

What does it mean to be human today? Do we control technology and its development? Does technology control us? Or are we working together?

Positioned at the gateway to Silicon Valley where the debate over these questions is playing out with every line of code that is written, '*Structure for a Sentient Swarm*' is an architectural-scale manifestation of the invisible and increasingly life-like algorithmic environment that humanity is entering into. The structure is envisioned to be largely constructed from sustainably sourced wood, while the energy efficient light sources are to be powered by renewable energy to achieve net-zero energy consumption.

The building's behavioural swarm algorithm, modelled on the phenomena found in nature, is a live-learning AI that celebrates the ambiguous space between pre-determined and emergent behaviour. The swarm that lives in our structure is curious to explore how to respond to (and interact with) our human presence. It evolves over time and learns to make itself known to visitors, spectators and the wider community through the medium of orchestrated collective movement that, through its behaviour, suggests the presence of sentience.

A powerful visual spectacle from afar by both night and day, the visitor experience of '*Structure for a Sentient Swarm*' begins by offering an initial intimate encounter at the visitor centre. Here, a maquette of the structure is situated to celebrate the architecture at the human scale. Touching the reactive maquette activates the monumental '*Structure for a Sentient Swarm*' in real time and allows asymmetric dialogue over touch, distance, scale and light.

The main 'dialogue' between man and the sentient swarm occurs when we enter the building itself. Within the structure, visitors are immersed in the live learning swarm algorithm that reacts to them as they progress through the space and to the viewing platform at its apex. Never pre-programmed or pre-determined, said reaction of the Swarm evolves algorithmically driven while encountering spectators and visitors alike and over time.

This interaction with and within the building is visually translated into an engaging and subtly changing experience of a 'life form'. Going beyond surface decoration or an animated facade, the sculpture is a widely visible algorithmic living monument to the communities' collective responsibility and its collective intelligence. '*Structure for a Sentient Swarm*' generates a tangible reminder of the quiet and mysterious perfection found in nature, which surrounds and pre-exists the contemporary, anthropocentric landscape of our lived reality.