

**Trees and Roots.** The influx and success of Silicon Valley only leave one question unanswered - where are our roots? The new “locals” where the majority are “transplants” from other parts of the US or the world have produced some of the most innovative pieces of technology and communication means, leading to a radical shift in thinking and a major leap forward in the progress of the human race.

What is one of the primary human needs? The sense of community, the ‘roots’ that ground the individual to a particular location are key in human psychology. The proposal illustrates the major contribution of the SV to the world while addressing the basic human needs - psychological, community belonging, love, esteem, and self-actualization - “Trees and Roots”.

The “roots” at ground level - Organically shaped “cells” that are grown to fit the program in uniquely shaped and sized cells. Whether a two-story, one story, or landscape element, the ground level structure is indeed to function as a “root” for the functions of the towers, drawing people in or dispersing attendees through the site based on the scheduled activities throughout the day. The light quality varies based on the solidity of the roof, revealing different environments for reception areas vs dining, exhibition space, or administrative offices.

The “trees” in the sky is a series of interconnected and uniquely shaped platforms. Dotted with programmatic functions on each of the “branches” such as restaurant coffee shops, spas, and pools, the platforms encourage physical movement and exploration of spaces, while elevators, located in the “tree trunk” can precisely point the visitor to the desired platform. Shallow infinity pools are located at the edges of some platforms for a seamless sky/ground connection, while reflecting the sunlight to the underside of the platform above and deep into space, for a calming and meditative atmosphere.

Functionally, it promotes an active lifestyle. It encourages the process of discovery - different heights and different ways to look at the San Jose skyline. Net-zero energy is partially achieved through a clever orientation of the roof angles and shading from the structure above, maximizing the daylight intake while reducing the excessive solar heat gain.

The main concept is rooted in the natural world and locally grounded. With good community and agency participation, this project has all the potential to serve as an icon to Silicon Valley and the world.