

Silicon Valley is the tech capital of the world populated with people who are constantly trying to push their limits and make the impossible possible. The proposed dynamic tower is 170 feet high and has a dynamic skin that responds to climatic conditions. The movement of the skin doesn't rely on mechanical components but rather uses a cutting-edge technology of elastic silicon polymers that stretch and contract with the help of sensors and controls. The proposal uses rhombus shaped frames that expand both horizontally and vertically. During the day the skin can be expanded with respect to climatic conditions while at night it can be contracted to occupy as minimum space as possible in the sky, thus not intruding any natural bird activity in the sky.

Analysis and corresponding design interventions:

A public space influences its neighbourhood as much as it's influenced from it. To make an interesting public space it is important to design a space that attracts a diversified set of users. The neighbourhood surrounding the park is predominantly housing but it also has commercial areas, offices etc as indicated in the map. This signifies the fact that the park/icon will have diverse users at different times of the day.

Silicon valley's main occupation changed from 'Agriculture' to 'Electro-culture'. Since Fairchild Corporation, namesake of Silicon Valley started manufacturing silicon transistors, the city's name was changed to Silicon Valley, from then on it attracts companies striving to innovate in paradigm shifting technology. Cutting-edge technology is the pride of Silicon Valley and the icon should represent this.

The urban grain of the city reveals that the city planning has promoted using open spaces in each property. The residential neighbourhoods have traditional characteristics like a front lawn, a backyard etc. This signifies the importance of open spaces and green cover in the planning history of San Jose. The proposal strives to retain as many trees as possible. This will have a low impact on the environment as well as provide a well shaded public space that provides thermal comfort.

The heat map analyses the routes and places most used by the users in the park. The users based on activities were listed out and these activities are incorporated in the design. The proposal aims to spread out the activities and not make any area of the park dormant.