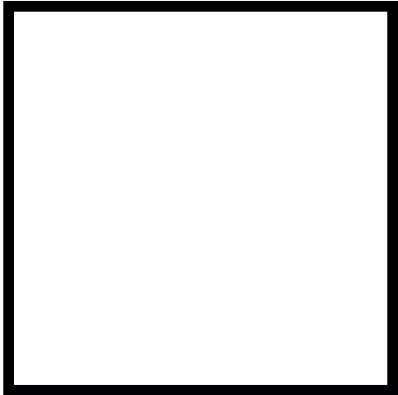


# THE BREATH OF HUMANITY

Or: *How I Wondered Through Time And Space In Search Of An Icon*



*“Once arrived in San Jose I saw a giant monolith standing above the treetops, it was the representation of Nature, and its physical essence and power. Despite the rawness of the stone, seeds and spores brought from the wind found a place to grow, and some birds made of its peaks a place for a nest, enriching it with a romantic atmosphere.*

*Approaching the monolith I found a hollow, as if its weight could bend the ground. A ramp was made to reach the bottom and all around the place looked like a dug theatre, resembling to Greek ones.*

*I searched the base and found a passage going inside; it led me to a cubic room, made of some kind of dark mirroring material sparkling of multiple colors. It was very difficult to define exactly its dimension.*

*Inside the room, I could hear voices mixing one over the other, in different languages and indeterminable number, resembling the harmony of waves braking on a coast. Then, I understood.*

*It was the breath of humanity, the incredible mix of voices of the World.*

*I travelled the path of evolution made by humankind and got to the physical representation of its knowledge and ability to modify and use materials, a cube. An abstraction that does not exist in nature.*

*The monolith was a metaphor of what is the most important achievement of human technology: communication.”*

Based on an ipotetic traveler’s diary...

## CONCEPT

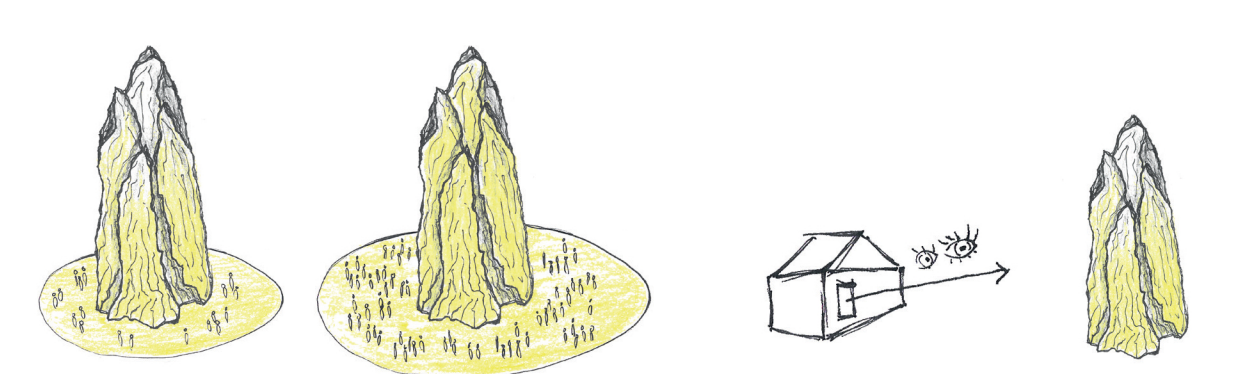
Millions of years ago a primate realized to have an opposable thumb. It changed the destiny of the World. During the whole course of history, human beings evolved and internalized nature and materials developing science and physics. Thanks to technological and informatics progress, more than ever before, the people over the world are unite and able to know each other’s cultures.

This proposal originates from the will of designing a monument that celebrates humankind capability to improve and evolve. In particular it focus on the enhanced connection, between people from all over the World, achieved thanks to innovators like those who live and work in San Jose, a distinctive characteristic the Silicon Valley is renowned for.

