

PROJECT STATEMENT – THE PEARL *at the confluence*

Silicon Valley is a place where innovation and creativity have found a permanent home; it is a sanctuary for visionaries and entrepreneurs; a beacon of hope and optimism. The Pearl *at the confluence* seeks to evoke these virtues through a combination of form and function.

The main structure is composed of a three-part podium and five ‘dancing rings’, perfectly round when seen from above, but elegantly sinuous when observed from the side. This sinuosity echoes that of the river and creek that run through the site, and the subtle ups and downs of the structure’s silhouette mirrors that of the surrounding mountains. The design is meant to represent the peaks and valleys of creativity, the unevenness of thought, and the graceful choreography of minds that result in the birth of life changing ideas.

The confluence points between each of the rings allow visitors to find their own path through and up the structure while enjoying a multitude of viewpoints along the way. The rings increasingly expand in diameter as the structure rises, resulting in a design profile that works as a metaphor for the ever-growing inclusive nature of innovation, and the societal development that comes with it.

At the center of this choreographed dance sits The Pearl, which is meant to symbolize the product of creativity; the idea being born. During the day, this glossy orb reflects not only the surrounding structure, but the city skyline and landscapes beyond it. At night, the pearl comes alive. Completely covered in low energy consumption OLED displays, the spherical screen becomes the beating heart of Arena Green and San Jose. Every night, the pearl displays a different light scheme for which artists from San Jose and around the world are invited to submit their artistic lighting designs.

The structure also acts as an arena for public events and performances. The rings serve as viewing platforms from which to enjoy the activities taking place under the pearl. The podium on which the structure stands contains 3 buildings: a visitor center, a café, and a gallery to offer visitors an interactive venue to further expand their understanding of the site and the relevance of the Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River.

Photovoltaic panels placed on the viewing platforms across the river provide enough power to satisfy the Pearl’s energy demands, achieving a Net-Zero carbon footprint year-round.