

Project Statement

Confluence Yard - Confluence of People

Confluence Yard is a place-making proposal with an iconic vertical structure. Welcoming local community and visitors to spend quality time through a curation of gathering points that revolve around life's simple pleasures. Introducing the following mixed-uses:

1. The Village: Cafes, restaurants, farmer's market, local amenities like a pharmacy.
2. The Silicon: Serviced office spaces.
3. The High Confluence: Elevated vista point for the city.
4. The Museum: Museum of Technology supported by its learning centre, cafe, and museum shop.
5. The Backyard: Amphitheater, sculpture park, and sports facilities.

Connectivity between the site's East and West is increased through a series of elevated pathways peeling off the ground, inviting all to enjoy managed open spaces and The Backyard throughout the year even when social distancing is required.

“Our proposal is to welcome first a community, then an iconic structure.”

Amplifying Silicon Valley's Charms

The design concept of Confluence Yard celebrates San Jose's access to nature in moderate climate and being in the heart of the world's most innovative companies. Drawing inspiration from the visual image of the semiconductor chip, the vertical structure and elevated pathways result in nodes and pockets to activate the site.

Respect for San Jose

Proudly a citizen of San Jose for over 20 years, our team member relates to Silicon Valley's community as culturally vibrant, but in need of refined civic destinations where professionals and their families can gather to enjoy, plus a landmark to proudly introduce their city. Confluence Yard draws from memories to think locally, but act globally to add value to San Jose. The Backyard proposed on the East merely enhances the continuation of team sports, a fond memory of growing up in San Jose. Projecting terraces invite visitors to a setting never seen before in the city.

Designing with Nature and Pushing the Limits for Energy Efficiency

The vertical structure forms an irregular plan with terraces and services located on the south-western elevation, naturally self-shading the building, resulting in a highly glazed low-emissive façade. The intention of the proposal is off-site pre-fabrication,

integrate embedded photovoltaic on opaque and semi-opaque surfaces, environmental friendly and drought-conscious landscaping materials.

The lighting concept, aiming to employ energy only from on-site generation, is a continuation of the semiconductor chip inspiration, enhancing the striking form, elevated pathways to culminate at The High Confluence: a spectacle for San Jose.

Word Count: 395 words