



1994 Watford Conference and Brunel Awards

PROJECT TEAM: Cesar Vergara, Chief Designer, Amtrak (1990-2000)
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Watford Group of European Architects and Railway Designers
Amtrak Rail Design Center (Philadelphia, PA)
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G2 Productions (Philadelphia, PA)

CLIENT: Amtrak

COMPLETION DATE: 1994

In 1994, Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration and the National Endowment for the Arts hosted the Watford Group and Brunel Award in Washington, DC and Williamsburg, VA. This prestigious conference and award presentation has gathered the top railway architects and designers for over 40 years for a free exchange of ideas, projects and new industry developments. The purpose of the conference is simple -- to improve the quality of architecture and design throughout the world's railway industry. The United States joined in 1992 and CESAR VERGARA, as Amtrak's chief designer, attended that year's conference in Arcos de la Frontera, Spain.

The Watford Group conducts the Brunel Awards periodically to recognize the best work being done in the field. The judges are independent professionals chosen by the steering committee. Amtrak hosted the event in 1994, the first ever held outside Europe, which also included a presentation of Brunel Awards.

CESAR VERGARA, as part of the event organizing committee, assumed the responsibilities for design. The elements included banners that adorned Union Station in Washington, DC, the design of the call-for-entries and the catalogue of winning designs, and a traveling exhibit that was shown in Philadelphia's 30th Street Station, Union Station In Washington, and venues in Mexico. The conference was a great success; the United States will host the Watford Conference and Brunel Awards for the second time in 2011 in New York and Washington.

