

## URBAN CONFLUENCE SILICON VALLEY

### **Project Statement** 400 words

“**Light Tower 2.0**” envisions the entire park as a unified experience for visitors. The past is honored, the present is on display, and aspirations for the future are tangibly expressed.

The main material used is **silicon**, in the form of frosted glass supported by skeletal frames. Silicon, of course, is the semiconductor material of electronics.

The design also includes **gold**, used for connectors in electronics. Here gold is present as electrum, a naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver. Our electrum is a light gold coating applied to a structural metal.

Finally, there are ten **white clouds** made of formed plastic, glowing from within. The largest is 90 feet across, the rest considerably smaller. In each cloud, some point touches another structure, which conceals the support as the cloud seems to float in the air.

The three materials have psychological implications. Glass symbolizes openness, eagerness, new awakenings, fresh ideas. Gold is associated with illumination, magic, passion, glamorous appeal, prosperity, grandeur, achievement, great value, healing, happiness. White, fluffy clouds can represent intuition, joy, wonder, spirituality, or imminent deeper understanding.

The centerpiece of the park would be two **light towers**, 230 feet tall and placed 25 feet apart. They honor the 1881 light tower in downtown San Jose. Light symbolizes life, goodness and hope. The two Light Tower 2.0 structures are almost identical. Each consists of three cuboid columns which spiral together as they rise. But the columns in one tower twist 90°; they twist 120° in the other. The difference is subtle, but unmistakable. One tower appears to stand calm and stately,

while the other seems to spin into action. An elevator shaft and pedestrian ramp are inside each tower, leading to observation rooms and viewing decks at the top. The skin of the towers would be made of two-way glass. From inside, the view out is clear. From outside, during the day, the glass appears translucent and frosted. At night, lights mounted on the core would backlight visitors using the ramp, projecting their ascending or descending silhouettes onto the frosted glass walls.

Net-zero energy principles would be used. Foremost would be solar panel pavers on all the sidewalks. A Hungarian firm, Platio, invented a version of these in 2018 that are photovoltaic panels made entirely out of recycled plastic.

In sum, Light Tower 2.0 would be an exciting, beautiful and meaningful highlight in the heart of Silicon Valley.