

The primary ambition of our proposal is to creating a gateway that captures night and day time spectacle that fosters the seasonal change through flora and fauna celebrating cross pollination of the ecology of the “Golden State” and the vision for Silicon Valley. Along the walkways and plazas, we envision intimate gardens that extend the existing opportunities for informal learning and chance encounters between the explored environmental transformation -- populating the paths and offering spaces for small groups or quiet spaces of reflection for individuals as well as habitats for pollinator species. Gathering nodes, draw the planting palette in - dissolving the boundaries between architecture and nature - offering an oasis that relies on the natural performance of vegetation to adjust our sensory experience - visual, acoustic, haptic, olfactory, respiratory, and seasonal.

Four solar powered iconic towers represent the seasons and the historical eras of San Jose: Green (Spring/Mexican), Red (Summer/Spanish), Yellow (Fall/Pre Columbian) and Blue (Winter/American). Celebration and timing of each tower changes to reflect the city. In addition to the four towers, “Poppy” (state flower), a kinetic canopy spins in the softest breeze and demonstrates alternative energies of wind and solar – opens and provides shade during the daylight hours and closes at night - seating area is surrounded by natural gardens through xeriscaping and bio-swells create a playful atmosphere generating opportunities for local mobile restaurants.

As an additional sensory overlay, two unique soundscape – one created by plants and the other by anthropocenes. The bio-data sonification translates the biophysical data of the creek and river into music that is transmitted under the “Poppy” gathering spaces. This soundtrack of the surrounding biological world, where plants under stress transmit a different frequency, creates a direct feedback loop about the health of the built environment. The other, along Santa Clara Street, an interactive sound and light field, installed under native plants, encourages interactive engagements with nature. As pedestrians enter into the fiber optic field their presence and movement are traced by each stalk unit, transmitting white light from LEDs and white noise from speakers below. If the motion is detected, illumination grows brighter while the white noise increases in volume. Stagnant, the light and sound fade into dimness and silence.

Temporary interactive seating clouds and floating lilypond lighting installation along the edge of the Los Gatos Creek and Guadalupe River drawing viewers into a playful engagement spectacle in the water emulating phytoplankton. Sensors detect the presence of a person and relay a radio signal to the corresponding lilypond in the water, allowing visitors to transform the lighting behavior and color of the clouds (seats) in the river attracting fireflies, dragonflies and other rare organisms.