

Whenever natural environment presented a high rock or a tall waterfall, perhaps a mountain with a peculiar form - we used those to describe the space, aiming to characterize and remember it. Architecture was always concerned with space and landmarks served as a method of its organization, creating a mutually accepted system of points of orientation.

Today, a man-built landmark does not merely serve a function of a lighthouse providing geographical orientation. The contemporary architectural landmark supports orientation in socio-cultural environment, surpassing the initial idea of marking the land and advancing towards means of social attraction and self-representation of the area. This kind of a landmark is designed to make a statement to the world.

The Confluence Peak makes a bold statement. Inspired by Ohlone culture, nature and agricultural history of San Jose, it serves as a contemporary shelter from the Californian sun, amplifying the potential of Arena Green for being a place of social gatherings. The Peak, visible from afar, attracts all the necessary attention, having effective angles of observation both from the direction of the proposed Google village and from the highway - attracting locals as well as passers-by.

The landmark is an inspiring pillar of advancement, designed to invite visitors to advance through the multiple interior levels and staircases right to the top of the Peak to become part of the story of development in San Jose and to witness the change. The flow through the interior spaces resembling a crystal rock is aided with an independent system of elevators to provide for a barrier-free experience. The climb is accompanied with exhibition lines that can be fitted with a museum exposition or public art that engages interactive learning.

The park around the San Jose Peak invites visitors to a shade under the trees, providing cascade benches for individuals as well as for groups of people. "Please walk on the grass" approach invites to interact with nature, have outside workouts right in the middle of the running trail or to gather for a family picnic. Close vicinity to the downtown breaks the highway barrier, inviting to the other side and thus connecting people.