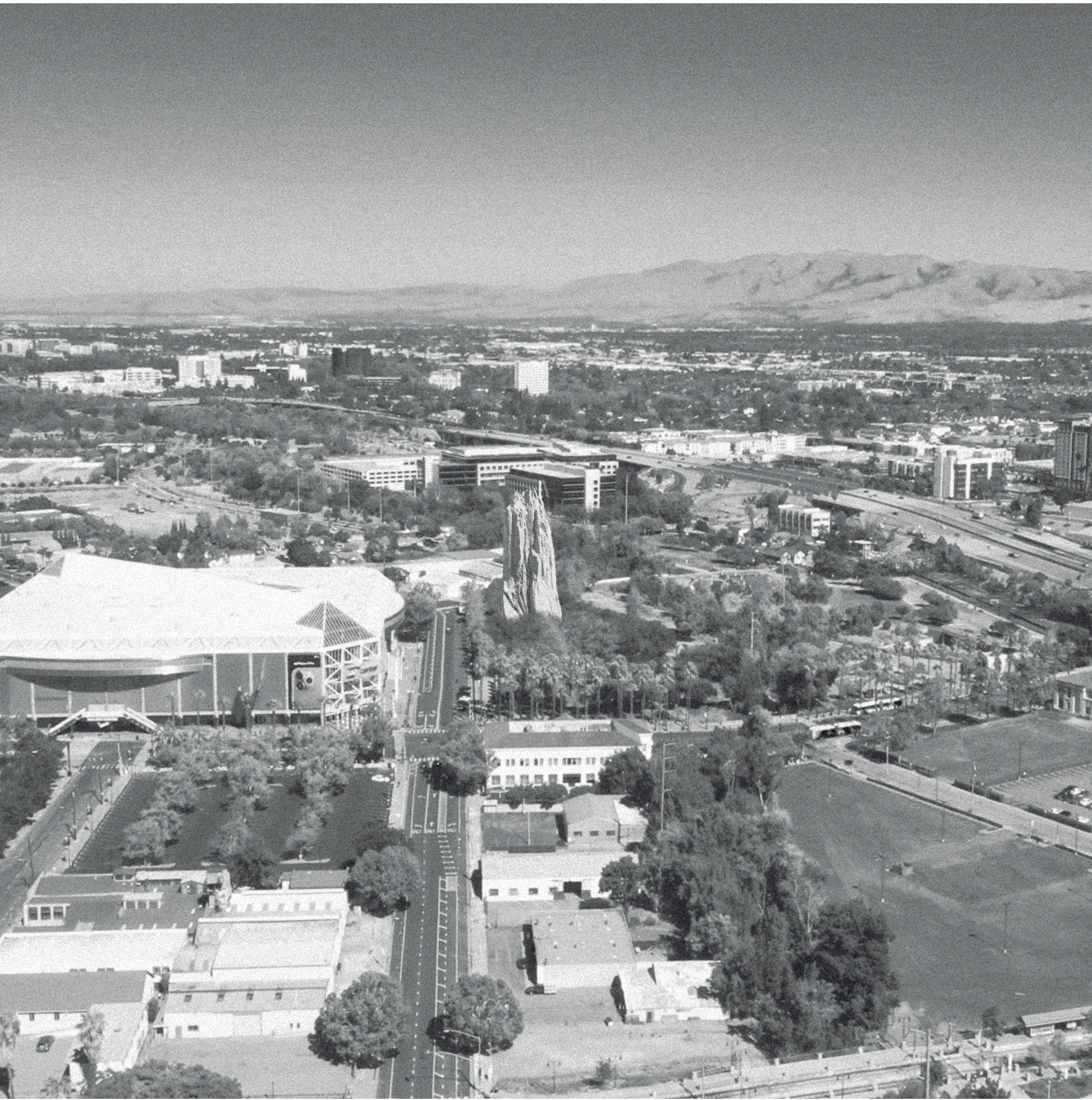
This Monument states the belief that humanity can, and will, go on improving and getting closer on the path to a more united and fair World for new generations.

