

Project Statement:

Manifesting the spirit of San Jose in the most recognizable way possible. Mine is a statement of purity, simplicity, and essence. It takes the most valuable aspect in both the history and geography of San Jose, the Valley of Heart's Delight, and giving it a form that grows from its surroundings. Grown into, not built upon the city: a continuation to San Jose.

The design follows a set of criteria:

- Platonic: directly representative of the natural shape of the valley using abstract surfaces. Almost imitating the Stonehenge in that it is definitely man-made but blends perfectly well with its natural surroundings.
- Facade-less: in that it welcomes visitors from all directions. A construction that doesn't have a face and a back. It faces San Jose.
- Seamless: blending perfectly well with the urban surroundings as it guides visitors in a series of rising platforms that ramp upwards and offer visual to the natural valley that borders San Jose, which is the true landmark.
- Iconic: in both shape and meaning, with its distinct 2 peaks that poke the horizontal skyline of San Jose and present a new recognizable iconic feature of the city.
- Public: a new feature in the heart of San Jose dedicated first and foremost for the people of San Jose, not only activating the previous "Arena Green" but also duplicating its area on top of each other and offering an area for potential commercial or mixed-use activity.

Of all the iconic monuments in the US, I found the Gateway Arch the most intriguing. While Lady Liberty is certainly more famous, to me "the Arch" is more "Usonian". Its form is driven from the history of St. Louis and secured the title of "the gateway between the east and the west" for its city. While maintaining an outstanding outline and an iconic shape inspired by the industry of its time. A truly wholesome monument.

Therefore, I opted to take guidance from Eero Saarinen's design and hope that my entry would be an addition to the city of San Jose and its people.