

The confluence is an area of intersection, a clashing and intertwining of two forces of nature: the Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River. The whirling currents of the two rivers eat away at the banks, which are in constant flux from the inflow of sediment and subsequent erosion. Despite the unrest of the forces that shape it, time flows at slower pace than the bustle of the city surrounding it. It is on this site that LIGHT BEACON is placed, with careful consideration and conservation of the trees that already exist. In this place that seems to be frozen in time, the people of San Jose seek refuge.

LIGHT BEACON embraces erosion instead of resisting it. The memories of the San Jose Electric Light Tower and its pyramid-shaped urban figure are preserved as a formal gesture: the pyramids are rotated and scaled to different degrees and are clustered together into one whole. Thereafter the erosion of time and the flux of the river currents carve away at the bases of the pyramids, leaving voids and stalactites that gently encompass the human activity underneath. The tips of the pyramids remain intact and can be viewed from any vantage point throughout the city.

To minimize the impact of LIGHT BEACON on the natural environment of the site, the structure is carefully prefabricated off site using a unitized system and assembled on site to reduce construction time. The façade is composed of photovoltaic solar glass panels that generate solar energy during the day and use a fraction of that energy to emit a soft glow during the night. The rest of the clean, sustainable energy is sent back to the city and to the people.

Sitting like a gem in the middle of the forest LIGHT BEACON's translucent panels and their many shapes and angles fragment, reflect and refract the surrounding vistas into a myriad of frames. In this massive collage the city and nature become one, promising a future of coexistence.