## LIGHTENING

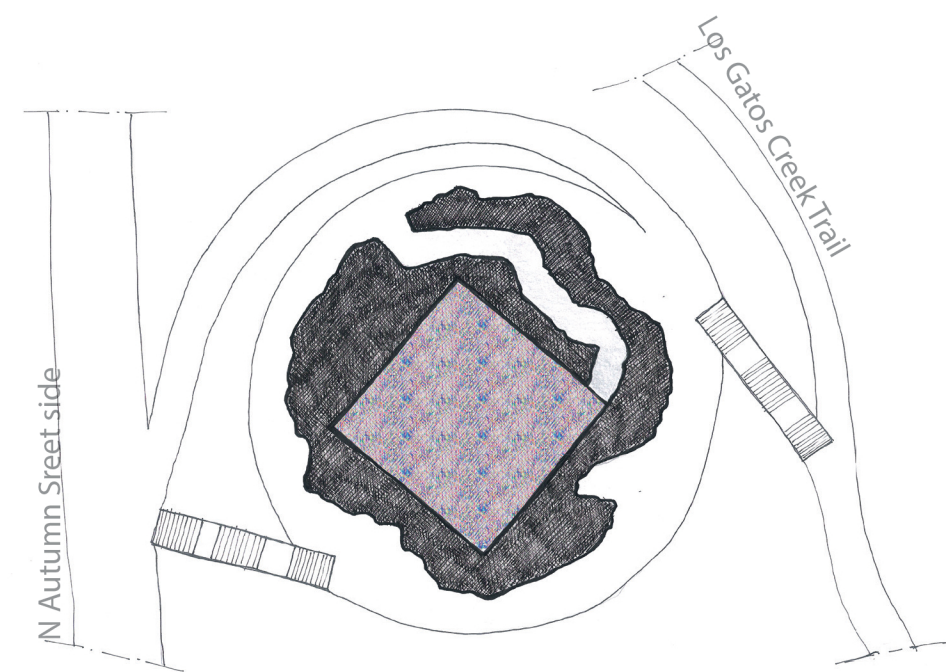
Thanks to neural circuit cameras, the monument lightening is not stationary, but depends on how much people are present in the area next to the Monolith. This illumination solution makes the night sight more interesting and also stimulate socialization, because the lightened area relates to the quantity of people, and invites them to get closer to one each other.



In this way people from home or at a distance, having a sight of the monument during the night, can have an idea of what is happening in Arena Green. In some way, the Monolith itself will communicate with the city.

