

Silicon Valley is an extraordinary community, also among the most innovative and culturally diverse places on the planet. It is no doubt that with her innovations she holds and connects the world but lacking a physical manifestation, an iconic symbol that not only speak to the community but also to the whole world.

In creating this iconic symbol, I got at the early stage to maintain the origin and the atmosphere of the area as a park, a place where people can congregate together and also a universal symbol is considered that can proudly say “we hold and connect the world. “

This symbol will have both utilitarian existence and poetic existence – it is actually a hand that rises out of the valley and the multicultural community as depicted by rising pillars. It has functional spaces like the general reception which is accessed by two walkways, the reception is raised above reflection pool into the tree canopy to maximize views and also to create a condition where the landscape and the building would really be interlaced in a seamless way where people can flow visually from inside to outside. There are restaurant and bar on floors above the reception with views of pool, fountain and the landscape. There is also an observation deck at about 190ft above the ground level where visitors can experience panoramic views of the city

Climate change and resource depletion are the main challenges that mankind has to face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Through impact on ecology, rainfall, temperature and weather system, global warming will directly affect all countries. To address this issue in the design, the building is completely Net-Zero energy building. Apart from the expansive photovoltaic cells on the roofs, the building employed double skin façade that will keep noise out but allows filtered air to naturally ventilate the interior spaces. Also the pool and fountain system partially rely on natural gravity as the rising pillars that symbolizes the community are hollow core and used to store water whereby a microclimatic condition is created that naturally cool the building by seamless flow of water which only need to be pumped when levels in the storages drop to a certain level.

I believe an icon like this is an externalization of ourselves; and after us it will stay here for hundreds of years and serve as a gift for many generations to come.