

Bridge of Light

CONCEPT

As large as it looks in plan, **Bridge of Light** intends to be visually transparent by day and materially efficient. The idea formed in a light speed flash, a reaction to the tension between the two sites and call for ambitious place making.

The idea might seem far-fetched or even impossible, how can space separated by an enormous gulf including a river be connected in the form of a public art installation?

As elegant as memorable, communicating with its surrounds with spectacular optical effect, the project with its ultra large scale and technical needs speaks of the inventive spirit born from this place, and our collective desire to connect across space.

DESIGN

The design commenced by dividing the site into equally sized parcels. connected like computers to hub, each space patched to its twin on the opposite side of the creek.

PHYSICAL

Bridge of Light would be built from strong lightweight composite materials produced by local industry. Employing a light weight carbon fiber cable tensioned structure. Rigid elements under compression will integrate to form the large arch elements, anchored to the ground and weather proofed.

LIGHTING

By day sensors will gather information, creating an atmospheric diary, each evening this will be played back as a shifting lighting show of events just past, the color changing with each moment illuminating the surrounds with a soft glow. Energy efficient LEDs as the light source. Addressing sustainability, the project will be self-powered. Energy is harvested from the California Sun, captured by solar cells covering each of the columns. Each tower can generate 1000 watts continuous on a sunny day, power stored in batteries concealed within.

The solar columns lift the structure clear of the ground, permitting movement of people with minimal interference to flora and fauna of the creek area. Both visible from a distance and freeway but not a hinderance to air traffic due to its low sweeping profile.

My wish is not to cause light pollution by making it adaptable to suit future needs of the community and environment of San José as a whole, but a positive icon for the place celebrating the relationship between the technology, humanity and the environment.