

The Spirit

Silicon Valley transformed from an agricultural area to become the basis for new technologies. Like Silicon Valley, the landmark portrays adaptability and fluidity. It is constantly reflecting changes in the city that surrounds it. Its motion is an outcome of natural and human interactions. It empowers individuals and shows the impact a single individual can have on a larger system.

The structure is comprised of a series of thin iridescent membranes that hang from a top rail above a floating boardwalk and cascade downwards, disappearing below ground level through thin slits and attaching to the edge of the site. Each membrane is connected to a buoy that floats on a bed of water, allowing the landmark to sway with the water. On the East side of the park, the structure emerges back from the ground to form a low-rise landscape - a place for pedestrians, bikers and wanderers to enjoy the park and the view, a place for self-reflection.

The landmark is a sustainable structure that revitalizes Guadalupe River and the natural forces around it. Its motion operates by natural influences like wind, water, and human beings rather than motorized systems. Its source of lighting is the city; it echoes the colors of nature and surrounding buildings and streetlights. It responds to sunlight and moonlight - it exhibits the city's constant activity. The landmark is an ever-changing structure; it never exists in the same condition more than once. It is a product of dynamic parameters that govern its state.

The most prominent view is the vertical structure sitting in Arena Green West, but tracing back to the East side of the park, it is a lower, human-scale landscape. In relation to its tall, swinging companion, it serves as a reminder of how all things started small in Silicon Valley. As a whole, the project shows us we cannot always start at the top; even though it is the first thing we see; time and efforts along the way are a push from the bottom up.

The Spirit is a physical manifestation of the history of Silicon Valley, the changes and adaptations it experienced with time, and the future evolution of the area. It portrays the multicultural nature of its context and the sense of belonging that everyone should have. It is an icon that connects people together, and connects the city's technological character to its raw, natural qualities.