

In pursuit of creating an iconic landmark for Silicon Valley we decided to focus on the notions of knowledge and information. We wanted to express such qualities of San Jose as innovation, diversity, and boldness of approach. One of the key features of San Jose as the XXI century innovation hub is the speed and quality of communication based on data exchange. When “particles” of information collide, marvelous discoveries emerge. We imagine a realm of data as a collection of such particles, randomly placed within a “cloud”. Even though dispersion prevails in this arrangement, there is a focal point. It is not visible at a first sight, but particles oscillate around it, just as various ideas emerge around a discovery to be made. The focal point is therefore a void within the dense cloud of particles. This counterintuitive approach where void receives most attention adds to ambiguity and ephemeral character of the installation. What is more, the void beautifully frames sunset watched from the east side of the park and from the highway. The concept of particles is brought to reality via a collection of rods of different heights with piezoelectric panels installed between them.

In this installation nature plays a significant role. Knowledge expressed via plates and rods is a connection between people and nature – it helps us understand the complex world around us. Knowledge broadens the horizons and allows to change one’s points of view. To visualize this aspect, we literally took the ground level and elevated it towards the middle of the structure – to allow people to observe the surrounding from different perspective. The panels installed above the path reflect greenery below it, creating striking contrast with the sky, further enhancing the feeling of ambiguity and randomness in nature.

We also underline the multiplicity of realms in nature. Each layer of landscape is represented by a different function in the installation. The slope throughout it is a longitudinal continuation that brings unity to all the layers.

Presented installation has not only a very deep and significant meaning in terms of abstract explanation of Silicon Valley, but is also an intriguing landscape element filled with place-making elements that will surely activate this part of the city and will become recognizable landmark for San Jose worldwide.