

Project Statement - NET GARDEN

Landmarks in all of human history served many purposes: orientation points, symbols of values, presenting wealth, showing technology and all of them became monuments close to people's hearts. From the classical world until now cities tried to create the highest, biggest, mostest landmarks to impress the world.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon that were one of the seven wonders of the ancient world were a little bit of an exception. While of course displaying immense wealth and technical advancement, it was also a world wonder that focused on the visitor's experience when walking through the facility. Combining human technology, architecture and the beauty of nature, is the key element that separates the Hanging Gardens of Babylon from just being a giant sculpture or a building to become a memorable experience.

San Jose is a remarkable modern city. Thriving on technology development and improving everyday lives all over the world, makes it one of the most important places in modern history. But San Jose doesn't stop there. It is also the most ethnically diverse city in the USA with highly mixed neighborhoods instead of ghettos.

We identified diversity, communication and connectivity as leading values of San Jose.

Our proposal, the Net Garden, wants to pay tribute to the technological as much as to the social achievements of the city.

The immense steel structure spans over the Guadalupe River, connecting the two sides, but more than that, creating an upgraded experience at the arena green. The landing zones of the bridge offer public spaces by creating hall and room-like areas, enclosed by the structure.

The structure is load-bearing while also having a hydroponics system integrated that lets plants grow from it. This system lets plants grow without the need of soil by pumping mineralized solution throughout the structure.

One important part of hydroponics is that you introduce a mycorrhiza which is a network between plants and fungi.

This symbiotic connection enables the plants to communicate with each other and support the entire network.

We believe that the Net Garden creates an architectural, conceptual and even microscopic scale a strong symbol of the values of San Jose.