

Urban Confluence Design Statement

San Jose, located in the heart of Silicon Valley, is one of the wealthiest communities on Earth. This locale draws the world's brightest minds due to its financial strength. Despite this, Silicon Valley uses an incredible amount of non-renewable resources and gives little attention to the preservation of the fertile land it occupies.

Our landmark is therefore based on the idea of Silicon Valley GIVING BACK:

- Light collected by the photoluminescent fabric tower during the day to the night sky.
- Water collected, used, then treated and reclaimed by the rivers.
- Waste produced on site to be composted and given back to the land.
- As much of the land as possible to be restored to a native landscape.
- Honor to the land's native people through restoring the riverbed and incorporating a Learning Center.
- Knowledge to the world - through the cutting-edge technology of the building, including advanced power generation as well as waste and water reclamation, all realized through a Learning Center.

Our landmark incorporates important historical references such as:

- The 1881 Owens Electric Tower which was powered by a steam engine. The new landmark will be powered by the sun.
- One hundred years ago most of the valley was encompassed by fruit orchards. This period will live on through "Fruit Alley", a public garden.
- Most importantly, restoration of the native landscape in honor of its native Tamyen people.

Layout and Design:

- Our interventions are kept to the perimeter of the property to allow for the largest possible Riparian Corridor restoration.
- The tennis courts and a public square for gatherings are relocated next to the sports arena, including a café and public restrooms.
- As an extension of the high-rise buildings of downtown we located the new light tower landmark to the northeast of the site with pedestrian connections to West St. Jones and West Santa Clara Street.
- The shape of the tower is based on a triangle, representing silicon's composition of one silicon atom and two oxygen atoms. The direction of each level's floor plate alternates resulting in a hyperbolic paraboloid façade, clad with photoluminescent fabric.
- The tower houses its learning center and reclamation plant in the subterranean space, information kiosks on the entry level, a dedicated restaurant floor, and a viewing platform toward the tower's peak.