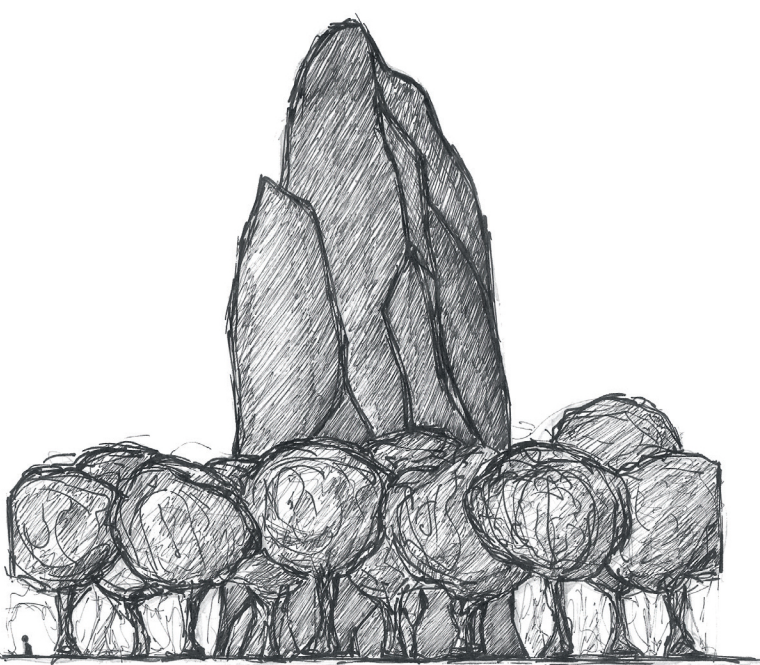


## THE MONOLITH PLAN

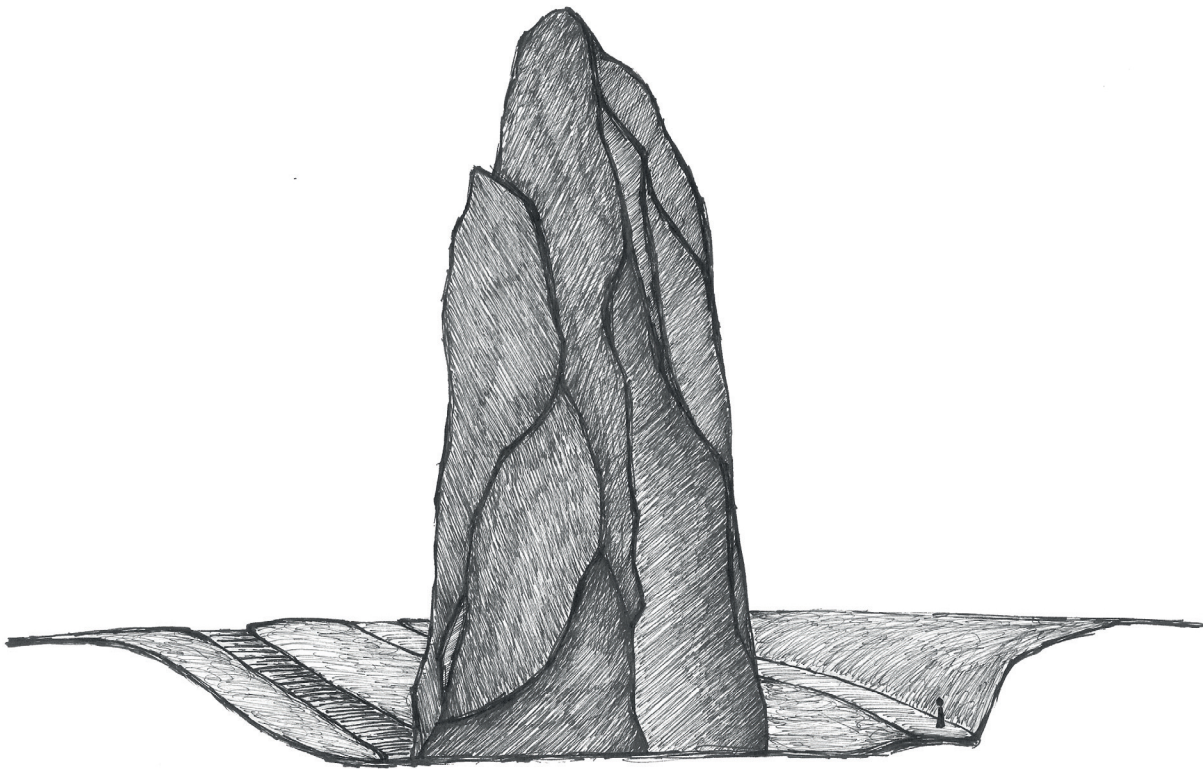


The Monolith has a base of an approximate circumference of 90 feet. The path that leads to the monument inside is shaped to avoid the sight of the chamber from outside generating curiosity. This cavernous passage resembles the way of humankind towards knowledge.

