

## Urban Confluence Silicon Valley Project Submission: The Ring

The icon of Silicon Valley and San Jose at the confluence of two rivers is where nature, technology, history, social life and interaction converge. The design idea originates from the site's natural potential for grandeur with an icon being built around one of the main natural elements of the city, the Guadalupe River.

Given that the site is located alongside a highway and there is no external remarkable view towards the surrounding areas, the design is introverted to draw visual attention to the center of the site.

To be distinctive and memorable among the neighboring buildings the icon should be respectful to nature and the natural elements of the site, especially in contrast to the massive buildings across the highway.

The design resembles a transparent net that forms a ring around a natural landscape. The landmark is a dynamic oval pedestrian walkway passing through controllable photochromic dynamic glass structures as well as diagonal and disarrayed columns resembling reeds along a river similar to a cane brake.

The following are the main design ideas of the landmark:

1. Transparency and visual access from all around the site.
2. Formally and functionally close to nature and natural elements.
3. Integrity and unity of the two parts of the land.
4. Contrasting with massive neighboring building blocks.
5. Creating a variety of dynamic and lively social spaces.
6. Providing connectivity between the surrounding areas by making permeable routes to attract pedestrians to cross the site and create vibrant spaces.
7. Providing natural views towards the center of the space by making the most of existing rivers and water.
8. Balancing a respect for nature with contemporary building styles and high end techniques.
9. The Ring also signifies the worldwide cooperation that enables the high tech environment that has become a hallmark of Silicon Valley. In accordance with this local and global technology theme, Silicon Valley based companies may have individual spaces in the designed pavilions and exhibitions of the landmark.
10. Designing terraced landscapes around the rivers with splash pads, water features and fountains. In addition, the space can be used as a public gathering place when needed.
11. The spaces under the Ring and on ground level can be designated to vendors and the public to provide safety and enhance the communal liveliness of the project site.