

THE RING

Our proposal consists of a 200-foot diameter ring floating at 180 feet high over the city of San Jose; it not only aspires to become the emblematic icon of Silicon Valley, but also to function as a scenic viewpoint. There, it will be possible to enjoy uninterrupted views sweeping a 360-degree panorama enabled by seven-foot-tall glass panes, tilted 45 degrees to minimize their perception as a limit. At the same time, it will be a promenade deck: a circular sky pier with 20 floor-embedded round benches, rhythmically alternating with the same number of trees, up to 20 feet high each, that will provide shade. In the floors of each bench will be an observation glass oculus with a view towards the park below; at night they will also function as focal lights. This ring will be accessed thanks to a single, generous-sized elevator running inside a 200-foot high tower, around which the escape stairs system revolves. This tower is an integral part of the structural solution, together with a system of tensioned cables articulated to a cyclopean diagonal mast. Although the landmark is implanted as a freestanding autonomous object, its insertion is carried out with outmost sensitivity and consideration for the place. The complex will be accessed from a single-story buried building; in the spirit of a Net Zero approach, the idea is to project the least invasive footprint possible, so as to minimally alter the layout of the existing promenades. Amenities will include an access staircase that is also a grandstand, a multipurpose stage-patio, four shops, a dining hall, a ticket office and a waiting area, services, and an elevator for the disabled; three landscaped triangular courtyards serve as additional light sources. On the ground floor, the pavement draws a diamond figure aligned with the diameter of the ring but out of phase with respect to its vertical axis, which itself aligns with the nearby Dalmás Avenue and Carlyle Street. It seems paradoxically interesting that the route, both to get in and out, deliberately contemplates the idea of having to go down in order to go up. Another paradox that enriches the reading of our landmark proposal is that it is simultaneously horizontal and vertical, light and strong. We have called it **THE RING**.