nest

A recent biological study concluded that no rare or endangered birds are anticipated to nest on this Guadalupe River site – to which I would like to ask, nest on ***what*** Guadalupe River site? It would be a real shame to limit our potential impact on our environment based on existing conditions and historical trends. Instead, we should look at every opportunity available to create the best future possible.

It is time we live differently. It is time to design a world that harmonizes our relationship with nature, rather than one that divides it. San Jose sits in a remarkable location: centered between the Coast Ranges to the East and West, and the San Francisco Bay to the North. Sitting less than ten miles away, these diverse habitats include coastal, wetland, valley, desert, forested, mountainous, and urban biodiversity.

Within these local habitats, there are 24 birds on the endangered species list. These birds are critical to maintaining a wider range of natural life. They pollinate plants, spread seeds, eat insects, control rodent populations, and stabilize the greater food chain. It is time we receive nature in our cities, rather than eliminate it.

The tower is constructed of laminated timber around a concrete elevator core. A large slice divides the tower diagonally, creating equal zones of inhabitation. On one side, humans circulate up and down via large sweeping stairs, or the central elevator. Separated by a 10' gap is a network of timber members perched atop the tower structure. Within this network are varying structural supports, ranging from ½" sticks for small nesting birds, to heavy beams reminiscent of large branches and tree trunks. For more particular birds, portions of clay, stone, or prebuilt boxes are situated throughout the tower structure to encourage nesting of different bird species.

Lights within the human side shine against the large wooden plane to illuminate the tower facing East. The orientation of lights and timber fully shield the nesting portion from glare. The tower falls dark for birds above, while below an icon gleams to the people, park, and city beyond.

Lastly, a story of harmony isn't complete without telling of its inherit net-zero qualities. Adjacent solar panels power the lighting and vertical transportation. The tower's 11,760 ft^3 of wood sequesters 294 metric tons of $C0_2$*, making it net *positive* carbon. Its simplicity of construction saves another 114 metric tons, compared to non-wood construction. Lastly, heavy timber is not a single use material, it's beams, columns, and floors can be re-purposed even hundred of years from now.

*Carbon sequestration data calculated via the Canadian Wood Council Carbon Calculator - https://cwc.ca/design-tools/carbon-calculator/