

Cloud

The name “San Jose” may paint an iconic picture of a city in the valley, surrounded by mountains, and covered by a sky of light, airy clouds. But the name “San Jose” may also refer to the innovation capital of the world, a city of knowledge and technology that has enlightened millions.

A nod to this dual identity of San Jose, the Cloud is a piece that has been hand-picked from the city’s sky and remade to embody technological creation– a rendition of the cloud as we recognize it in today’s digitally driven world. The Cloud becomes a universal icon that can be deciphered by different cultures from around the globe who speak the common language of science.

Much like the technology it derives from, the Cloud is an ephemeral body, somewhat tangible and somewhat not. It has a light, mesh structure that is permeable to light, and although it stands 200 feet tall, it does not obstruct any lines of vision. Instead, visitors can see through this monument to the opposite side, as if it were really a cloud that is hovering mid-air.

The Cloud glows softly to make itself known but does not disturb life around it. It is made of a fiber glass material that can reflect existing light delicately within itself, keeping the light contained and preventing the emission of strong artificial rays to the outside.

But what is it like for the passer-by? For the visitor who has come a long way to discover San Jose and its opportunities? Or for the local who longs to see the city’s river from a different viewpoint, sit atop the trees, and marvel at the cityscape at sunset? The Cloud slopes upwards from the ground and ends with a viewing deck for all those who wish to ponder. It activates the river side with its pedestrian feature, where visitors can either walk to the top, experience the inside of the cloud, sit along its slope, or explore it from beneath and see how a whole world can be built out of tiny, insignificant units.