

Silicon Valley is known as a place of innovation, adaptation, and cutting edge technology. Just as the Eiffel Tower was a display of new structural technology, the “Moving Monument” displays a new form of integrated aesthetics with kinetic clean energy producing technology. The exterior of the tower is clad in acrylic rods that sway and bounce in the wind. Each rod produces its own generated energy, through four mini-kinetic generators attached at the base of each rod. A breeze as light as 4 mph can produce roughly 5 kWh of power. With over 46,000 rods attached to the exterior of the tower, the ‘hairs’ can potentially produce roughly 230,000 kWh. To put these numbers in perspective an average household uses only 11,000 kWh. The rods or ‘Hairs’ can potentially produce enough energy to power the tower and the surrounding park space. This generated kinetic energy would be attached to the city grid to give any excessive energy to the surrounding area, while simultaneously never needing to be fully dependent on the breeze of the San Jose Valley.

Designed with placemaking in mind, the ‘hairs’ light up with a small LED bulb embedded in the base of the rod and become interactive as they sway in the San Jose breeze. The LED lights will be customizable, allowing for the city to celebrate various holidays or display the teal and orange colors of the San Jose Sharks. Entering the “Moving Monument” the user can see the interaction with each hair as they meander through the entry. With 9 different levels of the tower being occupiable, the city could potentially rent the excess space or keep the levels as additional civic space. An observation deck is 13 stories up at the top level of the tower and has close to a complete 180 degree view of the surrounding San Jose Valley. Standing at 180’ tall, the “Moving Monumnet” becomes a beacon of innovation and adaptability for the region.