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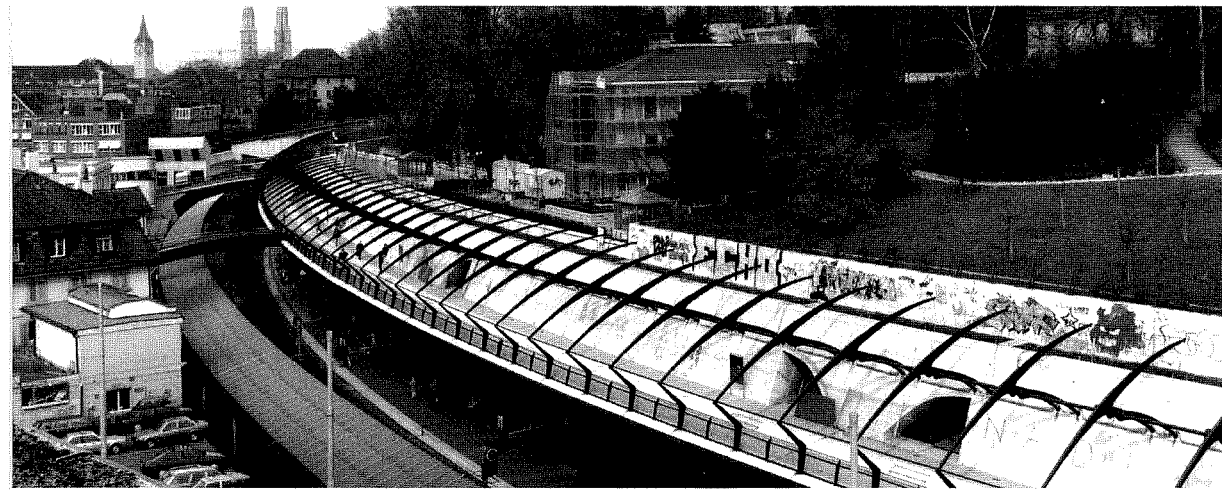
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Santiago Calatrava's Dynamic Urbanism

Donlyn Lyndon



Platform, promenade and
pergola of Zurich,
Switzerland railroad station.

Photos © Paolo Rosselli.
Drawings courtesy Calatrava
Valls S.A.

Santiago Calatrava is best known, perhaps, for the sheer vigor of his designs — shapes that seem to fuse architecture, engineering and art. Embedded within many of his projects, as well, is a sensitive, dynamic urbanism.

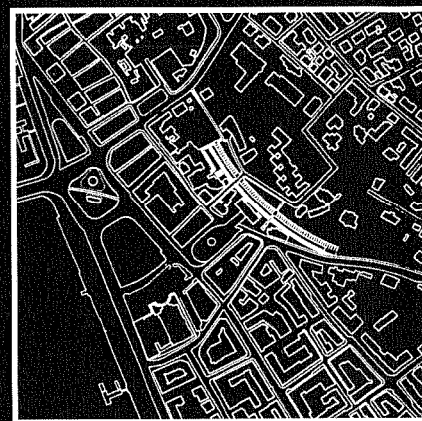
A good design concept is not a big, simple idea in isolation; it is an idea that contains a large amount of information, often conflicting information. Calatrava's projects are elegant but they are not simple; they mobilize a great deal of information and hold together places that are extremely complex. They make good places, not just good buildings or good bridges. It is the project and its surroundings that should become better through good design, not just the project.

Every project, especially every public project, should have multiple purposes. A good project might be conceived with several purposes, or it may start out with a single purpose and then become more complex. The viaduct connecting the two main spans of Seville's Alamillo bridge is a singular example of this — beneath it Calatrava created a beautiful space that

can be used for a market space and other activities that link together the area through which it passes.

During the conference "Excellence in Public Service Design Abroad," Barcelona planner Josep Acebillo remarked that you have to approach designing infrastructure like designing a building; infrastructure, building section and city section must be seen as part of the same context. This attitude is evident in Calatrava's Zurich train station, which threads delicately along a hillside between two historic sections of the city.

This portfolio features images of many projects designed by Calatrava . They reveal not only his distinctive visual style but also a patient and remarkably attentive urbanism, a way of building that infuses spirit in public places — from intimately-scaled entryways and shelters to the skyline of a city itself.



