

### Urban Confluence Silicon Valley

The proposed idea for the new landmark of San José (CA), strives to become an universally recognizable icon of Silicon Valley, intended as more than a geographic denomination, but for what it means and represent in the imaginary of the people of the world nowadays.

It consists in a panoramic, vertiginous, mesmerizing, challenging 3/4 mile long walk rising and 3/4 miles descending, with its spiral ramp running up to 192 feet of height above the confluence of the Guadalupe river and Los Gatos creek.

The design of this spectacular object, interact with the urban, landscaping and structural design disciplines and its architectural shape is generated through advanced parametric software tools and high-tech building modelling operations but also through an aesthetic, humanistic and holistic approach.

The metaphor of the "Pareto's champagne glass" or "80/20 rule", in fact inspire the proposed new iconic landmark of the Silicon Valley, context where the computer revolution started and changed the human's life forever during the last three decades, one of the wealthiest places on Earth and today still the land of the best opportunities for new ideas and talents coming from all over.

The structure has a circular plan and is located on the Arena Green West area approximately in between the children carousel and the playgrounds. The positioning of the proposed urban object inside the project boundary is based on: maintaining a visual axis from the train station, on being at the closest point overlooking Confluence Point, and on trying to regenerate a portion of park actually less active without overloading other portions of the park already busy.

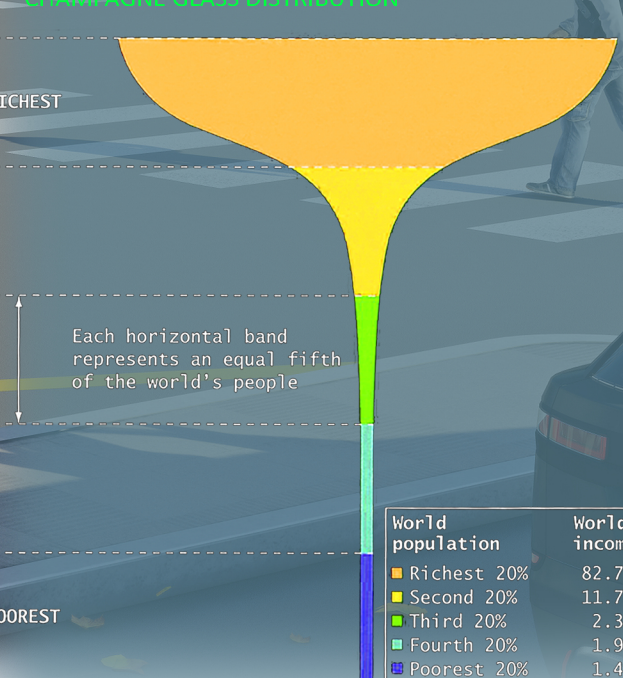
At its highest level of 192', the construction has a diameter of 200', so this proportion would make the structure really impressive and visible from all around and even from the planes before landing at the near airport.

At the ground level, within the project boundary, are designed pervious paved areas to give access to the sky-ramp and to create spaces for vibrant public activities, preferably temporary or seasonal (like F&B kiosks, artistic exhibitions, vendor booths, open-air dining and lounging, small events, etc.) and for a city touristic information point.

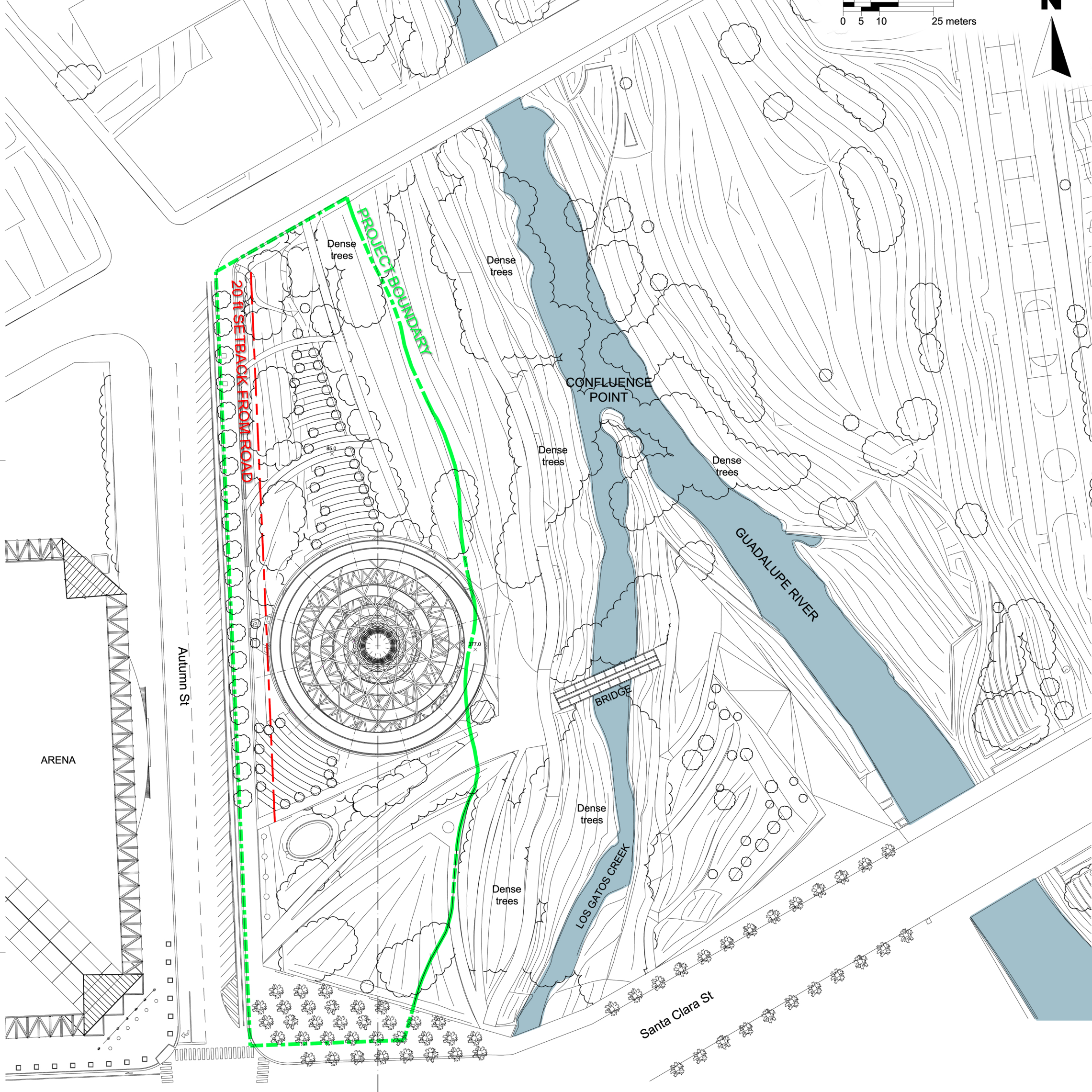
The building is net-zero energy and it's possible to install 12 vertical wind turbines of 10 kW each so that it would be an example of net-positive.