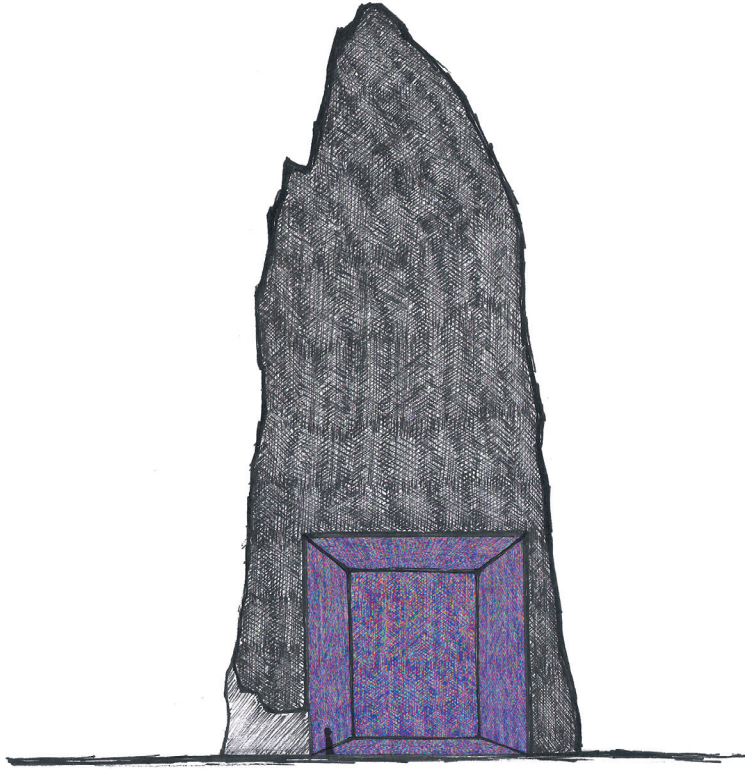
## APPROCHING THE MONOLITH



The vegetation in ArenaGreen and the surrounding buildings make difficult to see the base of the Monolith, the walk towards its discovery starts from the distance.



The Monolith height is 200 feet from the ground level, but it rises from a hollow that makes it even taller. The hollow generates a kind of theatre of which the Monolith is the protagonist, increasing its impressiveness while descending to his base to find the entrance. Everybody can go to the entrance. The base is accessible either with stairs or a long ramp.



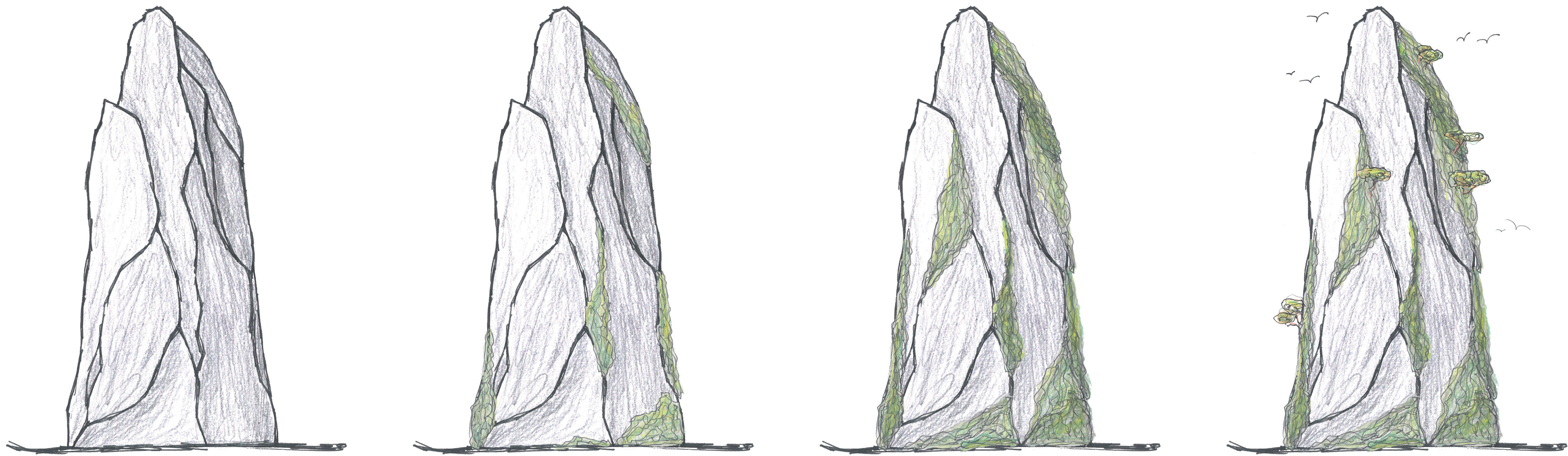
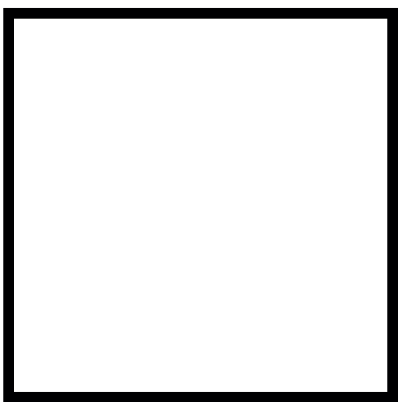
The inner chamber represents the abstraction only humankind can achieve. Its surfaces are made of a smooth mirroring material sparkling with different colors, slightly inspired by the silicon carbide. This space will be hardly intelligible causing a light sense of confusion that makes people focus on the Breath of Humanity. An experience irreproducible with a picture.





