

# The Silicon Valley Cloud

The Silicon Valley Cloud is the landmark from the digital world that transcends into the physical world.

Proposed urban feature, architectural structure, is the physical manifestation of its digital counterpart in the form of transparent cloud-like structure, with integrated interactive, digitally driven light installation.

Silicon Valley is the birthplace of a new age in human civilization, the data age. The difference in change from industrial to data age is argued to be greater than the change from agricultural to the industrial society. It is arguably the biggest tipping point in the history of mankind, the point in time where civilization is no more imaginable and almost not even possible without the interconnected layers of digital and physical realms. Location of this event sits in Silicon Valley, and San Jose as its epicenter should have a monumental physical manifestation, a reminder of the legacy of Silicon Valley.

## Place making

It was considered important to connect all the land around the river confluence, in order to activate all land uses and allow for diversity of functions. The structure connects three land pieces with three pedestrian crossings engaging with pedestrians into the “walk through the cloud” experience.

A strong visual presence during the day and night, open space beneath it, interactive light installation and inviting social space allows for flexible and resilient city attraction.

## Light design

Incorporated light is the integral part of the structure. The structure itself is a 3D light canvas allowing for extraordinary digital light shows.

The LED lights are incorporated inside the translucent casing, producing a vivid, dimmed architectural light in order to reduce the impact on wildlife and to produce the unique light experience as well.

## Form

The overall form of the structure describes a minimal surface. This specific class of geometries has one particular physical property, it guarantees constant tension in structural load and possibility of use of cable net structures.

Aside from the form's functional properties, the dynamic and intriguing geometry along with transparent effect of the structure, creates a strong visual identity and recognizable landmark.

## Structural System

Structural system is a self supporting tensile cable net structure, suspended on a steel structure frame. Structurally steel frame accepts compression loads while steel cables distribute the loads