



Illustration by Cesar Vergara

Amtrak High-Speed Train concept

PROJECT TEAM: Cesar Vergara, Chief Designer, Amtrak (1990-2000)
Amtrak Rail Design Center (Philadelphia)
Jason Sheet Metal (Cinnaminson, NJ)

CLIENT: Amtrak

COMPLETION DATE: 1992

In 1990, Amtrak began planning the introduction of high-speed rail service on the Northeast Corridor connecting Boston, New York and Washington. Sweden's X-2000 and Germany's ICE train were used for trial runs in revenue service on the Northeast Corridor following necessary adjustments to operate in North America. Cesar Vergara's fluency in Swedish facilitated the translation of signage and the re-fitting of the cars for use on the Northeast Corridor.

Concurrently, Amtrak directed its Rail Design Center under CESAR VERGARA to conceptualize the Amtrak High Speed Train, or HST. A series of concepts were produced with close cooperation with Amtrak's structural and maintenance engineers. A full scale mock up of a 15-foot section of a coach was constructed to test accessibility issues. In conjunction with the marketing department, scale model railway bridges were built to showcase the Amtrak concepts. This project served as part of the industrial design foundation for what became the Acela high-speed rail trainsets.

As part of the High Speed Program, Amtrak experimented with the exterior and interior design of an existing **RTL Turbo trainset** from the 1970's. The train operated in New York State. The two pictures shown present the exterior treatment.







