

Land | Marks

The media artwork proposes two opposing structures to the site at Arena Green, which represent landscapes inspired by the valley faces of the Sierra Nevada to the east, and the Santa Cruz Mountains in the west. At the confluence of two urban rivers, the piece celebrates the bedrock from which water is brought through the city. The landscapes are both a representation of a geological past, and an insight into the technological future. The artwork provides a platform for an array of activities and events, whilst creating a unique and iconic landmark for the city of San José.

During the day, the artwork exists simultaneously as a monumental but permeable structure, through its open and lightweight metal lattice frame, that forms the mountain reliefs and catches the sunlight. At every change in angle and variation in the weather, the appearance of the valley faces transforms, creating a shifting landscape as visitors journey through Arena Green. Openings between the individual strips of landscape provide routes and views through to the mountain ranges behind.

In the evening, the structures transform into digital landscapes and showcase the culture of innovative technology in San José. Interactive lighting set into the structural framework creates a canvas for spectacles of animated content that are environmentally and time-sensitive to the natural habitat. The seasons could be animated in a single evening; visualising waterfalls, vegetation, and birds in flight. Hydrological and geological processes could be mapped out to provide a pedagogic tool. At their simplest, the landscapes form a billboard for storytelling. All of the energy required for the media artwork will be harvested locally through photovoltaic cells, which form part of the bespoke LED nodes capping individual vertical bars.

In these difficult times, this is an iconic destination that welcomes all visitors from around the world. Like all celebrated landmarks, it is able to be inhabited and become a sociable gathering space. The walkways that traverse the landscapes offer visitors a journey of spectacular views; whilst the sheer walls could become a hub for climbers, and the sheltered spaces within could host concerts. There is also the opportunity for the project to be an educational centre for the ecology on the site – the rivers and their biodiversity. In this way, we hope that these living digital mountains could

act as a catalyst to inspire and empower future generations to protect the environments around them.