

As the capital of Silicon Valley, San José, California is at the epicenter of the digital revolution which has reshaped the world for decades. While intricate in their design, the machines at the core of this revolution are based on binary systems, 1s and 0s, signaling 'on' and 'off.' These two symbols turned an analog world digital, an offline world online. To reflect and celebrate the city that spearheaded innovation as we know it, we are proposing a symbolic tower inspired by these 1s and 0s that power our world, as iconic as modern technology itself.

This iconic Binary Breath structure will identify San José to the world as the contemporary Mesopotamia of the digital age. Virtually every device in use can trace roots to Silicon Valley. The symbol landmarks San José as the home of that technology. Set on the West Site, the tower maximizes its height to ensure its status as a physical landmark for the city, creating an urban presence evocative of the Eiffel Tower and Statue of Liberty, with an added dimension.

Beyond its iconic design, the tower is also equipped with dynamic lighting. A modern electric light tower. Not only paying homage to San José's history of electric landmarks, but enabling the meaning of the structure to adapt and respond to local context in the future. The '1' and '0' in the tower can slowly pulse, breathing light into its surroundings. Such a rhythmic display not only makes the structure interactive, but also environmentally reactive. Renewable energy captured by solar panels installed on adjacent parking lots reduces the project's ecological footprint and mitigates the heat island effect on the area, making for a more friendly local gathering space.

Shifts in the light's color and patterning can also be used to signal local occasions and celebrate holidays and events. The design's combination of beacon and park allows San José to bring attention to meaningful occasions and celebrate together as a single community. In its simplicity of structure and complexity in meaning, this tower will provide the city an interactive and inclusive landmark, while solidifying its identity as the cradle of digital innovation.