

The circle has been described as the most perfect shape. It is often found in nature but also constantly present in our material and symbolic cultures. From ancient representations of the sun to the modern roundabout, the circle seems to relate to an ample variety of uses and meanings.

Planets circle the sun, atoms circle their nucleus, there are circles of influence and vicious circles too. Circles are found in the annual rings of trees but also in the movement of CD's and harddrives. In the rolling hills of Silicon Valley an infinite number of revolutions per minute happen in circular ways. Even the old San Jose Electric Light Tower has circular shapes as part of its structural design.

When we cut into a circle we challenge its infinite beauty and logic. The cut up pieces might even lose the sense of the form from which they originate. They appear scattered like pieces of a broken glass having no resemblance to the glass itself. If we on the other hand would make sure that each piece contains its own circular shapes, the relation between the circle and the piece would be turned around. What is big becomes small and what is small becomes big. This simple geometrical journey might very well be a symbol of the spirit of Silicon Valley. In tiny spaces big ideas are conceived. A full layout of the universe is stored in an electric circuit the size of a fingernail. The very basic shapes of the universe are reimaged and assembled in new ways.

The suggested design consists of four pieces of a circle. In the wide cityscape, the pieces will stand out by shape and colour. The pieces will be positioned on a ring formation connecting the river banks visually and symbolically. Circular openings on each facade will create rhythm and add functionality to the construction. Each opening will provide the infrastructure for spaces to sit, to hide, to laugh, to cross, to ponder.

By cutting up the most perfect of shapes and reassembling it at the gateway of Silicon Valley the proposal seeks to become a landmark dedicated to the courage and innovative spirit of the place. We call it The Circle.