Rising the Pareto's glass champagne sky-ramp will be a real must-to-do in San Jose: an icon for the City and a new 'active' urban object for its Community to be proud of, that will always remind... to look towards the other 80%... there will be the future.

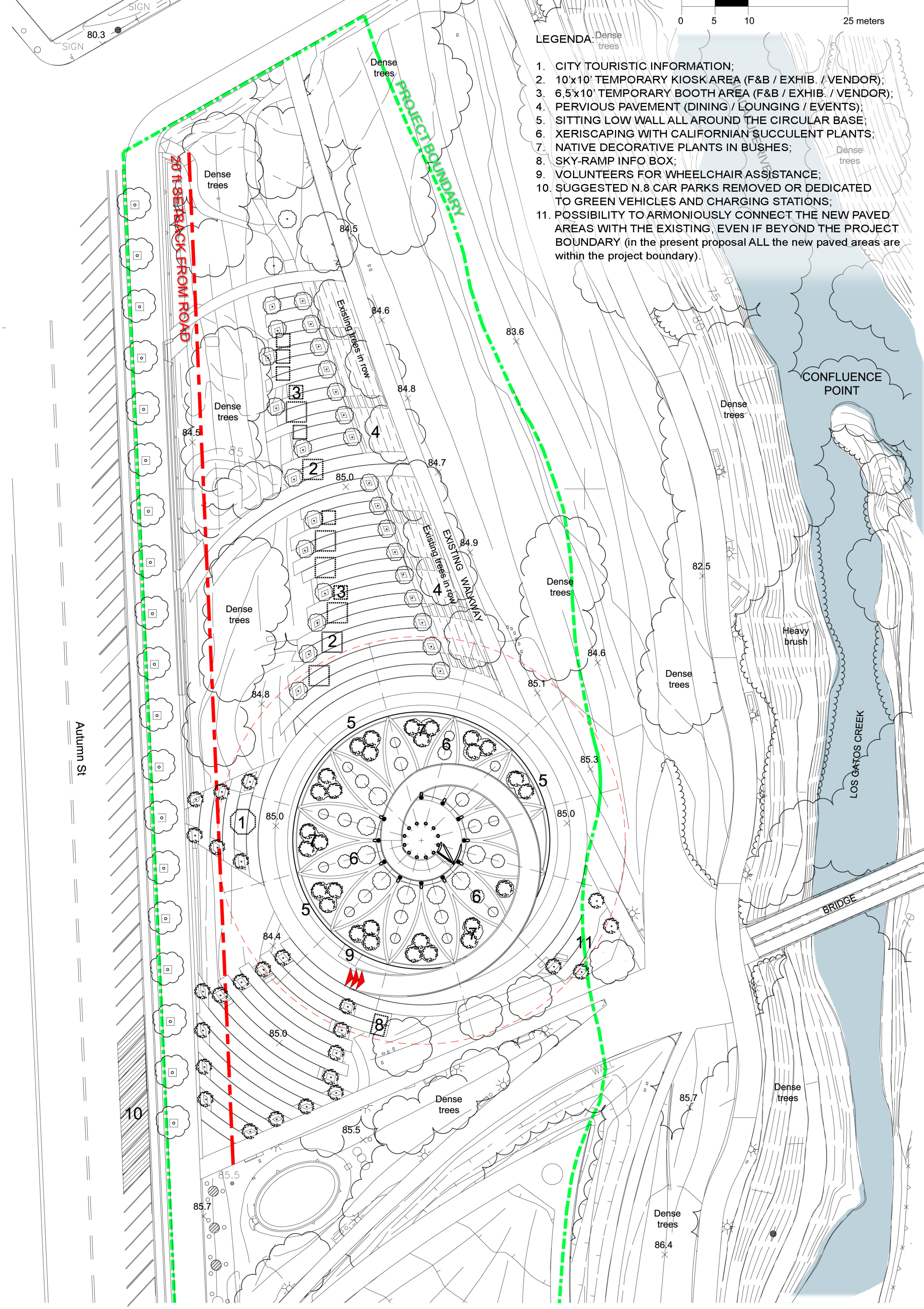
## THE PARETO'S CHAMPAGNE GLASS



### Site plan

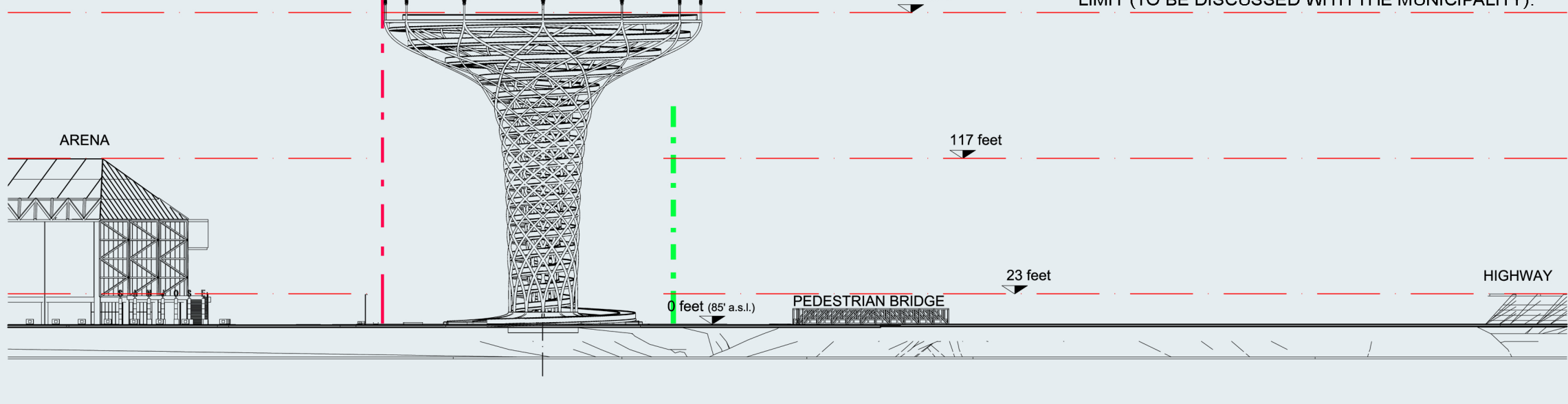


### Ground level



- LEGENDA**
- CITY TOURISTIC INFORMATION;
  - 10'x10' TEMPORARY KIOSK AREA (F&B / EXHIB. / VENDOR);
  - 6.5'x10' TEMPORARY BOOTH AREA (F&B / EXHIB. / VENDOR);
  - PERVIOUS PAVEMENT (DINING / LOUNGING / EVENTS);
  - SITTING LOW WALL ALL AROUND THE CIRCULAR BASE;
  - XERISCAPING WITH CALIFORNIAN SUCCULENT PLANTS;
  - NATIVE DECORATIVE PLANTS IN BUSHES;
  - SKY-RAMP INFO BOX;
  - VOLUNTEERS FOR WHEELCHAIR ASSISTANCE;
  - SUGGESTED N 8 CAR PARKS REMOVED OR DEDICATED TO GREEN VEHICLES AND CHARGING STATIONS;
