

*At the end of the 19th Century, the San José Light Tower was erected to light up the city at night and bring its people together. An accomplishment that spoke for the technological innovations of its time: electric lighting and modern building techniques. To build an urban artifact that signifies the memory of the San José Light Tower would demand the use of light as a catalyst of social interaction and a story to tell of Silicon Valley's recent achievements. Silicon Valley is not only a place, but a culture where people, ideas and beliefs are innovating the ways that we connect to other humans. Thus, this project does not propose an object in space but a space of inclusion for everyone: thinkers, citizens and tourists. It not only emphasizes the unique condition of the confluence of two rivers in Arena Green, but it also gives a gateway and an identity to Silicon Valley by conveying that real human connection is based on equity.*

*The ground opens and the space is held by a wall and a stoa that rise from underneath of each side of the park. The wall does not imprison but gives freedom to the individual. This new environment provokes a diversity of cultural activities, behaviors, and effects that are enhanced by its collective spaces: platform, land theater, forum, and garden. Further, an Archive is contained in the wall and the underground data center. It stores and transmits the History of Information Technology: a story on human connection. From the alphabet and books to the computer and internet. People can enter the wall and rise through the machine to face multiple panoramic views of Silicon Valley and Downtown San José. The wall not only provides access to culture, but it's also designed to register the hand of every individual that touches it. A record of time. Humans leave a mark of their existence, meaning that every life is equally important.*

*The park operates with the sun in a timeless manner. The screen of the wall and the entablature of the stoa store sunlight energy during the day. Then, that energy gets released to light up the night from the underground and through the light beams of the landscape. These light beams respond to the different activities happening in the park, whether it's a musical concert or a parade. Ultimately, the park becomes a tool for human connection.*