building is conceived as a 'stage' that links the modern developments while preserving the existing layers.

The arrival and departure from Galle to the city of Colombo and vice versa is articulated concerning the serial vision of the travel experience to highlight this celebrated dialogue between tradition and modernism. This attempts to make the railway station part of a continuum of urban rhythms and flows. The new modern layer is represented by a transparent entrance foyer placed in between the old railway building and by the new underground rail system. Other railway related functions are gathered along a new street (represented by a steel structure) which connects the public squares regenerated from the existing context.

The train comes along the coastal line, as usual, up to Kolpetty providing views of the sea, the suburban towns and glimpses of the distant city and as it turns towards the city enclosure, it goes underground. The commuters get down at the underground terminal and move upwards expecting a modern railway station, but only to crop out from the old station building, with a sudden surprise and an appraisal for the colonial layer. This provides a thoroughly deserving effusion for the serial vision of the overall development.

They would be then channelled towards the transparent entrance foyer, an ultimate celebration of the excitement of travel, the thrill of arrival and the technology of our time. This entrance cube is orientated towards the distant development at fort furnishing a grand view, framed by the "Bo" trees and old colonial buildings, a composition that glorifies the infusion of history and modernism.