  - POSSIBILITY TO ARMONIOUSLY CONNECT THE NEW PAVED AREAS WITH THE EXISTING, EVEN IF BEYOND THE PROJECT BOUNDARY (in the present proposal ALL the new paved areas are within the project boundary).

### Site elevation (South)





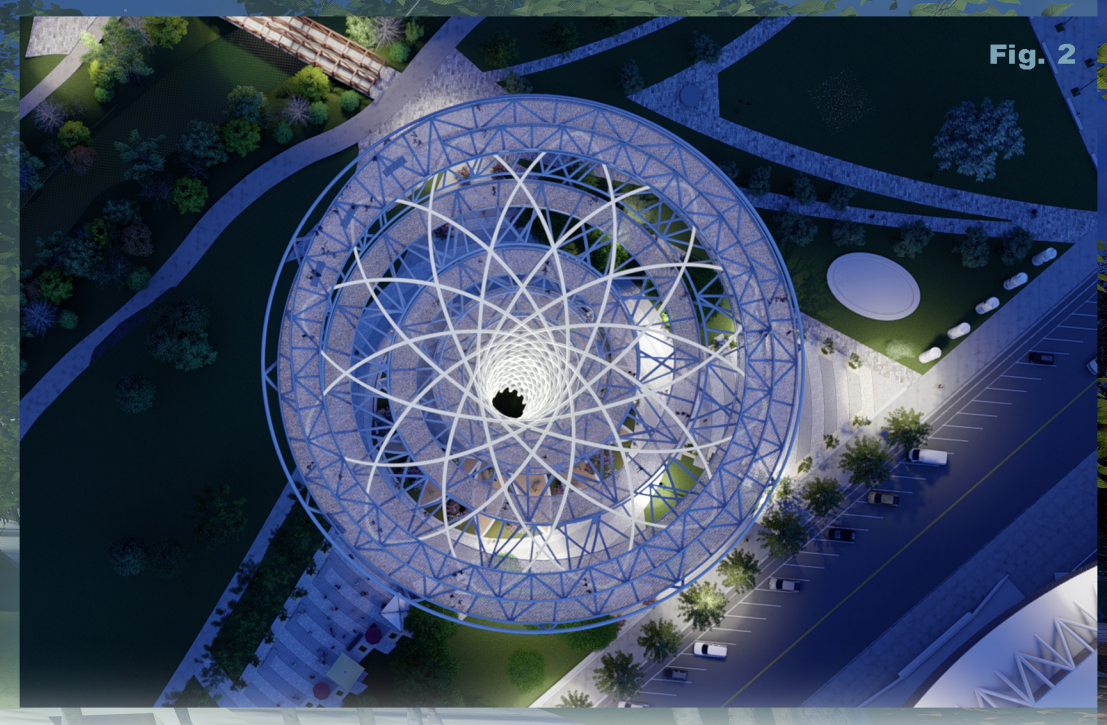
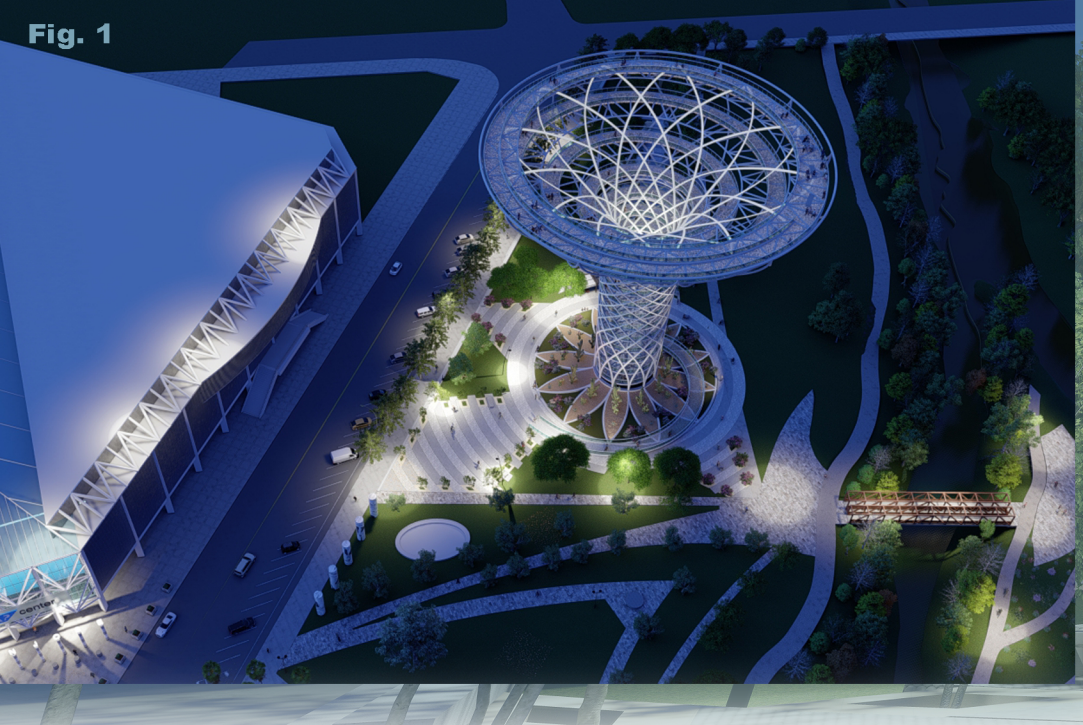
**THE EXPERIENCE**  
 The proposed Silicon Valley new architectural icon not only would be a monumental structure but also a vertiginous experience, accessible for anybody. The spiral ramp has 17 laps to the top and each lap has a difference of level of approx. 11 feet. The length of the sky-ramp is of 0.75 miles. The slope ramp has a total average inclination of 5%, and is variable from the lower to the upper levels, with a max incl. of 10% at the beginning to get softer and softer while rising. The panoramic sky-ramp can be accessible by disabled people in wheelchair with assistance.

