

The Pie In The Sky is an observation tower and a new icon for San Jose and its surrounding region. The main attraction of the tower is the Observation Green, an expansive 5,000 square foot rooftop grass lawn. It is an elegant and graceful open air community space, 200 feet above Urban Confluence Park. The grass surface, convex and circular with an infinity edge, will be an inspirational destination for generations to come. The journey from the ground level to the top is made on pathways from the interpretive center 1,200 feet to the south, then, by either climbing the robust double helix staircase, or by riding the elevator in the central core of the tower. The tower experience is dynamic during daytime and night. The double helix stairs have a slow undulating glow at night that will draw visitors from afar. The pathways and helical stairs leading to the top of the tower are red and blue indicating arrival and departure; a metaphor derived from both vascular circulation and astronomical observation.

The observation level of the tower, just below the Observation Green, is an enclosed darkened space with a live high definition video feed from the International Space Station on the exterior walls. This imagery will rotate around the room every 90 minutes matching the orbital period of the ISS. An astronomically correct night sky is projected on the concave ceiling. Below is the elevator hall, an all white minimal space providing pause and transition for the visitor.

There are two related buildings in the park plan that each have supporting roles for the tower.

The Long House will provide 162 kW of solar generation and an all purpose space where the community can gather for multiple functions. Park programming and space rentals will enliven The Long House with diverse activities. Restrooms and a Cafe on either end will service the needs of visitors.

The interpretive Center with its museum shop will provide a launching point for the experience. Here visitors can arrange timed tower visits, and browse through curated scientific and artistically related materials.

Our project weaves the aspirations of humanity together in a holistic way. The park will be a special place where visitors can breathe and open their minds.