Incheon International Airport Competition

Seoul, Korea

ADRIAN SMITH + GORDON GILL ARCHITECTURE
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AS+GG’s competition design for Incheon Airport’s Terminal 2 is a celebration of Korea’s cultural heritage and success. The form of the terminal, a curved aerodynamic shape, is reminiscent of the traditional Korean building roof lines, thereby reinforcing the cultural heritage.

The expansion of Incheon International Airport offers a new opportunity to draw visitors, create excitement, and set a new precedent as an airport of the future. As air travel expands around the world, the role of airports is changing — Incheon isn’t just a place for travelers to embark on their journeys, it’s part of the journey.

An airport of the future is a transportation hub—an extension of the city which it serves, as well as a city in itself—where thousands of employees serve millions of passengers every year. The integration of the airport as part of the airport city, and as part of Seoul, is key. Incheon International Airport is a symbol of Korea and is an opportunity for people from around the world to experience Korea, even if they are only visiting for a short time. The visit should be a unique, memorable experience; after all, the Terminal is effectively, for many people, the Gateway to Korea.

The new design for Terminal 2 incorporates lessons from Terminal 1 in terms of its successes, along with intelligent planning for future expansion and new excitement in its design.

The design of Terminal 2 is a celebration of Korea’s cultural heritage and success. Its curved, aerodynamic form, is reminiscent of the traditional Korean building roof lines, reinforcing the cultural heritage. The visual experience continues with skylights that begin at the main departure hall and can still be seen by passengers in the arrival hall as well as in the vertical circulation room. Their shape will lead passengers in a directional flow along the main circulation route through the terminal to the boarding gates.

Throughout the day the skylights will project artistic patterns and colors of light onto the walkway below, providing a unique, shared-artistic experience for the visitor; one which they will take with them long after their visit to Incheon.