

Urban Confluence:

Two rivers join to form one more powerful river, just as the development of hardware and software join together to form one powerful river which flows worldwide.

The confluence of two rivers was a sacred notion in Native American culture, and as the Milky Way river flowed across the sky there were branches at each end of the river which were never visible at the same time. In Native America, branching was fundamental to Nature. A branch could form a smile, lips, an insect, a landscape, or a face. Branching was essential to fertility, and to the interconnectedness of Nature itself.

I've create two sculptures on the site. One is a folded spherical observatory through which one can observe the night sky. This one hundred-seventy foot tall steel sculpture, created by folding, represents the development of hardware for computing. Hardware development requires branching, and folding. Even a notebook computer requires unfolding.

A second more feminine sculpture is derived geometrically from the inner negative space of the observatory. This sculpture is the essence of the first one, as hardware is useless without software development. The inner sculpture is a translucent white tensioned fabric shell which provides a contemplative inner sanctuary. Branching is also fundamental to software development. In fact, software is soft like a fabric structure. In many ways, the negative space is the "empty mind".

The base of the Observatory is a pedestal and a series of steps which ascend gradually. One can continue up the steps and climb up, into, and around the sculpture to the inside of the "empty mind". From the upper platform, one is actually inside the sculpture which provides a perspective of the sky above, or into the park below. At a distance, one can see the software sanctuary sculpture.

Being inside the software sanctuary is like being inside an egg which is cracking open to reveal the surrounding world.