**THE STRUCTURE**  
 The structural design concept consists in a double structural layer, whose both designs derive from a single line then projected through parametric computation, and those are deputed mostly for the vertical loads. The two layers, external and internal structures, are interconnected by a spiral trusses structure that constitutes also the primary structure of the walkway. This spiral truss, similar to a steel coaster structure, by connecting the two vertical structures, assures horizontal thrusts stability. (Fig. 3)

**THE SKY-RAMP**  
 The sky-ramp, the spiral walkway, supported by the spiral connective structure is conceived as more dematerialized as possible (if not making it completely glazed) using metal grids as flooring and perforated metal sheets as ceiling. The parapet is in structural glass and its controlled reflections are very important to give to the structure, a more crystalline appearance.

**IN THE NIGHT**  
 The night view of the Pareto's Champagne Glass should be something tremendous and in the same time the lighting must be simple and lightly bounced. The proposed lighting concept consists in a short range lamps to illuminate only the internal structure and the ceiling of the sky-ramp (or alternatively back-lighting the perforated metal ceiling). The base, with its xeriscaping and the low levels can be also illuminated in a dramatic way.

The view from a plane, while in the day it would be inviting for a visit, in the night would be just stunning. (Fig. 1-2)

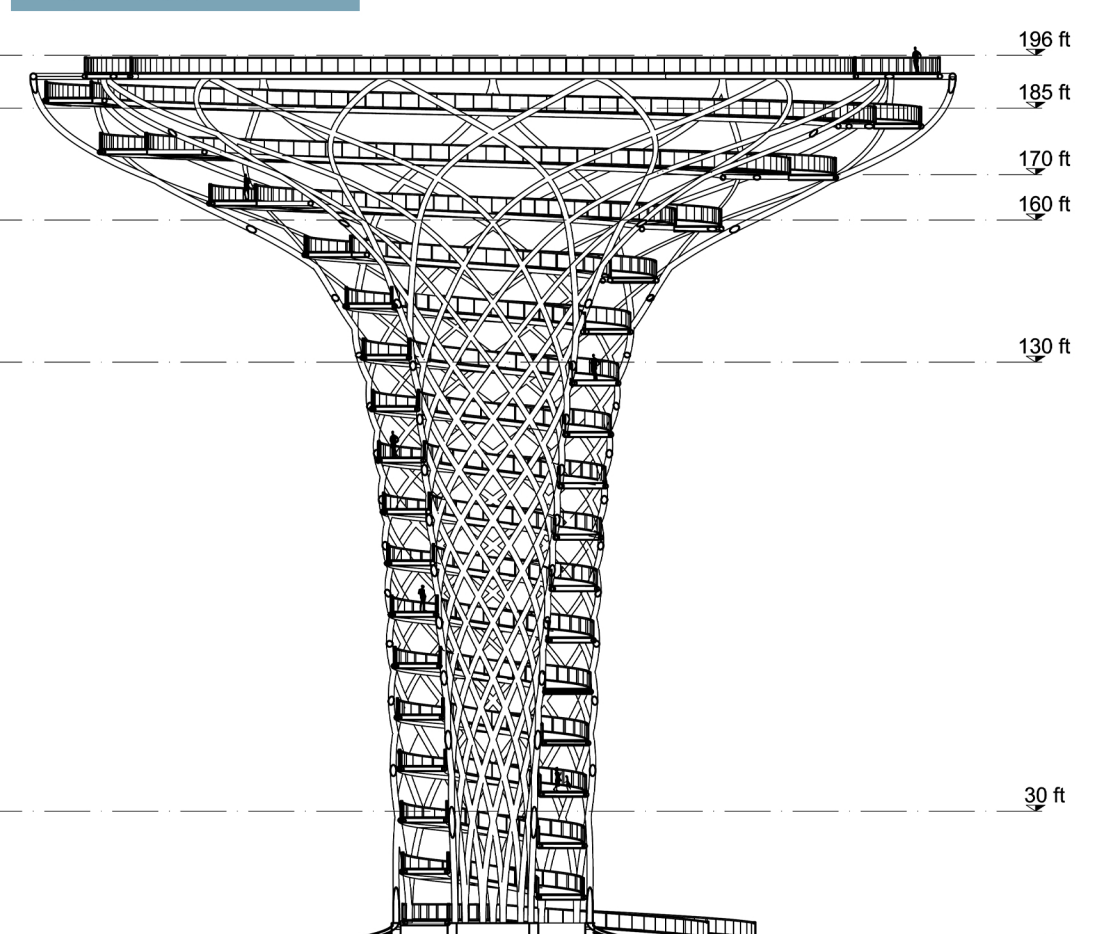
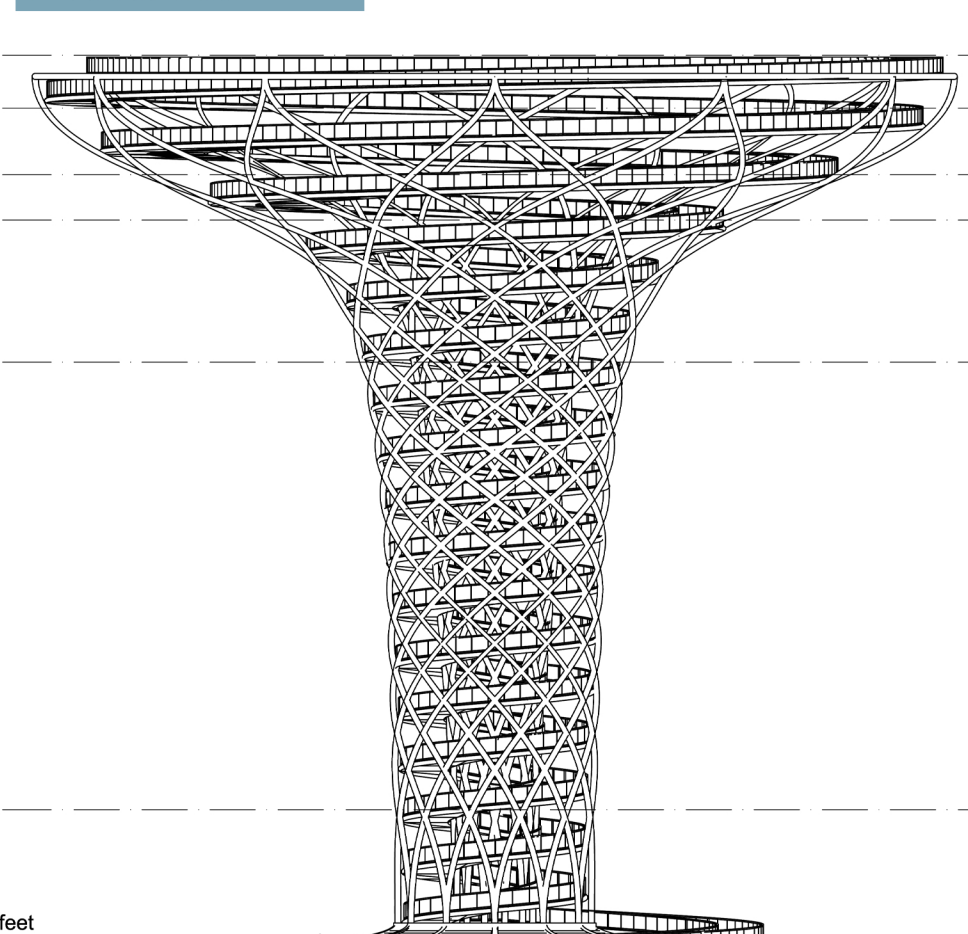
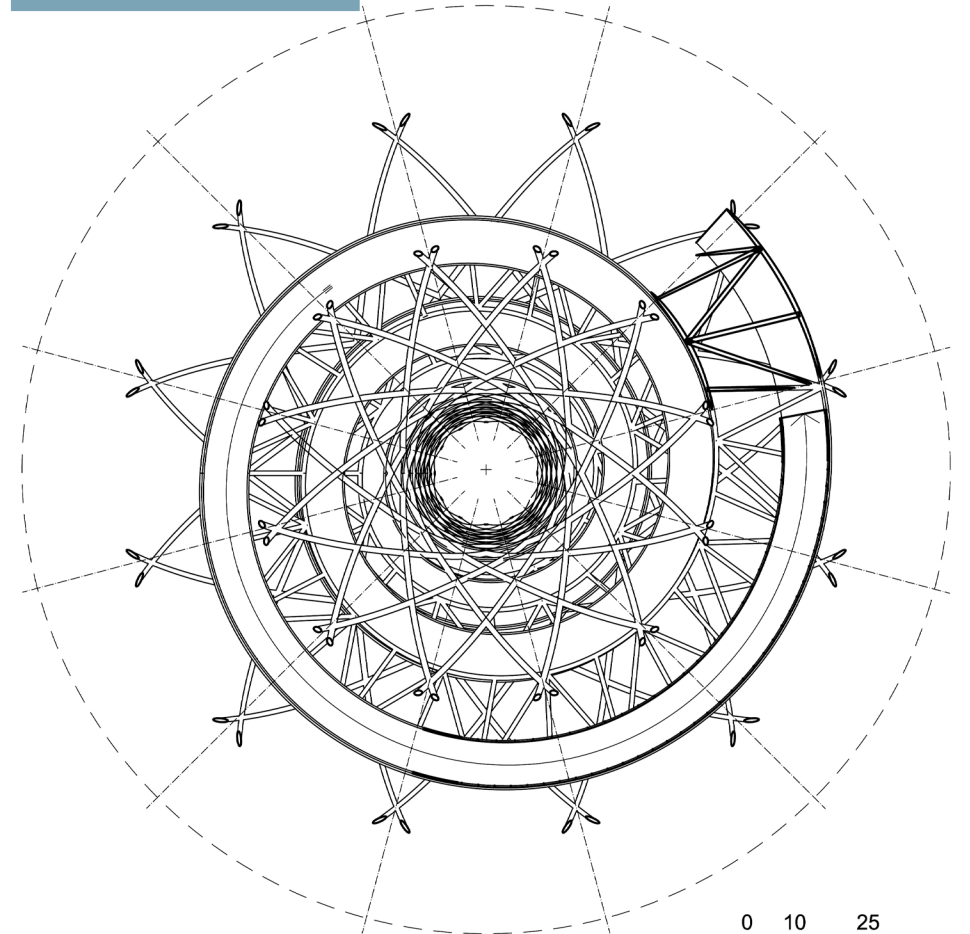
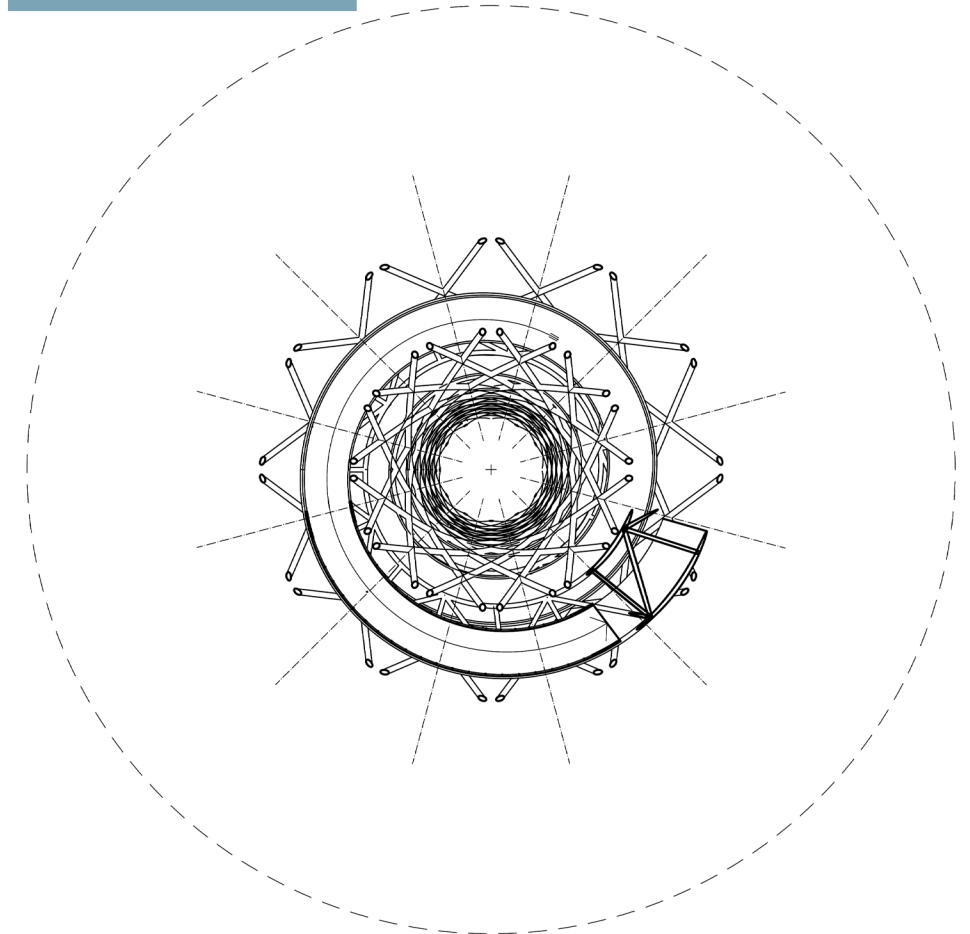


