

## Project Statement

Silicon Valley is the focus of the world's technological progress. A reflection of the history and culture of California going back to the time of the gold rush when people arrived here looking for a better life. The Valley is the reflection of the culturally diverse future we are headed towards. To be represented with an iconic structure that plants itself in the hearts of the masses, I chose a heart, symbolizing our future.

'The Heart of Silicon Valley' as I call it, may seem simple (in my rendering as I worked with what I had), but it won't be once finally designed as I envision it. I see it designed as a 175-foot tall combination of overlapping horizontal spiral rings like that of an onion gradually sloping to diagonals. The materials used preferably recycled (as much as possible) with bright colored emerald green glass incorporated in the core of the heart as green is a symbol of money and health. There can be a facade of circuit-style tube lighting enclosing the heart for spectacular nighttime shows to celebrate national holidays or just us. It will be a net-zero design using principle kinetic light sources, timeclock controls, photovoltaic systems, and passive and active energy efficiency along with solar.

When activated with indoor multicultural food joints, an organic hydroponic indoor community farm for flora and herbs, art, and music-related event spaces, indoor play structures for kids and much more, it will bring a visceral feeling of vibrant progress that threads its way through our beloved environment, while at the same time protecting the existing landscape in the midst of urban sprawl.

No ALAN beyond what is already present will be used and no steady light source during the bird migration period. The surrounding landscape will include native trees, flowers, and shrubs that complement the structure, with the optimum safety lighting for the night. The outdoor space will be activated with walkways, a gazebo, and a zen style rock garden for those seeking solace. The existing bridge will be expanded and beautified. The East Arena if permitted, would feature a mini boating section.

In conclusion, I just have to say that the Heart of Silicon Valley is so big for giving the opportunity to big and small, accomplished and not so accomplished, to participate in this design competition. May the one that speaks to your heart win. Namaste.