

TOWER CYCLE

An animated landmark for San Jose, "Tower Cycle" is an interactive hyperboloid structure made of steel, concrete, glass and electronics. Measuring 200 ft high and 130 ft wide, the tower features a tensed catenary envelope covered by 4 million LED-lights on the outside and inside, creating an open semi-transparent display in the iconic shape of an hourglass.

Four elevators and a spiral staircase take visitors up to a spectacular San Jose viewing platform, which also has a glass oculus to see down into the staircase. Climbing up the steps will be encouraged: landing cantilevered platforms will provide rest and views through the catenary mesh. Each step will feature an energy-harvesting unit that generates electricity so the tower can be powered in part by the kinetic energy of the visitors. The roof also has a photovoltaic array to further reduce unsustainable energy consumption.

The tower has a variety of built-in display modes which can cycle according to a programmable scheduler:

Pulse Cycle: the tower becomes a colossal representation of the heartbeats of participants. By holding pulse sensors located outside the tower, visitors' heartbeats are automatically displayed in the form of rising rings of light —inspired by Fritz Lang's film *Metropolis*— that animate to the rhythm of their heart rate. Likewise, people may send their heartbeats remotely using a custom phone app that detects their pulse using the phone's built in camera. When no one is participating the tower shows the recorded heartbeats of the most recent 10,000 visitors, creating a mesmerizing biometric glimmer of syncopated light rhythms.

Color Cycle: a vibrant mode where color bars, found in monitor calibration patterns, slowly become an LGBTQ+ Pride rainbow.

Data Cycle: a visualization mode displaying graphical data. The default display is the location of every person climbing the stairs, and the energy they have generated, —the energy-harvesting steps allows the tracking of this information without needing surveillance cameras.

Art Cycle: the tower becomes a platform for local and international artists to present their work.

Tower Cycle will be a landmark structure placed on the southwest corner of an open campus along both sides of the riparian set-back. The campus features a welcome center —with a parking structure hidden behind a vertical garden—, on the northeast corner, and a cafe on the northwest corner. The piece is a constantly-changing living landmark powered by the Sun and visitors, representing the region's ingenuity.