

## Project Statement

Blue and green ribbons flow intertwined northward from the Santa Cruz mountains to the San Francisco bay. Marshes created by the flows of the Guadalupe River and El Gato Creek give rise to the Tule Reed. For thousands of years the forefamilies of this valley fashioned their homes, their watercraft, their vessels from this common sedge.

An explosion of energy in the form of light, sounds and movement mark the waterway's bisection of the San Jose cityscape. Paralleled by the Guadalupe Freeway, the riverbed lacks shelter from its cacophonous surroundings. In the spirit of protecting this creature-path a new concept for Arena Green East Park springs vertical. Stacked one atop another an audacious mash up of fun is realized. Tennis, dog park, badminton, basketball, cafe, pump track, skatepark, auditorium and climbing wall combine to form a vertical antfarm of activity.

It is this wall that is clad with a new interpretation of the Tule Reed mat. Extremely dense on its river face, blocking sounds, light and movement the "mat" is a nearly opaque buffer. The highway and cityside of this structure's perimeter is skeletal, inviting views and celebrating dynamic interactions. These oversize "reeds" will be regionally sourced in a durable, green material. This exploration of materials and detail will honor the spirit of a humble, marsh side sedge, but will also allow for the integration of new photovoltaic technologies to reach net-zero energy goals and become a beacon of environmental stewardship.

On the northeastern face a pyramidal void exists. This void mimics the silhouette of the historic Owens Electric Tower. A hexagonal arrangement of 6 clustered lights hover atop this chasm harkening back to that 1881 beacon.

City tower dwellers and passing motorists will marvel at the activated ant farm with its subtle tip of the hat to this city's iconic light tower. On its flip side, the riverscape shall be shielded by this wall.....a moment to Capture Quiet.