

Confluence Line

Between Ourselves, Amongst Each Other

"Me We", is a poem by Muhammad Ali spoken at a commencement speech in response to a shouting student: "Give us a poem, Muhammad!!" It is tied for the shortest poem ever composed, yet offers a world of understanding, sympathy and a compassion for self, collective, nation and humanity. It is an expression of individuality amongst a collective identity: not for, not against, not indifferent, but all and any of those attitudes, combined and ever changing.

Confluence Point, Arena Green, Urban Confluence Silicon Valley: "Give us an architecture!!" Give us an architecture that resonates this very moment in time, this moment in place, against and amongst this continuing history of ourselves amongst each other. Give us an architecture that reveals the changes, affects and effects of yourselves to us in the world at the heart of San Jose. Give us an architecture that brings ourselves to each other.

The proposal is simple; it is a line: non-spatial, minimal and drawn between two points. A line is typically drawn to designate, delineate and divide and has no space or volume, only implications of movement through time. The project proposes to combine this movement of time with an inhabitation of the non-spatial line, inhabiting the designation and delineation mechanism, itself: fattening this once non-spatial division, and in creation of space, in Occupancy of Division, it can reveal the "Me" between ourselves, the "We" amongst each other: San Jose to the world and the world to this drawn Confluence Line.

The following program is proposed to occupy the line: an Exploratorium or Academy of Science-like museum, a branch of a community college, a library, a retail section and a park for the displaced landscape below. The line is raised up high: contributing to its simple monumentality, to allow visitors privileged views of the Valley and to create a subliminal environment of space and structure. In combination, these architectural design intents create an atmosphere that encourages individual introspection against a backdrop of Silicon Valley historical past, vibrant present and malleable future – then, now and forever on: between ourselves, amongst each other.