Level h. 160 ft

Level h. 170 ft

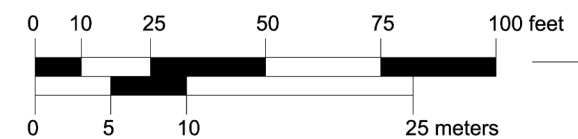
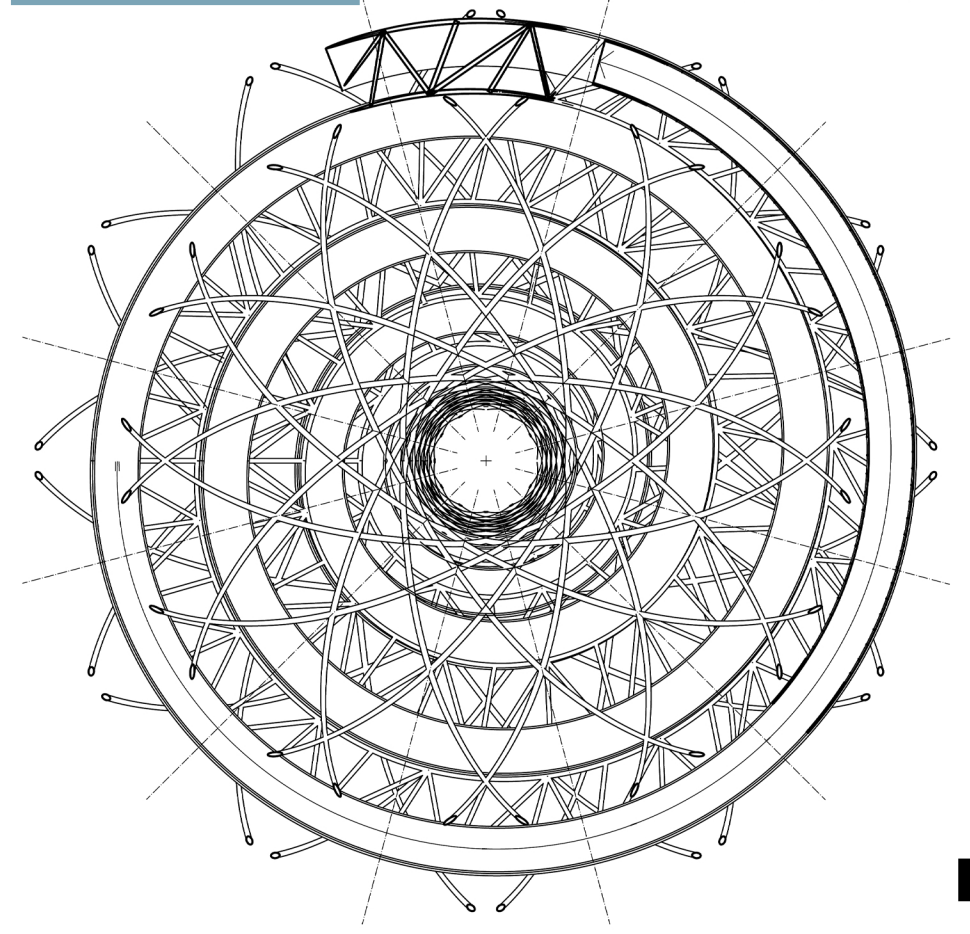
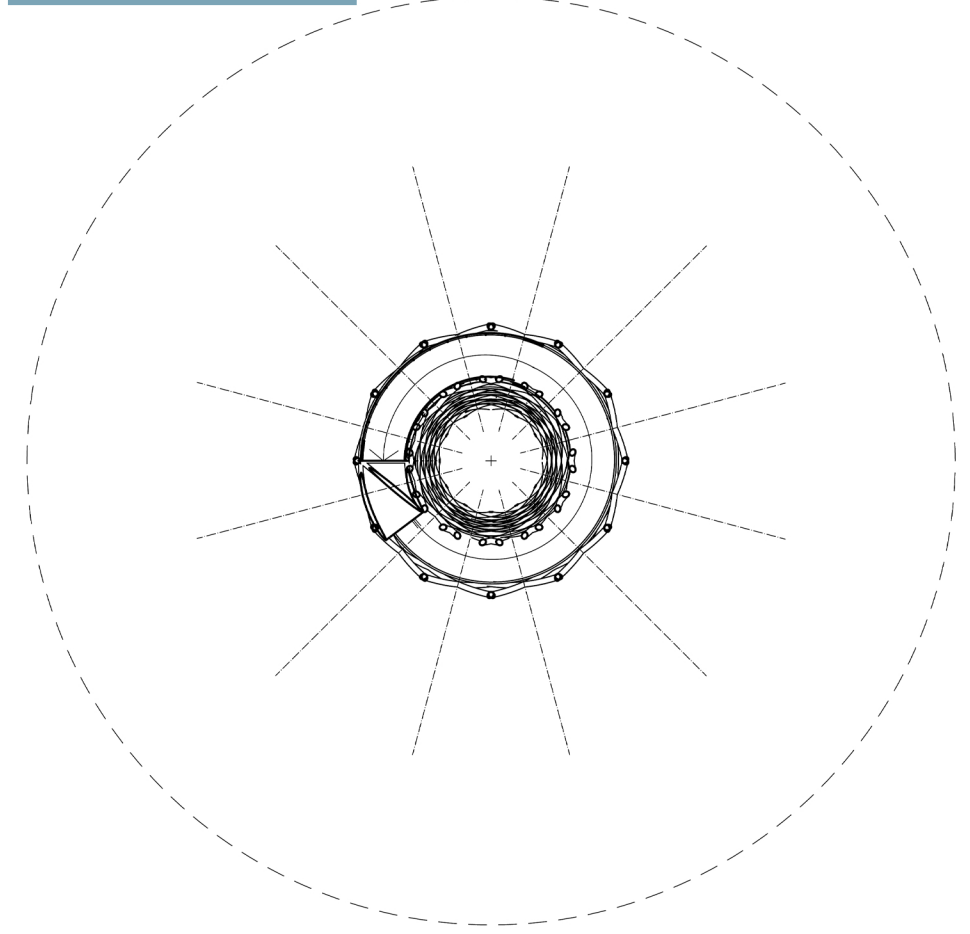
Elevation

