

Project Statement

The concept of the design is derived from the idea of “Cloud”, encouraging massive social network linking all the small networks through the delivery of different activities and events activated by this global iconic creation. To shape the urban realm of Silicon Valley, the design aims to transform the underutilized area into a vibrant place identity. This public centrepiece enables ubiquitous and convenient accessibility from different corners of the city by serving as the main attraction in the midst of the city, rousing people and pulling them towards to climb and explore the new landmark. We reimagine, revitalize and reinvent the public space to encourage social activities and create a sense of space to enhance the urban experience.

Two spiral decks emerge from the opposite points of the site and swirl into each other, representing the confluence of Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek. Two spiral ramps distinguish themselves by white and gray colors intertwined and meet at two points to form a communal seating area revealing views across the central forest. Multiple plinths position themselves from taking cues from the circulated ramps to elevate the signature landmark. Upon entering the site, visitors would raise their eyes skyward enjoying the spectacular soaring structure. Rising to a 56m tall of observation platform and walkway, we see anew the potential of a celebratory, active, walkable and sittable social spaces for people from different corners of the globe to gather, converse and interact.

To change the proximity of the nature and alter a physical relationship in the built environment, we enhance the riparian ecology of the site by bringing in clusters of trees contained within the looping promenade. The defining features of the seamless and continuous ramps are nestled in the verdant and lush green providing panoramic views over the surrounding environment. The reflective surfaces of the ramps help to dissolve themselves into the dense foliage and vice versa, catching the public eyes towards the airy and floaty structure. A healthy urban forest within the community helps to attenuate stormwater, reduce heat island effect, reduce negative effects of air pollution and greenhouse gas emission, provide canopy and habitat for wildlife and improve mental health of people. Overlooking Mount Hamilton from top of the spiral structure, visitors gain immersive experience from within and above the trees. People are poised to involve themselves in this harmonized atmosphere, meandering around the trees.