

Silicon Valley leads the way to a new kind of social contract based on innovation. In the beginning of the innovative process lies a new idea which is formless yet full of potential. However contrary to its history with friend's couches and garages, the fostering conditions in Silicon Valley for the initial phases of the innovative process is prohibitively diminishing today. New beginners facing steep slopes in even the basic terms of living and real estate costs are forced to give up.

The icon for Silicon Valley could just be an embodiment of the core of the new social contract in action, and provide the necessary conditions at the same time. This structure could be inhabited by a community of innovators when they commit to a new idea, but only in the very initial stages of inception.

Cocoon is comprised of a collection of living and working units for the beginning innovators. Each innovating small team will get a unit depending on size as live-work units vary in size from floor to floor. There are social spaces for presenting and administration. With a total height of 164 feet, the top floors of Cocoon will be reserved for public viewing of the surrounding. On their way up, visitors will get a chance to observe the crystallized community from the inside.

Cocoon is situated on the inner bank site, closer to the Arena. The lower plaza organizes the separate movements of inhabitants and visitors, while restructuring the access to the park and water.

The "unitary-yet-collective" nature of the overall assemblage brings forth its own construction method: contemporary modular construction. Each unit will be pre-assembled with modular construction technology in factory. Therefore the structural challenge is to keep this cascaded form in equilibrium as units are assembled on site. Units on different floors will have different formats, forcing modular design to be more responsive to the variations. The aim of achieving net zero energy will be addressed by PV panels and heat pumps, installed at lower plaza levels.

Cocoon proposes to provide support as basic public amenity. It is crucial to turn this social idea into a spatial idea: rather than being dispersed and disparate, the innovators inhabit a configuration that will enhance the senses of belonging to a community and sharing. Cocoon will be the spatial demonstration for the crystalized ecosystem of relations we ascribe to a new social contract.