Section



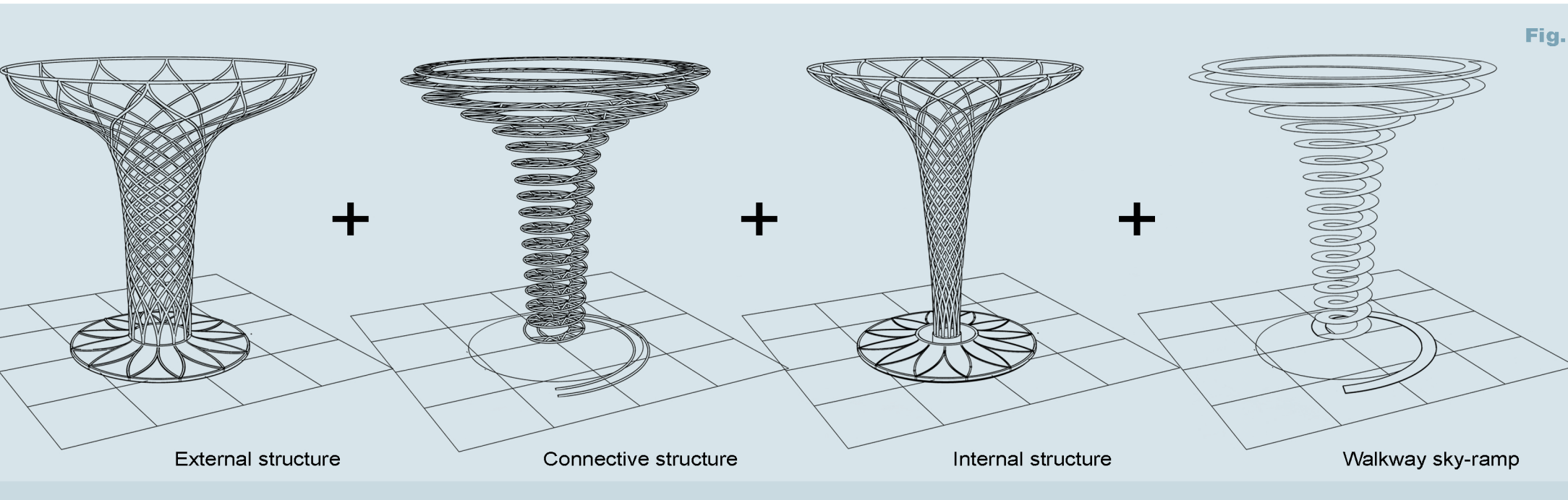
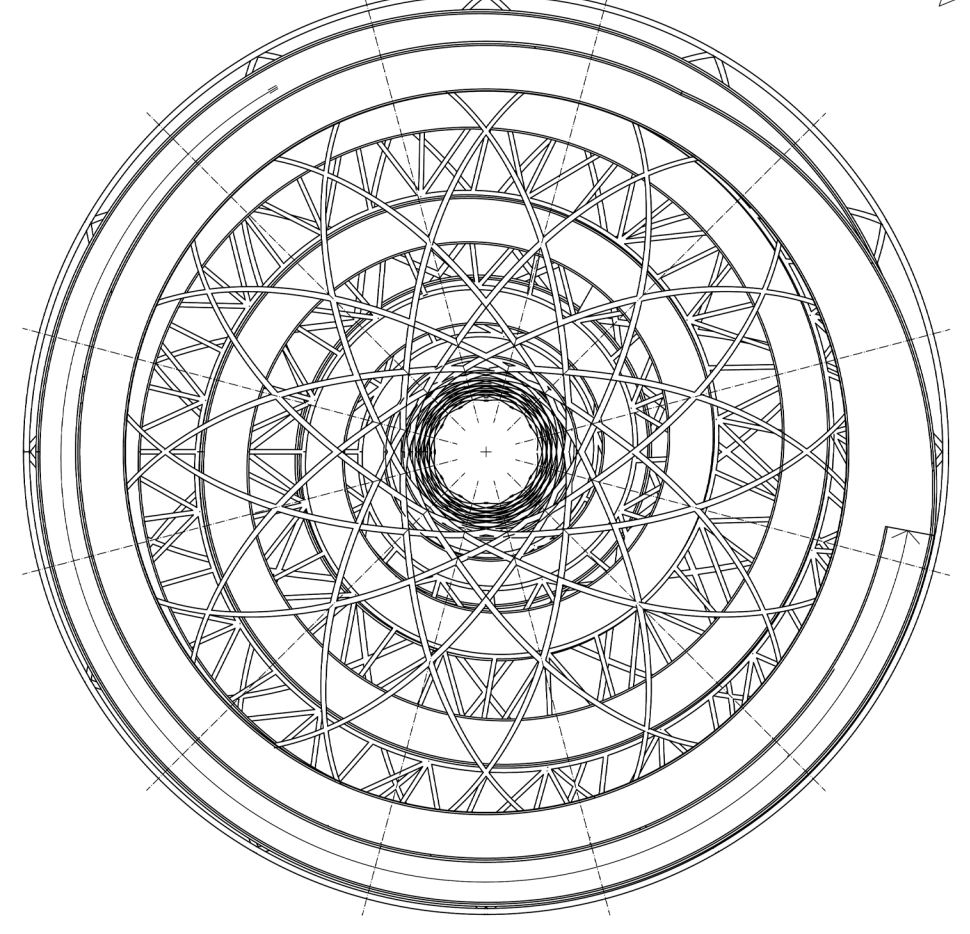
