San Jose Light Tower

Our design for the San Jose Light Tower (SJLT) will create a unique monument to the area and these times. It will celebrate the City as the birthplace of the computer and informational industries that have so profoundly transformed our lives. An additional exhibit will commemorate the biomedical community of San Jose who have worked to secure our safety during this pandemic crisis

The SJLT is a 200ft tall, powerful cantilevered, geodesic design that is both fascinating in its visual appearance and incredibly strong and resilient. Each strut of the Tower will be outlined with weatherized full-color LED lighting strips. These strips will illuminate and animate the structure resulting in a fluid series of kinetic movements and color that is lyrical and emotionally moving. Wind sensors will ensure that the Tower's animation reflects the ambient weather. A smart phone app will interact directly with the Tower and that "conversation" will in turn affect the Tower's animation.

The SJLT Tower's geometry is reminiscent of the 1910 Adziogol Lighthouse, on the Dnieper estuary in Ukraine and the beautiful 2010 Canton Tower that commemorated the Asian games in Guangzhou. It also reminds us of the stunning lighting that graced the Eiffel Tower for the Millenium celebrations in 2000.

To help meet Net Zero goals, we will use photovoltaic solar panels combined with low voltage, low energy consumption fixtures and a control system programmed to manage lighting intensities and usage.

To mitigate the environmental impact the lighting could have on nearby wildlife, we will focus on carefully programming a "Lights Out" approach: turning off lighting in the later evening/nighttime hours during spring and fall migratory seasons, plus reducing lighting intensities at 11pm during non-migratory seasons. Carefully chosen lighting fixtures will allow us to use specific color palettes that have little effect on migratory bird flight paths, and also minimize glare, light trespass / light pollution.

At its base the Tower will incorporate a plaza and interpretive areas. We will also include a café with outdoor seating for visitors, with innovative play facilities for children.

An optional glass passenger elevator could run up the center of the Tower, providing rides with breathtaking views. This will require closer study to establish feasibility and cost.

Our highly experienced team includes our lead sculptor, structural and lighting engineers, a local architect and video and digital designers. (Listing available on request).