

PROJECT STATEMENT

1. Project Significance:

The city of San Jose is rich in culture and history, and a commerce hub in the highly technological Silicon Valley. It is against this background that I tackled the project in keeping with the parameters set by the competition brief—the 100 foot setback from the riparian corridor, height limit of 200 feet for structures, and other guidelines relating to the city administrators program of development.

2. Objectives of this Proposal

The objectives of this ideas/conceptual proposal is to present what will be in keeping with the needs of the city, to present what will not adversely impact the natural environment, and to provide some continuity with the existing urban fabric. A proposal that can benefit and be used by people of all ages including the disabled, locals as well as tourists is important as well, not to mention the educational and other values.

3.Landmark

In keeping with these aforementioned objectives I came up with a landmark—a Tower (with its ancillaries)—which has a minimum footprint and has the following functions/components:

- a. This landmark will relate to the existing Pillars where an interpretive tour can start, hence a footpath from this pillars area going across the river by way of a proposed footbridge which will be sufficiently wide to accommodate emergency vehicles or special staff vehicles. Design of this bridge can be done in the next phase (refer to Presentation Board 1)
- .b. V-footpaths lead to existing pedestrian crossings towards the downtown area and towards existing trails.
- .c. Existing parking near the pillars area can be utilized for visitors to the Tower. Some limited parking can be provided for staff and emergency vehicles near the Tower.

d. Tower

- Entrance/lobby on ground level with reception desk, Interpretation Panels, public washrooms (associated septic tank to blend with environment; main feature is the glass scenic elevator which goes to the top.
- An additional nine floors plus smaller floor at the top for more technical personnel and star gazers in conjunction with the proposed International Time Zone spherical clock.
- A variety of uses can be applied to some floors but climbing to the top will be like a sort of interpretive/narrated educational journey. Perhaps the city administrators can find appropriate uses for the floors.

4. Topography

Since the site slope is very gentle, at this time I have not looked at the topography; this will be done at next stage.