

Urban Transportation

## **Plaza de Castilla Transportation Hub**

Architect: Irene Valbona

The transportation hub at Plaza de Castilla is a strategic exchange point between several means of transport in Madrid. In January of 2008 the completed underground remodeling project was inaugurated with 37 new bus bays for intercity buses. Before construction began, there had been pergolas (lattice-covered breezeways) with bus bays that had perpendicular entrances, which made the crossing between pedestrians and buses exceedingly dangerous. There were also grids of 4 x 8 pillars and a few bulky covered areas that were built in a zigzag pattern which gave off the feeling of being a very small area, as well as little lighting at night which further compounded the problem of being a compressed and poorly lit space.