

Project Statement

The Urban Confluence Silicon Valley competition challenged the world to design a landmark in a section of the Guadalupe River park next to San Jose's SAP center. This region's innovation has imprinted San Jose and the Silicon Valley as the technology capital on the world. As a result, in the last two decades, the city has gone through a massive transformation. The Silicon Valley is a representation of how time brings about innovation and change with each generation, technology being a verdict to this successional phenomenon. Thus, this design translates the interconnection between the past, present and future into the built environment through the use of symbolic representations and experiences inside the Arena Green West. The 'Oak Canopy Seating' represents the past due to its qualities as a passive space that encourages reflection among the surrounding nature. The 'Sky Playground' and adjacent seating area represents the present as they are active spaces within the park. Finally, The 'Hourglass' landmark structure represents the future through its interactive light sculpture that stretches down from the building to the base, and throughout the park. The light sculpture stretching all the way through the park symbolizes interconnection between the past, present and future. Another pattern throughout the park are the Ginkgo trees. Fossils related to the modern Ginkgo have been found dating back 270 million years ago, therefore the trees are sometimes referred to as "living fossils." This Ginkgo presents a direct connection to the past and symbolize a powerful prevalence throughout time. This tree further reaffirms this connection between the past, present and future through its deciduous cycle which repeats each season. Through this process, the trees were selected to represent the generational succession we see as a society regarding the technology and innovation created and experienced in our lifetimes.

The competition also presented the opportunity to practice respect for the surrounding context and natural ecology of the site. In this regard, the design transforms the site into a platform for an iconic structure, while maintaining harmony with the Guadalupe River confluence through careful site analysis.