

PROJECT STATEMENT

The Ribbon

The bridge traverses the north-south axis of the park, serving as a point of connection between the east and west plazas. It houses both programmed and unprogrammed spaces like an open-air theatre (OAT), observation deck, cycling and pedestrian paths that allow for extemporaneous but defined reactions from its end-users.

The Ribbon itself modulates along multiple levels, its wavelike contours implying a state of constant flow that lies at the heart of San Jose's passion for innovation. Its form is inspired by the Mobius Strip—a mathematical object, defined as 'the simplest non-orientable surface', that has come to symbolize the richness that can result from the most elemental forms. To the Silicon Valley-insider, it will be a symbol of the purest sophistication. To the uninitiated, it will be a ribbon blowing freely in the wind.

At the center of the bridge sits **the OAT**, situated right above the watersmeet, providing an opportunity for San Joseans to interact and introspect—a pause in time in the busy life of a community.

On either side, the bridge spirals downward along ramps that encompass a restaurant on one side and a museum on the other. Both these ramps act as anchors grounding the bridge within their respective plazas.

At the northeast anchor, the bridge continues to loop upward around a circular core, drawing the eye towards the **observation deck**. Rising to a height of 200 ft, it will offer unhindered views of the city, and an ideal way for San Jose to see itself.

After dusk, the Ribbon comes alive through projection-mapping, high wavelength lights and music, a beaming reflection of technological innovation. The bridge's AV systems will be equipped with time-clock controls, allowing flexibility in turning off all or part of the lights to reduce the negative impact of ALAN. This will ensure the native species that inhabit the site aren't disturbed.

The East & West Plazas

The east plaza houses a **children's museum, exhibition areas, bistro, and mini kiosks**, while the west houses a **restaurant & OAT**, each offering opportunities for rest and relaxation.

A key feature of the east plaza will be an interactive **water sculpture** centered amongst water channels and bioluminescent pathways—all inspired by the ubiquitous silicon chip, the product that gave Silicon Valley its name.

Materials & Net-Zero Strategies

The project will be very ambitious in its attempt to up-cycle materials, giving them a second life. A few examples include molding e-waste into the silicon chip water sculpture, and using cross-laminated timber, wicker weaves and recycled aluminium mesh for the ribbon's framework. Rainwater harvesting systems and off-grid solar will also play a prominent role in offsetting the project's overall footprint.