



R9 Station

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

The design of the canopy draws natural light underground and creates a meeting area for people entering and exiting the station below.

Awards

2009
FIABCI World Prix d'Excellence -
Environmental Category
2nd runner up

Location

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Date

2003-2007

Client

Kaohsiung Rapid Transit
Corporation

Cost

£15 million

Area

14,300m²

Co-Architect

Resource Engineering
Service, Inc.

Structural Engineer
Structured Environment

Service Engineer
Resource Engineering
Service, Inc.

Contractors
Far Eastern Construction
Co. Ltd.
Pan Asia Corporation
Iwata Chizaki Inc.



This station serves Kaohsiung's popular Central Park and the Datong shopping district on the new 'Red' line of the underground system. A large aluminium canopy sails over the underground concourse, protecting commuters from strong sunlight and rainfall but still allows for natural airflow. Aluminium was chosen as the canopy material due to its lightness, durability and resistance to corrosion. The canopy is approximately 50 metres by 50 metres, weighs 220 metric tonnes and sits on four yellow steel 'trees'. Across the canopy's top surface there are a large number of glazed openings filled with frosted glass. On the underside, these openings are perforated to ensure that natural light can reach the concourse underneath, while still helping to dissipate the glare of the sun.

The station entrance, essentially, draws the landscaping down from the park into the station via a sloped, green bank that leads people down to concourse level, some 11 metres below ground. Two sets of escalators – plus staircases on either side – allow people to move between the concourse and park level and are divided by a cascading water feature which helps to animate the approach to the platforms.

In addition to the main entrance, there are two sub-entrances on the opposite side of Chung-Shan Road. These have their own distinctive aluminium canopies supported on smaller yellow steel trees.