Formerly the terminus of the CTA’s Blue Line, the Logan Square station is an enormous expanse of bare concrete and asphalt, in stark contrast to the scale and accommodation of the surrounding neighborhood and the lushness of the nearby boulevards and parks.

Residents consider the space an unfinished project and a missed opportunity to make modern-day improvements to the grandly conceived urban fabric of this neighborhood. Logan Square is in dire need of affordable housing. Two recent developments near the California stop have no affordable units, causing area rents to rise even further. This project calls for the development of a true affordable housing solution in the form of prefab micro apartments to be built in conjunction with a market hall capable of housing Logan Square’s active farmers market and the local food co-op. The goal is to greatly increase the population density near this plaza, allowing easy access to fresh food and services without inviting in more cars.

To achieve this goal, Diversey Avenue is reconfigured to create a new T-shaped intersection north of its current location. This creates a safer traffic pattern and allows for the creation of a legitimate bus turnaround on Kedzie rather than the current drive-through configuration. The new plaza will connect the buses to the trains under a continuous roof, buffering the plaza from the surrounding traffic on Kedzie. This layout allows shops, bars, restaurants, and activity to spill out onto sidewalks, enhancing public life in Logan Square.
The Market Hall is part of the new inner city heart of the Laurens Quarter, the original pre-war center of Rotterdam. The building is a sustainable combination of food, leisure, living and parking, all fully integrated to enhance and make the most of the synergies between the building’s different functions.

The hall is formed from an arch of privately developed apartments, strategically allowing this investment and initiative to provide for a sheltered public space. The result is a grand square which acts as a central market hall during the day and, after closing hours, remains lively due to the mix of restaurants on the first floor. The apartments follow strict Dutch law regarding natural daylight: all rooms that require natural light are situated on the outside, while kitchens and dining rooms are positioned at the interior, establishing a connection to the market. The building’s front and backside are covered with a flexible suspended glass façade, allowing for maximum transparency and a minimum of structure—the largest span of its kind in Europe.