

“Expedition in Time”

“Silicon Valley” is the cradle of IT revolution. It is shaping the present and future of our planet. The proposed site is a challenging one as it already contains several irreplaceable landmarks and of course a river which splits right into the very site. The requirements are also very demanding as there are flavors of historical context and a symbol of futurism, too. So, in responding to the objectives of the competition here are our design considerations:

1. As the area available for the landmark / structure is split between two chunks of land within the site, we decided to connect the parcels, creating a bridge that signifies a strong bond, a sense of togetherness. It initiates a journey that takes an observer through the historical timeline of “Silicon Valley”, from the past to a foreseeable future and beyond.
2. The journey starts at a sunken platform that symbolizes the “past” and historical events that shaped the future of “Silicon Valley”.
3. Then the observer enters into the bridge, a vertical toroidal tube spanning more than 600 feet in length and 150 feet tall in height. This massive yet magnificent structure will create the impression of an icon to the users and will draw attention throughout the world. Up to the midway through the journey the observer would experience the groundbreaking innovations of “Silicon Valley” in the recent decades which we will call the “present”.
4. The “future” half of the tube would demonstrate the upcoming technologies and innovations that will continue to impact our lives deeply. And things that are beyond the boundaries of reality and our expectations. The journey ends here.
5. As the bridge is a transition between the “present” and the “future”, the first half of the form would give us a conscious idea of the “present”, something robust. Conversely, the latter half would be more or less invisible, providing us a sense of something intangible yet perceivable, the “future”.
6. We are considering c-Si [Crystalline Silicon] solar panels for the whole surface of the bridge to cover up, thus conforming to the net zero energy design principles. Moreover, as this would be a very lively public place we wanted to reduce the carbon footprint of the project by doing on ground construction absolutely minimum.
7. We would like to call our journey an “Expedition in Time”, because it travels through the history and future.