

PROJECT STATEMENT

OVERLOOK HILL

Overlook Hill is a topographical formation set within the urban landscape of Santa Clara Valley. Conceived as a living landmark that vertically extends the Guadalupe River Park, it provides a series of occupiable viewing platforms, community spaces, and public amenities for downtown San Jose. Overlook Hill is conceived as an open scaffolding for urban life.

LANDMARK AS PLACE

Echoing iconic natural rock formations, the soft profile of this artificial inselberg reshapes the horizon to create unique and defining icon for San Jose and Silicon Valley. Overlook Hill invites people to climb to reach its summit, explore its “trails”, and enjoy the view on its many lookouts. Multiple cultural and community programs (a cafe, an open library, several gardens, etc) occupy its open frame, while a large circular cutout frames a dramatic elevated viewing bridge. Accessible throughout with a network of elevators, ramps and interconnecting stairs, it offers a rich patchwork of experiences. Whether you are looking for a quiet picnic spot, in search of an unforgettable view, or organizing a community meeting, Overlook Hill becomes the new point of urban confluence merging nature and city in one.

CHANGING LIGHT

During the day, Overlook Hill’s open frame structure transforms from solid to transparent in the changing sun. At night, lighted from within, it projects its figure against the night sky with its circular viewing frame inscribing and illuminated orb. Lighting is minimized to limit impact to nature below and calibrated in conversation with the environmental needs of the site .

REGIONAL SYMBOL

Silicon Valley’s culture of innovation embraces continuous change and evolution. Overlook Hill embodies this ethos. Designed for continual transformation, its vegetation planned with different flowering and growth seasons changes its appearance throughout the year. Inside, spaces are reconfigurable to accommodate changing community uses and preferences over time. Overlook Hill becomes a physical symbol celebrating the dynamic nature of the region – an ever changing ecosystem offering a panoply of experiences for the community and those who visit.

NET-ZERO & SUSTAINABILITY

An artifact of urban infrastructure as much as a landmark, Overlook Hill acts as an open sponge capturing rain runoff, filtrating and storing it cisterns for its own use. Photo-voltaics produce enough energy for its operations while geothermal support heating/cooling needs of enclosed zones. Shaded by its hanging gardens it serves as a community cooling center during heat waves while reducing the heat-island effect. More importantly, all sustainability features are made visible as educational tools for visitors.