Urban Transfer engages with an abandoned rail yard in central Chicago, using the logic of the rail locomotive as an active form of material and social transfer to weave nearby Chinatown, Downtown, and Pilsen and develop an urban landscape that is informed by the collage of these three places. In reversing the effect of industrialization which splintered neighborhoods apart, Urban Transfer explores various notions of transfer that allow an undercurrent memory to surface and actively:

1. Bridge the deepening economic and social divide between North and South Chicago,
2. Develop an unprecedented urban framework based on the notion of transfer that is informed both urbanistically by landscape and architecturally with a market hall, and
3. Revisit and expand upon Daniel Burnham’s Chicago master plan for more green space to be used by the public.

In this new found condition, the project purges the contemporary institution from its social, cultural, and political enclaves by means of circulatory, and programmatic juxtaposition while reviving latent memories to reformulate Chicago’s typology and social condition.
THE TRANSFER OF GREEN SPACES EXTRACTED FROM ADJACENT NEIGHBORHOODS AND
THE USE OF CHICAGO RIVER AS A PUBLIC WATERFRONT ALLOW FOR THE RESTORATION
OF THE SITE AS A PUBLIC PARK WITH NEW FORMS OF MIXED DEVELOPMENT - ALL
SHARED AND USED BY PEOPLE OF ALL THREE NEIGHBORHOODS.

A TRANSFERRED LANDSCAPE BY THE SITE’S RAIL TRACKS ENABLES DIFFERENCES OF
CHICAGO TO PLAY OUT. LANDSCAPE BECOMES A MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE FOR PEOPLE
AND FOR DIFFERENT PARTS OF CHICAGO TO BE BROUGHT TOGETHER IN BOTH DISRUPTIVE
AND SUBLIME WAYS.

MARKET HALL
A market hall is placed on the site where the tracks converge – a programmatic connection between the three neighborhoods. It is designed like a main station where people and cars from all three neighborhoods converge – a nexus of activity where possible connections between paths, lanes, staircases, and forms of travel merge. Underneath the main hall, the remaining four levels of the former Park & Train Station form the four levels of the market hall, housing various businesses, restaurants, and cultural events (870 connecting entries).

ON SITE:
30% Transferred City Hall
12% Transferred Wabash/State
18% Transferred Circulation Pads
19% Commercial Development
12% Residential Development
9% Market Hall