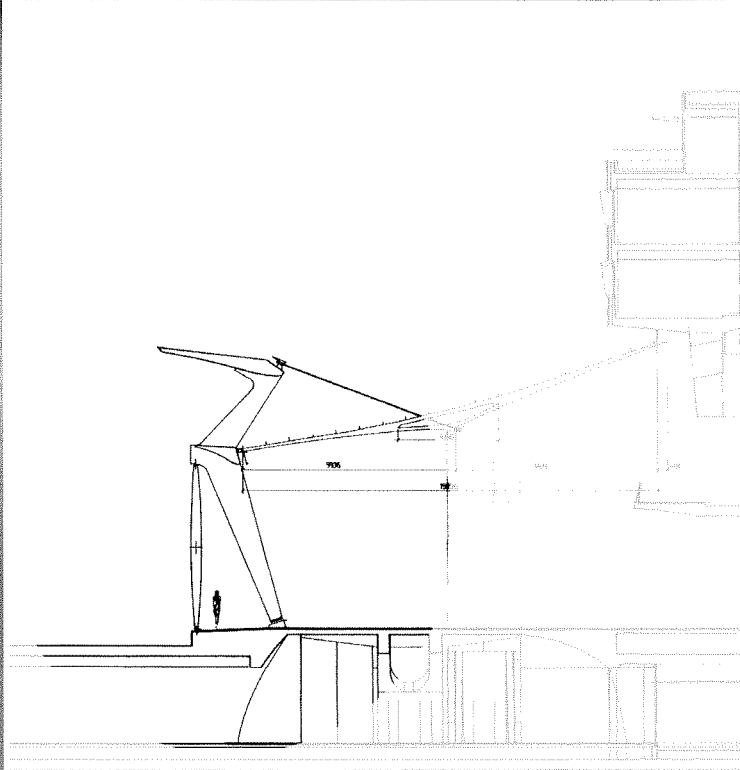
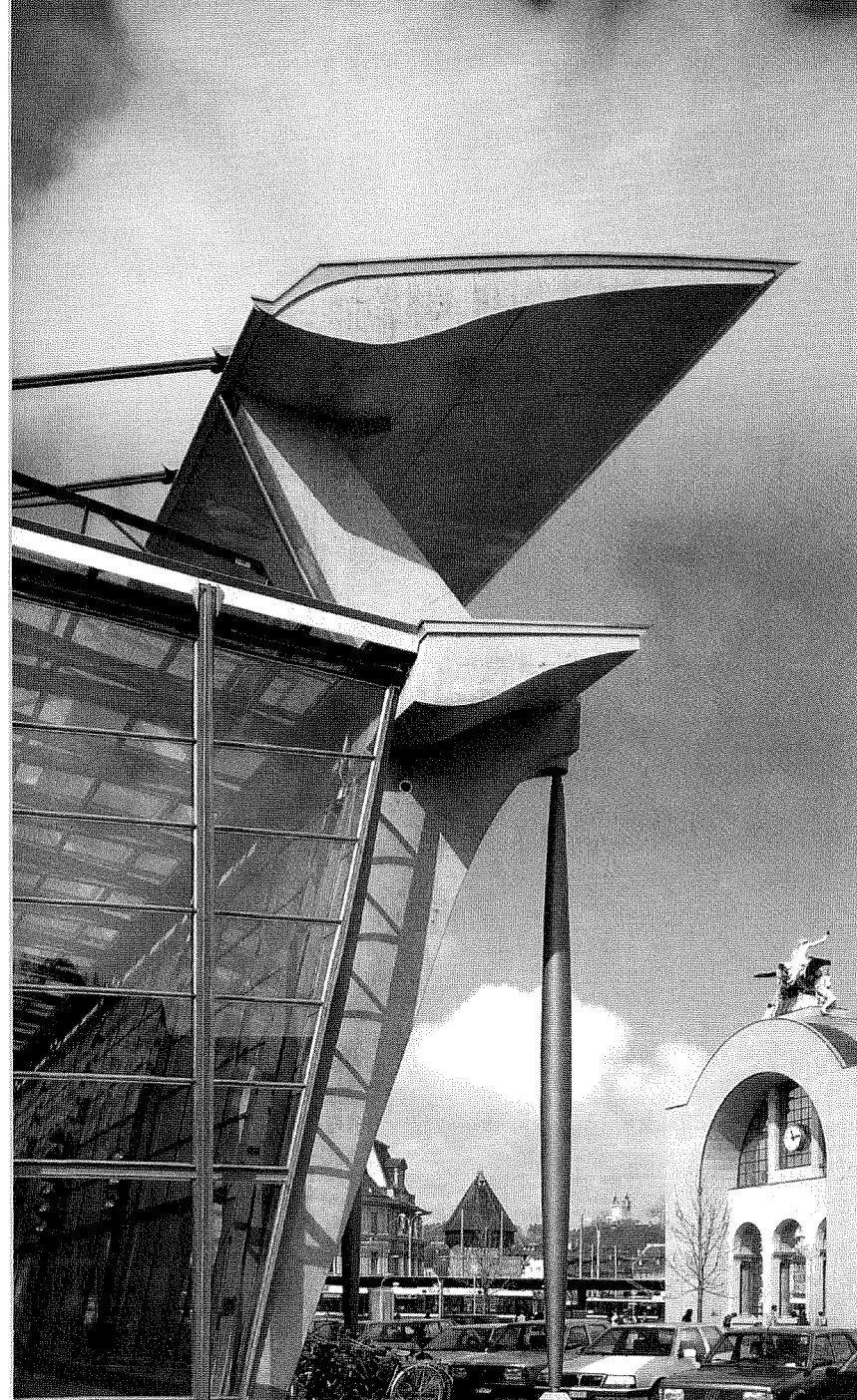
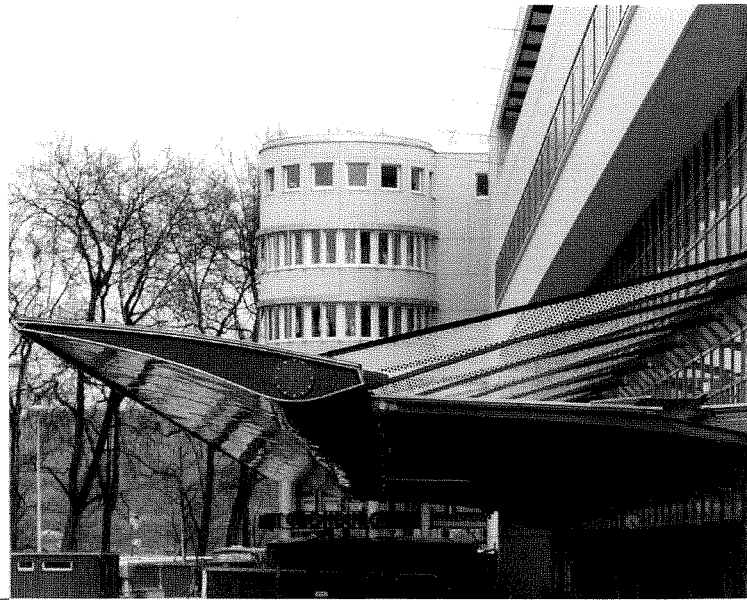
Site plan, Zurich, Switzerland railroad station. A shopping concourse, promenade and station platform are woven into a hillside in an older section of the city.

