

## The Photon Tower

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Contemporary monuments serve as cultural destination icons but lack substance beyond cultural use. The Photon Tower holds iconicism, innovation, and sustainable energy resource practices at its core. This structure capitalizes on the environmental conditions of the open site by capturing solar and wind energy. By focusing on energy generation, the tower pays tribute to technology with the use of solar panel cladding and VAWT turbine technology baked into the architectural tectonics. Within the landscape, large forms serve as water collection and retention ponds, pushing the tower and urban park to a net-zero icon.

Pockets for activities, events, and gatherings are produced by the relationship between the elevated forms and hardscape. Community farmers markets, street artists, and family can engage with these spaces resulting in a stronger sense of community and gathering. Positioned on the northern bank of the park, two overlook platforms capture views of Area Green East, while respecting the riparian zone. The Photon Tower hosts one elevator to lift visitors to its 200-foot overlook. This experience begins with a tailored view of the park as one rises and finishes with a 360 degree of San Jose and offers a one of a kind view over Area Green and over the freeway down Santa Clara street.

The strong geometric form of the tower and landscape set the site apart from the typical built environment. This difference plays to the desire for flashy backdrops and Instagram-able space that we all know and love. By combining sustainable energy resource practices, innovation, and iconicism, The Photo Tower pays homage to San Jose, the capitol of Silicon Valley, and will serve as a fountain of inspiration, culture, and innovation just as the city itself does.