

The Undershark

A Celebration of the Nature, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship

This design proposal was inspired by the spirit of San Jose, where a city was neither built upon natural resources, nor harbors, but upon human being's talent, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

This design was well integrated with the Arena Green. Considering the site as the hub for various events, the initial intention of this design was not to reduce the park area, but to increase – by creating a vertical skypark. Considering the setback requirements from the Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River, this proposal sits the project on the east edge of the park, and leaves large area of Arena Green as a whole. By employing indirect illuminating on trees and structure members, this proposal has no glare to surrounding neighborhoods, no disturbance to pilots, and no harm to wildlife.

This proposal created a global icon, a must-go destination in the city. The clear, iconic shape is a reflection to the city: a humble space merged in the nature, a rising image of innovation, and a leading gesture of entrepreneurship. The open, flexible space will hold various events: sightseeing, sky conference, urban farming, natural class for kids, café, etc. The diversity itself will generate attractions for all generations, from kids to senior citizens, for all ethnic groups. By a well designed commercial pattern, this project will be self sustained by creating revenue and jobs for the city.

A smart structure system was designed for this proposal. A framed, porous-shell structure was employed to reduce the lateral forces. A Metal–Carbon-fabric composite material was in consideration to apply for a light weight structure and lower cost. Solar panels will be in consideration in the design development phase, with the intention not generating too much loads on the structure. Trees and plants will be carefully planted along the ramps inside to balance the weight, and together with solar panels, all contribute to a Net-Zero project.

San Jose is not only a great city emerged in recent decades, but representing a new pattern of human settlement in the context of high tech development. The Undershark, a naïve, yet powerful concept, will offer this city an opportunity of global cognition: a celebration of Nature, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.

The Undershark, representing a bright future of the city, will be a global landmark. San Jose deserves it.