

Project Statement

Technology has been one of the greatest, ongoing catalysts in human civilization. From our ‘discovery’ of fire to our construction of the microprocessor—the history of technology represents an unbroken chain through time of human ingenuity and cultural achievement. In each era of humankind, we have embedded our technological pursuits in the mythologies of our stories and beliefs. As a species we have built up gods of knowledge, of engineering, of architecture, and innovation. Long before we built technology, we dreamt of it and told stories of it. It would be fitting for San Jose to house a monument to those dreams and to the evolution of technology over time.

I therefore propose that San Jose’s new world-class monument be a Temple to Technology—a nexus for the past, present, and future of technology and society. Given the unique role of fire in global mythologies as our first technology, it is proposed that the monument resemble a giant brazier, filled with flame. The flame, however, would not be actual fire, but a subtly lit glass geometric structure housing a restaurant/art gallery/conference space—a place for visitors to eat, enjoy the skyline of the city and the Coastal Ranges to the west, and to dream up new technologies. The brazier dish in which the restaurant sits, is a large secure viewing platform edged by a hanging garden visible by visitors to the top, as well as hinted at below as a deliberate shout out to the reminiscent of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon—one of the ancient engineering wonders of the world. The base column of the brazier would be an enclosed core elevator encircled by an spiral staircase—a shout out to the Industrial Revolution and the kind of athletic challenge that motivates many tourists to come and give it a go. Bi-secting the grounds around the tower and dominating the rest of the available space, I propose a series of statue-lined garden avenues. These statues would represent deities from cultures around the world who have been assigned attributes we would now describe as relating to technology—the gods of engineering, knowledge, science, math, etc. The intent of these avenues would be to represent the global history of technology and storytelling in artistic, physical form—perhaps with further engagement layers of augmented reality elaborating their tales further.