

Eternal Reflection

Eternal Reflection is a structural installation consisting of three individual arches that appear to have been plucked out of the earth. The installation is a representation of the inequality that is and has been prevalent in society. The design explores the use of an asymmetrical structure and creating an ephemeral symbol of equality with shadows cast, the effect will enrich the multi-sensory experiences for the visiting public. With social distancing in mind, the installation will transform Arena Green into a public area where visitors have a landmark providing reflection and contemplation through shadow. The region has historically and presently been pioneering, and it is fitting that San Jose continues the practice, not just in technology but in how we approach public spaces.

Throughout history, the arch has proven to embody and represent many different things. For example, in architecture, they embody strength and support, lightness, and openness within density. The structures will initially rise on a gentle slope that gradually peaks with an abrupt drop. From any given angle, as one approaches the space, they will recognize the asymmetrical aspect of the twisting arches. The structures will be constructed by a stainless metal, therefore, when one gets closer and walks under, mirrored reflections will become evident. The park is a new gathering spot, where people walk under any of the given arches, representing a symbolization of abandoning the old asymmetry portrayed by the structures and embracing a new phase of hopeful equality.

The perimeter of the space will be elevated in relation to its surroundings with a sunken space underneath the arches. The design will serve to allow people to sit and do as they please. Functions and gatherings are more than welcome. Underneath the structure will be a blend of landscape and hardscape. Whether it be a moment of reflection, leisure, rest, or work, space is made for the public to freely utilize. With a city that has a rich history and is now constructing an innovative future, this installation will provide a space to create engagement and reflection on cultural and societal issues prevalent historically and currently.