

## **San Jose BLOOM - PROJECT STATEMENT**

*“Architecture appears for the first time when the sunlight hits a wall.  
The sunlight did not know what it was before it hit a wall.”*

— Louis Kahn

San Jose BLOOM brings its location to life through the dynamic expression of light.

At dawn, BLOOM is an organic arcade of steel and timber, woven into the landscape and covered by a perforated canopy, centered around a monolithic observation tower. As the sun rises, it “charges” a series of kinetic armatures, lifting them via a solar-powered drive system. These armatures emerge as “petals” from the canopy,, slowly revealing apertures in the roof of the arcade. The petals lift in the morning and afternoon, filtering and diffusing light, and in the evening, they coalesce around the observation tower, forming a spire of overlapping translucent shapes. As the sun sets, the petals begin to lower, discharging their energy into shimmering light via thousands of LEDs. This “blooming” process recalls California Poppies and other flowers that open and close diurnally, and will create a dynamic, iconic experience throughout the day and night.

BLOOM addresses the challenge of a net-zero light installation by pairing a tested renewable resource appropriate for San Jose - photovoltaics - with a clean, reliable, and innovative kinetic energy storage system. This creates not only an ideal technical solution, but a remarkably unique experience, where those who use the park, pass by, or view from afar, are invited into the process of energy flow. The tower becomes a cyclical event, a solar clock recording the movement and intensity of the sun, and echoing it back into the night.

The observation tower houses the drive motors and generator. A photovoltaic-powered energy-recovery elevator brings visitors up through the tower, to an observation deck with 360-degree views of the city and surrounding mountains. Surfaces of the tower serve as rock-climbing walls, engaging the sense of touch and the experience of triumph.

BLOOM’s structure reaches toward the SAP Center, vaulting over Autumn St. to create a plaza, embracing the green space of Arena Green as a gateway to the creek and river. (Note: the design team understands that spanning over and changing the use of a right-of-way will require special permission from, and coordination with San Jose and other jurisdictions, and will work with them and the community in Phase II to meet their regulations, and revise the design as needed).