

## VORTEX 2200

San Jose's new landmarking place - A Gallery dedicated to water.

This project is about water, our precious yet precarious resource. Inspired by vortices that are generated where two rivers meet, the form of the project captures the beauty of vortices for their dynamic and also for their ephemeral existence. The project will represent a gigantesque vortex that bridges the two plots of the site and create a seamless connection for the area.

Positioning humans at its heart, the project provides a rich experience of "interactive landscape" – a landscape that is not just for visual decoration but is seeking a more meaningful conversation with humans. Visitors will find a barefoot path inside VORTEX 2200, along which they experience again the feeling of barefoot walks while enjoying different water-related interactive activities. Water will be exhibited as a life resource in nature and also as a rich potential matter in technology for its interesting chemical and physical properties.

The project team does not aim to add one more building in the city, they would rather establish an extension of nature. VORTEX 2200 provides shelters to small local animals thanks to its random folds and corners. Its folds also form natural planters that accommodate a large variety of vegetations, hence offer a lush green and enjoyable promenade to visitors.

Spanning across the large distance between the two sites, the structure could be a combination of steel and Ultra-High-Performance Concrete (UHPC). The complex form of the shell could be achieved by using pre-cast UHPC elements or in-place modeled Concrete Canvas.

The shell has random openings along its length, featuring daylight inside in a similar way to that of a natural cave. The concrete surface would be a large canvas for light art exhibitions.

VORTEX 2200 is self-powered. The river flows would provide hydro-electric or mechanical power to the project's irrigation, water interactive features, and lighting system.

Emphasizing the eternal value of a vital and vulnerable resource – water, the project is not adding one more building in San Jose. Instead, it would be an extension of nature which integrates with the city as a new landmark, where visitors find themselves surrounded by nature again. Embracing the project at its heart, the city offers an iconic messenger to the world as well as to our future generations: San Jose's VORTEX 2200.