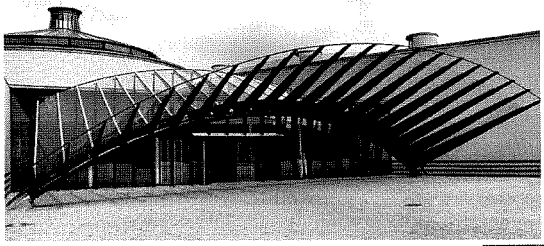


(Right) Canopy for post office,
Lucerne, Switzerland.

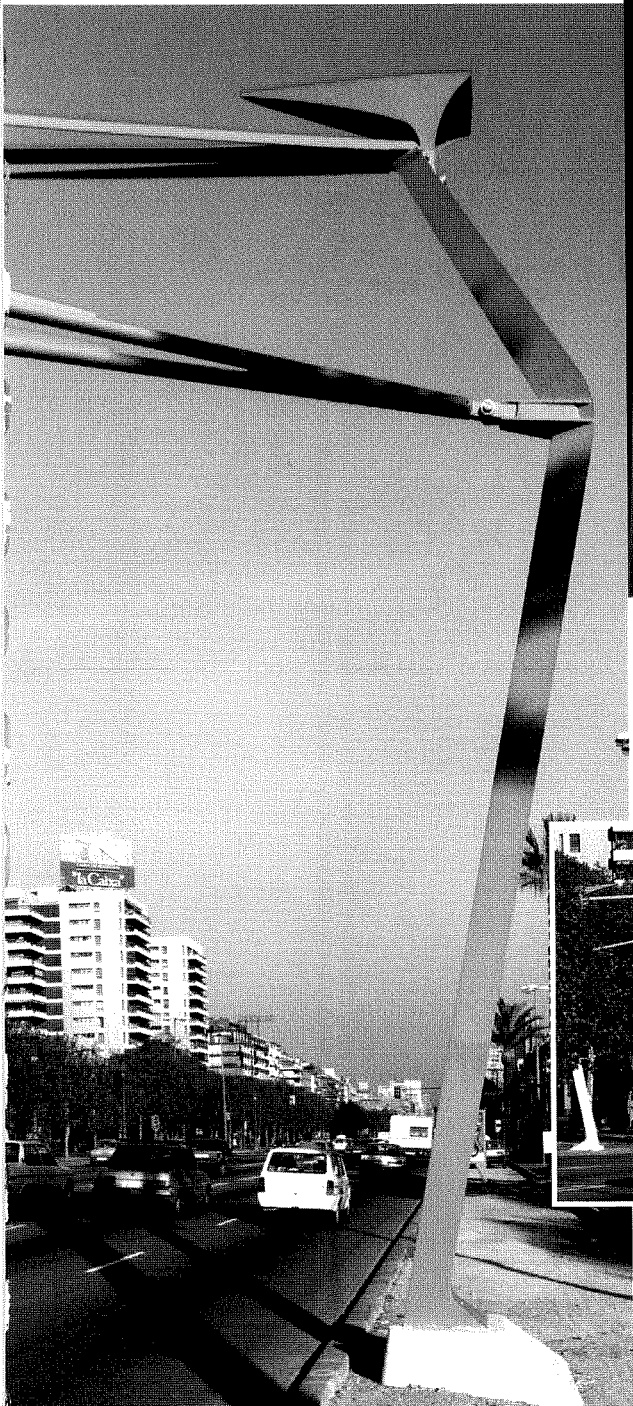
(Below) Portico for railway station hall,
Lucerne, Switzerland.

(Opposite page, top) Entrance canopy,
high school, Wohlen, Switzerland.





Traffic light structure,
Avenida Diagonal, Barcelona.



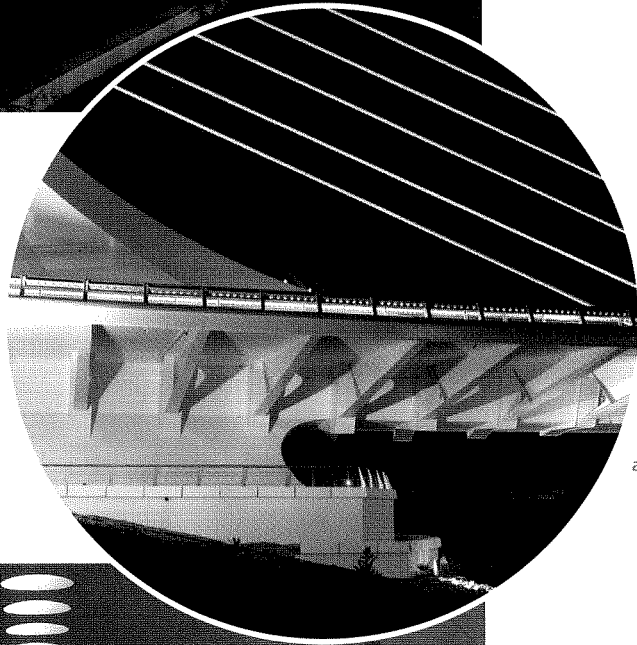


Canopy for bus shelter and pedestrian underpass, St. Gallen, Switzerland.





(Above) Alamillo Bridge, Seville.



(Left) Detail of footing, Alamillo Bridge, Seville.

(Below) Underside of viaduct, Alamillo Bridge, Seville, where a market is held.

