

The Optic Bubble is an iconic structure spanning the Guadalupe River, creating pedestrian access across through a radiant ellipsoid sphere. Floating above the river on four raked legs, the Bubble will allow the natural environment beneath to be landscaped and restored, promoting biodiversity and the planting of trees and plants around a new public park.

The Bubble will splice extreme innovation in structural engineering with contemporary art and design. It aspires to be a source of local pride and identity visible from all over the city as well as an international landmark and cultural destination for the whole world.

Largely open to the elements, the platform will provide panoramic views across the whole city. It will also serve as an inclusive cultural venue and meeting point, allowing visitors to reflect on a diverse range of cultural experiences, from art, music, theatre and light shows, while also enjoying a landscape of lush greenery planted within. The Bubble will stand for equality and unity between all nations, races, ages, genders, abilities and orientations.

Made of a specifically perforated aluminium extrusion, the Bubble will be easily buildable as a kit of parts and anodised in a silver colour to best reflect the changing light and shifting sky. These tapered extrusions attach together to form a vast elongated igloo of dappled radiant light that will shimmer and seem to melt away in the bright sun. Like ancient enduring structures such as the Pantheon in Rome, the Bubble will be activated by light and weather; every day and every season transforming the way it appears. At night it will radiate energy from within by means of carefully choreographed lighting displays. This endlessly changing radiant effect can be experienced both inside and out.

The Bubble will produce all its own electricity and power through solar panels incorporated in the structure and surrounding site. Any surplus electricity will be stored as hydrogen on site, and the excess will be sold and spliced into the local gas heating grid or to local hydrogen cars.

All material used in the building of the Bubble will be sustainably produced, and all tenderers/suppliers will be required to be on green energy contracts. All other carbon production and flights associated with the project's realisation will be offset with carbon offsetting programs and over time the production of on-site hydrogen from solar energy will make this endeavour carbon positive.