

SILICONSPAN

SiliconSpan is an iconic architectural landmark that activates Arena Green and the Guadalupe River Park with an infinity-shaped aerial bridge spanning Confluence Point.

The continuous swooping roof with shaded sections and cafe seating creates a dynamic observation platform where visitors can view the surrounding landscape from a myriad of vantage points. There are 2 bridge spans. The upper span has a retractable section at its apex that when open breaks the continuity of the walkway. This creates the world's longest cantilever at 300'! The separation in the span represents connectivity, the electronic circuit at the heart of tech and the idea that innovation is never finished.

SiliconSpan is a bridge but also has functional interior spaces. The east column is home to a programming lab, large format 3D print shop and gallery. The public can participate in creating designs for a continually changing outdoor sculpture garden in view of Highway 87. Educational and community engagement create a place of local pride in San Jose where everyone is welcome to participate in the innovation normally privileged to tech companies. Inside the west column is a museum dedicated to the history of Silicon Valley, function spaces, a restaurant and gift shop.

Adjacent to '5 Skaters' is the Moore's Law Tower, a monument to the remarkable 1965 forecast of processor speed doubling every 2 years.

Ecological considerations:

- Entire upper deck walkway and rooftops are covered in non-glare solar tiles
- Building cross section is wider at the top with a minimal foundation footprint creating a natural shade effect
- Variable color, high efficiency lighting is employed
- Upper interior spaces have automatic venting windows
- Rainwater collected from roof perimeter is stored in cisterns
- Patterned glass areas create bird safe design
- Downlighting and non-glare surfaces for aircraft safety

SiliconSpan accentuates the Guadalupe River ecosystem. The narrow swooping shape of the bridge allows natural light and airflow below. The riparian riverfront environment will be restored to its natural state with native plantings and clean up. The concept of Shakkei or 'Borrowed Scenery' inspires the lighting design; color and brightness adjust automatically in harmony with the changing seasons and 'Starfield lighting' mimics the stars creating an invisible effect from below.

Viewed from any angle or altitude, this unmistakable iconic landmark embodies the dynamic, ever changing nature of Silicon Valley with a world class monument to optimism, boldness and exuberance for the ages.