

CENTRIPETAL PROJECT STATEMENT:

Centripetal is a viewing tower and landscape proposal for the city of San Jose, California. Sited at the Guadalupe River park and near the center of extensive future development, Centripetal poises an opportunity to provide the city with a unique landmark. Our proposal creates a monument to draw visitors to the city and provides a place for residents to look back out over the place that they live.

The main structure of the tower is made of ten radial fins, twisted into a sinuous spiral. These fins would be constructed of Titanium-Dioxide treated concrete; an admixture that gives the concrete the special property of being self-cleaning through catalytic action. This also helps to improve air quality, breaking up carbon dioxide from the nearby freeway. Inside of these fins, a matching set of steel tubes twist the opposite direction, forming a sturdy diagrid to support the tower. Behind this diagrid is the main attraction of our proposal; a two-hundred foot tall spiral stair journey that weaves visitors around the interior of the tower. At the center of all this rests an illuminated core that draws on the spirit of the original light tower, providing a beautiful diffuse light that will radiate out from the fins of the tower as the sun dives low in the evening.

Although it may look it, the tower itself is not the most radical part of the Centripital proposal. The landscape strategy that we present aims to re-establish the city's connection to the Guadalupe river, removing the culvert that washes water underground and bringing the full river up to the surface. Stretching out from the fins at the base of the tower, ten spiraling segments form terraced pathways and plantings of native grasses and trees, allowing access to the site even if water levels fluctuate throughout the year. The lower pathway dips near the river, bringing people back into contact with the water that runs through their city.

Our hope is that in creating a modern monument for the city and rebuilding access to the Guadalupe river, Centripetal can foster delight and identity for San Jose, at the same time as increasing consideration for the natural environment by making it present in people's lives.