

Project Statement:

The design focused on creating a space that would continue the conversations started by San Jose's story, from its start as an Ohlone nation, to its current incarnation as a tech boomtown propelled by innovation. With few areas of unifying public space, key program zones were identified to create a flexible, multifunctional assembly of experiences. Closer to the SAP center is a rideshare drop-off and open sports lawn for use during events, with areas extending further into Guadalupe River Park activated with an educational pavilion for outdoor installations, a freestanding marketplace area to promote local business, and a landmark tower. Using computational scripts, radiating lines were drawn from each program and manipulated with attraction and repel principles to draw the pathways and connections that are the foundation of the park's circulation and design.

All paths winding through the park lead to a point of unity, the landmark tower, the Heart. An organically inspired, spiraling skin conceals the winding staircase and viewing platforms that offer view of the park and its environs, contrasted by the grid like structural frame that also draws the eye towards the neighboring marketplace and educational zones, as well as the WiFi park and its floral-like superstructures. At night, the entire assembly is gently illuminated, a reference to the many ways technology has contributed to city's growth. The linear lighting of the Heart's frame and the terraced awnings of the marketplace and educational zones stitch together the right side of the park to form a comforting, well-lit evening space, and also deter any collisions from birds or other wildlife.

To preserve the original landscape, pavilions and amphitheaters are planned to be formed with rammed earth, adobe, and reused brick pavers, while structures are to be primarily constructed from recycled PVC and fabric, as well as reclaimed timber. The pre-existing architectural elements such as Confluence Point, Arena Green lawns, and river site seating becomes a part of the new design, integrated to complement adjacent activities while ample green space are left as a buffer between the Guadalupe River and any hard programming. The Bloom Forest serves to not only allow those enjoying being in nature while connected to the web or needing a charging station, but are installed with solar arrays on the bloom superstructures to power lighting components of the park.