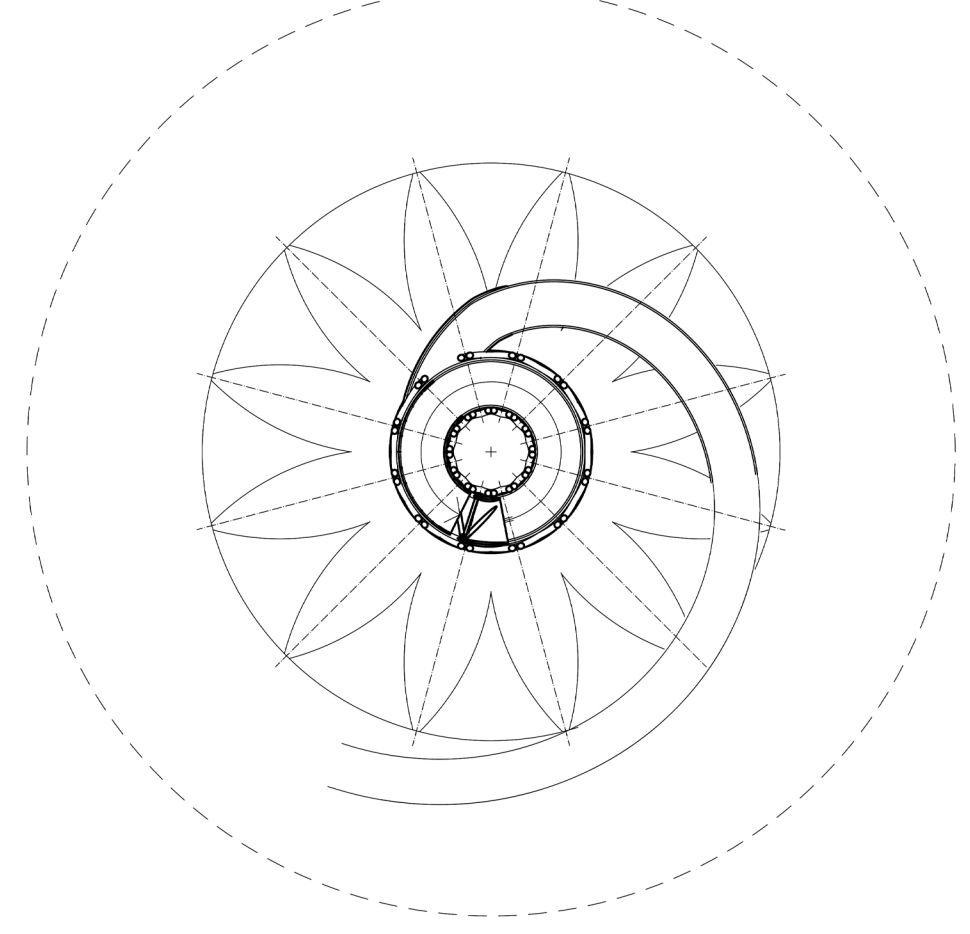
Level h. 130 ft

Level h. 185 ft



Level h. 30 ft

Upper level



Detail of section

