

Levitated Garden

What if the icon for Silicon Valley was a monument to clean water and a sustainable future? This project proposes to help clean our environment by merging sustainable technology with nature to create a "Levitated Garden" of water filtering forests in the sky.

Levitated Garden deals with the current and future water issues of San Jose. Water is vital to survival. This exposure aims to educate and challenge the technologies of water filtration systems and to provide clean drinking water and clean river for aquatic living beings and fauna to inhabit. Instead of the usual ground-scape of the water filtration system, we brought it up, reducing the land footprint and away from the pollution on the ground level, at the same time, introducing levitation pods of greenery. In this way, it also allows the vertical greenery to attract migratory birds, revitalizing the ecosystem in Downtown San Jose.

Levitated Garden is divided by a thick slab of machinery and is lifted 30 feet above ground to leave the landscape untouched and to encourage more activities to happen below. On the top of the machinery is an undulated terrain of nature where it is the last collection point of the filtration system before letting it flow back into the river. The top part of the Levitated Garden consists of several levitated green pods for natural filtration systems. The water filtration system starts from underground, pumping the river water up to the level of filtration machinery. After clearing out large amounts of toxic waste and dirt, it would then be pumped all the way up to the highest green pod where that would be the beginning point of the natural filtration system. This natural filtration system uses aquatic plants, like, cattails, waterlilies and rushes, would absorb the remaining smaller dirt particles as nutrients while helping to clean the water. In order to fully filtrate the water, it flows down from pod to pod like a river, along with pathways where people could travel down the same way. A parallel movement of people and water where the water circulation and filtration is also the path that people take, from elevators going up (water pumping up) and ramps going down (water flowing down). The pods are meant to inhabit lush greenery where it would cultivate big trees and native species to attract migratory birds and local fauna.