

A totem is the concrete presence of an abstract, immaterial, element, or being.

So the Urban Confluence Totem will be.

We are what our ancestors built for us. We are building today the next step from which the next generations will start their development path. A celebration of history as a celebration of communities and individuals.

The project embodies this concept, showing it in every aspect.

Landmark as memory

The stratification of time has been brought to a physical scale. Years can be measured in feet and inches. Some key years related to key progress goals of the Silicon Valley give shape to the monument. From the foundation of the first settlement, through social and technological advance, the tower rises till today, 160 ft above ground.

Landmark as mentor

Each of the rings of the tower is independent and moves as a vertical wind turbine. Each of the blades moves with the others simultaneously to open and close to the light and wind the core of the tower. The wind, pushing the blades, spins the rings with a speed and a direction that depends on the position of the blades. The kinetic component reminds us to be dynamic and sustainable. Movement is what makes us live, it's the engine of progress.

Landmark as facility

The grass-green sloping bases of the tower hide part of the foundation system as well as other spaces. The smallest is the mechanical room to manage the wind turbine and the energy produced by it. A second one is thought of as a storage and customizable room for local associations. The largest underground space is for community gatherings, exhibitions, performances. A spiral ramp brings visitors from the ground floor to the panoramic observation deck.

Landmark as a visual presence

The Electric Light Tower set in downtown San Jose almost 150 years ago is still a strong reference. It was giving the opportunity of living the urban space independently of the time of the day. The Totem tower wants to stress even more the role of the light. Each blade of the kinetic skin would have a series of RGB LEDs that, in perfect coordination with the other ones, would produce stunning performances night time. The separation between rings would act as a string course, a subtle memory of the light rings in the original tower.