

Project Statement

The Point is where the earth and sky meet each other as converging hyperbolic surfaces. At the base, four portions of Guadalupe Park rise up to become arching bridges that connect into a central circular walkway. Above, a curved sculptural vessel opens up to become an outdoor art gallery in the sky.

The garden bridge is robust and alive with plants and trees, hosting picnics and small gatherings on the many planted terraces facing out toward the city. It has a rough-hewn stone finish suggestive of the natural river rocks below. The gallery above is a more abstract and contemplative space that delicately touches down on the base. In contrast to the earthen bridge areas, the gallery is composed of super smooth, reflective glass and metal that mirror the sky and city.

Between these two exterior zones is a light-filled interior space around an open void in the center where visitors can see the sky above, the river below, and across to people on the other side. This is a two-story protected space acting as a transition from one area to the other, and supported by service cores with elevators, washrooms, a cafe, and gift shop.

The Point pays homage to two of the Bay Area's most significant assets – abundant natural beauty and technological innovation. The building celebrates and increases the surface area of the existing park by adding trees, plants, and landscape features. Meanwhile, the smooth and shiny curves of the gallery above references an imagined future made possible by advanced robotic tools and state-of-the-art materials.

The design has a minimal footprint of only 4 structural piers to avoid disrupting the existing ecology of the site. It is a net-zero project with integrated solar power and the most efficient electrical and plumbing systems and fixtures. It is a big civic statement, but a thin and efficient building that adds green space instead of taking it away.

Above all, The Point encourages us to come together and share our experiences. More than a swooping architectural stunt, it is fundamentally a new kind of social landscape. Both noun and verb, it takes us on an urban hike from the familiar to the whimsical and back again, offering a myriad of new perspectives along the way.