

## THE STAIR

Befitting its location, The Stair becomes a cognitive center linking historic San Jose with the future Downtown West. Formally referencing mountains, landmark and monument precedents, The Stair presents notions of past and future, with views of the surrounding mountains and urban fabric that celebrate the unique setting of San Jose as the center of the Silicon Valley landscape.

Diaphanous light from the nested light columns illuminate the monumental mass of the stair and are framed by views from Historic San Jose Market area and streets in The Downtown West plan area; visually linking and becoming a cognitive center.

The stair and elevated plaza occupy and organize the park edge like a descendant of the City Beautiful Movement in classic simplicity; like a garden wall, shielding the park from the indifference of the SAP Center façade and parking lot. Gardens cascade out of large portals carved at the street level allowing visual and physical links between urban and garden realms. Powered by off-site solar to achieve net zero, these illuminated caverns visually link to the light columns above, while drawing visitors into the green beyond and are the first hint of the unexpected experiences offered by The Stair.

Seemingly solid, rising 140' from the street, The Stair is permeated with experiential paths accessed by foot, elevator, or small-scale funicular. The theme of LIGHT is celebrated in both daylight as well as night light experiences. Each experiential path meandering through the solid mass is an experiential study in light, space and surface. The lighting of the columns and digital surfaces at night is contrasted by the natural lighting within the paths during daytime. Each path is illuminated naturally through carved apertures in the iconic mass of the stair. Light filters through the mass in narrow points, tall slots, and colored forms. Paths that cross internal or external carved voids are wrapped in delicate, illuminated transparent skin as a contrast to the heavy mass and natural illumination of the internal passages.

Each passage weaves around or through a central celestial void. This 80' diameter spherical volume is the central void hidden within the stair. Numerous small apertures and concealed sources allow daylight to pierce the surface of the sphere creating internal constellations. At night, the apertures of the sphere and internal passages come alive on the façade, through internal illumination, displaying a hint of the experiences contained by the stair.

