Aesthetics

The project applies the sleekness of Silicon Valley product design to the historic San Jose Light Tower. The expressed industrial structure of the old light tower is updated to a smooth conical form - a pure geometric object clad in semi-reflective glass and contoured by 7 rings of light.

Technology

The facade of the conical tower functions as a LED display that can project images and videos at night. The projected content will be controlled by an AI entity located within the central computer system. The AI will learn from user insights and will ultimately become a data driven mirror of the city's various collective moods. For example, on days of celebration the tower might project dynamic images of happiness sourced from various media. The tower becomes its own urban personality - SAL (San-jose Adaptive Light-tower), an autonomous object that communicates with the city through digital content.

Ecology

The landscape strategy is to create a "computer in the garden" scenario where the perfect abstraction of the conical tower is contrasted with a wild landscape. The surrounding mixed riparian woodland and forest will be restored and native grasses will be introduced. The glass of the tower will be coated with ultraviolet stripes to prevent bird collisions. In addition, the building AI can enforce "night mode" to reduce light pollution.

The tower rotates to maximize the production of energy. The core of the tower is lined with wind turbines and the exterior skin is covered with solar panel blinds which work in conjunction with the LED display screens. The AI computer uses sensors to calculate the optimal rotation angle of the tower.

Society

The landmark functions not as a static monument, but as an active gathering space. An underground utility ring supplies electricity to support urban pleasures such as picnics, farmers markets, and performances. The inside of the tower is an "observatory" where viewers can enjoy views without an elevator. This is achieved through a "digital periscope" - rotating cameras from the top of the tower capture sweeping views of the city and project the real time footage onto the interior facade.

Realization

In addition to the conventional services of a design team, this project will require the expertise of programmers, researchers, and intellectuals. The ideal result of this convergence will be the development of sustainable building technologies and building-integrated AI programs that can be universally applicable in the future.