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TIME and AGING —————→  
The passage of time does not make the monument old and outmoded; instead, it improves its beauty and strengthen the concept of opposition between organic shapes and the internal cubic chamber.



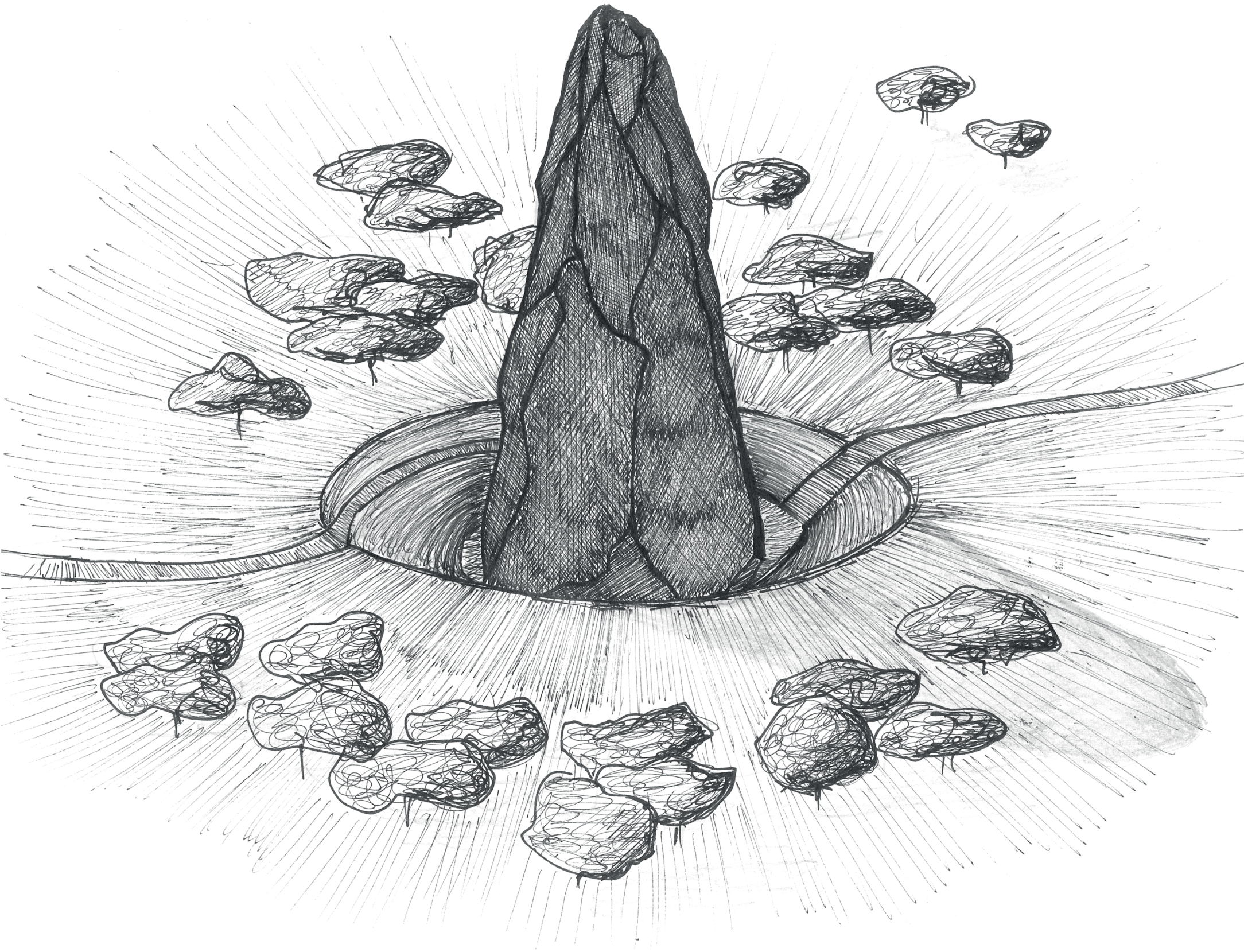
Delmas Ave View



Guadalupe Freeway View



Site Map  
N Autumn Street View - Night



Upper View of Monolith and Hollow

