

THE AURA

“A feeling or character that a person or place seems to have”

“A type of light that some people say they can see around people or animals”

San Jose’s Aura is a meaningful structure combining the symbolic history of the city and the technology innovation of the region. The powerful structure will become an iconic landmark rooted in people’s consciousness. A timeless design approach provides an enduring and strong visual presence. Its radical geometry deploys a variable range of kinetic perceptions during the day, at night, and at distance for the passerby, car driver or when landing. It might also create future popular city events like the alignments of the full moon or the sun inside its shape.

The Aura is placed at the park north west corner complying with the City’s Riparian Corridor Policy also preventing glare on the river. It aims to become a social gathering place for day and night activities. Elevators inside it lead to a lookout with windows allowing striking views of the city and the mountains. A bar-restaurant at the base is linked to the green area as the first catalyst milestone for further economic development. However, the park remains nearly untouched as a sign of environmental respect and a way to keep the public green areas to promote social mixing. Altogether, The Aura will provide a big amount of urban self-esteem.

The Aura displays an intermittent mist sprayer system along its surface to increase humidity and cool down the environment. The system creates a peculiar image shift, varying from a blurred cloud among the sprayed mist to a sharp ring when not working. Soft illumination at night combined with the mist will emphasize The Aura’s presence, transforming its material sharpness into a diffractive energy appearance and weight loss. The lighting system is placed along the perimeter and displays intermittent high wavelengths colors varying from violet to blue and magenta. The structure uses time-clock controlled lights with a low level of luminance avoiding disruption to bird migrations.

The Aura is clad with second generation solar panels with matt black finishing designed to minimize glare. The non-crystalline matt finish helps to avoid impacts of bird strikes. These Stion CIGS thin-film solar modules are made of amorphous silicon with indium, gallium and selenide. The modules’ low temperature coefficient and high efficiency under low light conditions produce high energy yields. They will provide Net-zero energy and full power to run the Aura.