Dancing Curtains

"To see and to make oneself be seen, to understand and to make oneself be understood, that is the fated circle of humanity; to be an actor or spectator, that is the condition of human life."

Charles Garnier, Le Theatre (Paris: Hachette. 1871)

In What Is a City by Lewis Mumford, he argues that the city is "a theater of social action". The *Dancing Curtains* presents itself as an urban stage that provides a platform for citizens to display themselves and be seen by the others. The stage invites the people to interact and blurs the line between the actor and spectator, the view and the viewer.

The *Dancing Curtains* proposes five towers at Arena Green Park West with heights ranging from 175 to 200 feet. Two of the five towers will be made out of sheer blue billowing fabric while the rest will be frozen drape-like precast concrete structure. The proposal invokes net-zero energy design principles in the lighting design. Instead of creating an enclosure, the project establishes multiple relaxed, comfortable, and informal public spaces, where people can not only act and perform, but also take photos, sit, eat and lie down. Formally and materially, the proposal toggles back and forth between what is understood as real and fake curtain, soft and hard, light and heavy, smooth and rough.

With the technological development in Silicon Valley, social media becomes an important standard of verification for a landmark. The proposal challenges the idea of a monument that is traditionally identified by its scale. Instead of its height, the project considers social media monumentality to define its landmark quality. As a critique to contemporary culture, the fame on social media assigns a new definition of monumentality. The physical scale does not matter, but its digital footprint on the internet afterward is the most important aspect for it to become an icon.

The proposal explores the way we experience space on social media, through the way it is being framed, photographed, recorded, and viewed in digital space. The project presents itself through its representation in leading social media platforms, such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, etc. While social media platforms become the stage for the proposal, the project also turns into a physical platform for digital content. Thus, both agents start to blur; the view and the viewers, the actors and the spectators, to present themselves to the public.