

We Are, is a curated experience starting as you move towards the light tower, a 200 ft prism, refracting sunlight creating a dramatic myriad of colours through the day, bathing its surroundings in shimmer and reflecting in the axial pool on both sides. The pool reinforces the southern entrance and forms a loop with the river. At night the prism will be lit using solar energy generated within the site. A landmark beacon visible from afar, including the state route 87 and interstate 280 while its base will remain dark, seemingly floating.

The prism celebrates and showcases the diversity of the community standing on a six storeyed experience gallery accessible via a continuous ramp showcasing exhibitions and events. The terrace provides a worm's eye view of the prism floating above – a dynamic kaleidoscope of colours.

The external face of the gallery is wrapped with indigenous and forgotten plants, the spontaneous landscape of the area symbolizing the enduring values of the community. It will allow for speckled sunlight to enter during the day with its character changing seasonally.

Demarcated areas for amenities, services and activities (cafes and bars) at the northern edge allows for the park to be used 24/7.

The second part, of the proposal, is the forest for reflection sited across the river and accessed via a pedestrian bridge which builds a theatrical narrative. You first see a single mirror and as you approach closer, your field of view expands to 87 mirrors, driving home the point – we are San Jose – regardless of race, colour, sexual orientation, identification; whether a CEO, a techie, a student, a janitor or a stay at home parent, a third generation resident or someone who has just moved in, we have and will play an important role in the building of this unique city. Whilst the gallery below the prism is a hall of fame for the past, the forest for reflection celebrates the present and future.

The mirrors are on a staggered grid allowing the visitor to meander through with different experiences at different parts. Some of the mirrors are combined with interactive installations which are attractive to children and the child in you.

The proposal aims to retain and enhance most of the existing vegetation and trees while adding green buffers along the edges of the site. The idea is not just greening but also using landscape to curate the user experience.