

+nature

Throughout human history, technology has been developed with one intent above all: to dominate nature. From hunting spears to air-conditioning, to landing on the moon, the majority of technological advancements have been geared towards defeating, protecting against, bending and conquering our natural environment.

However, we are now facing a huge paradigm shift where animosity and a sense of superiority are replaced by harmony and respect. In other words, we are shifting from “man vs nature” to “man + nature”.

By mirroring the base structure of the old tower and placing a large tree on top, the new San Jose Light Tower aims to elevate and—quite literally—place humans and nature on equal footing. A veil made of ETFE (Ethylene tetrafluoroethylen) at the top of the tower acts as a bulb to be filled with light, but also creates a Venturi Effect, accelerating incoming winds through a wind turbine. To avoid conflict with the trees’ roots, the elevator does not go straight up but weaves around the structure, functioning as a hillside elevator.

A symbol of synergy, the new tower celebrates the history of Silicon Valley as a place on the forefront of technological innovation and looks eagerly to the future development we make as a species.