

ULTra **crystal**

Advanced Transport System

Concept vehicle for European Hystorical Cities – Bath

project: Arch. Federico Donelli

A different point of view

The proposed design for ULTra aims to exalt the original features that differentiate it from other transport systems such as taxi-cab and train.

Both in exterior and interior, it can have a characteristic design thanks mainly to a factor: slow speed (also slow acceleration ad deceleration). As a consequence this vehicle has no particular needs of aerodynamic shape, nor seats should be intended to help the stability of passengers only.

ULTra in an historical city like Bath - The crystal shape

Today design of ULTra is based on streamline and organic shape. It perfectly fit in a modern and technological environment such as an airport and a business district.

This design, instead, offers an alternative vision, of modern taste, but more suitable for European urban areas and historical places such as the city of Bath.

The minimalistic act of creation of a multifaceted polyhedron carries simple and pure values such the ones of a crystal. The design that evokes crystals is also becoming popular as a modern sign, related to beauty, overcoming the idea of beauty = richness or luxury, meaning, instead, beauty = pureness.

In an architectural context, that has roots in classical era, neoclassicism, historicism and a respectful modernism, (that preserved classical values) the simple shape of a crystal is the continuation of the concepts of order and respectful neutrality. It is both ancient and modern.

Comfort and Wellness

The interior space is different from what we are used to see in traditional transport systems. The slow speed and the limited time of passenger's permanence allows to have less rigid ergonomic solutions. The basic principle of vehicle ergonomic is in fact to make passengers feel good allowing a certain free degree inside. This space could be compared to a conversation or a relax area.

Natural materials: iron, wood and leather, are typical of boat design. This make stronger the idea that this vehicle is something particular and it offers a higher comfort level.

ULTra=Protection

One goal of the design is to make a safe vehicle and increment the percieved safety. (create a protection feeling).

- The design easily allows the use of robust materials (or percieved as strong) such as iron, aluminuim, security glass.
- Doors are tough and opaque sliding doors. This fact limits the vision from inside to outside and vice-versa increasing the feeling of protection of passengers.

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