

The legacy of the San Jose Light Tower was, beyond new technology or structural form, above all its place-making ability by lighting and thus activating Downtown. A new landmark for San Jose at Confluence Park should first and foremost activate the park, and by extension the Guadalupe River green development and the future Diridon Station Neighbourhood, as a new community 'place'.

The structure is purposely positioned along the highway with its peak at Santa Clara Street, acting as a gateway to the new Diridon Station neighbourhood from Downtown. The sloped park, with its peak at 100', draws views from downtown and the highway, while offering panoramic sights down the Guadalupe river, into Downtown and the valley and mountains beyond.

The wedge shape, low and wide to high and narrow, is the result of programmatic, spatial and structural considerations. At the low end, large column spans provide shaded generous open spaces for community events such as farmers markets, gatherings, fairs etc. At the narrow end, 90' tall columns create a sunny and transparent space, with the greenery of the adjacent park filtering through. The gradual change in height and span of the columns allows for the most efficient loading of each column, resulting in extremely slender columns. Within this forest of columns, the slope ones, angled in different directions, laterally brace the structure.

The place-making intent of the project is twofold: extending the green-space of the Confluence Park in a dramatically visible way and offering spectacular new views, whilst creating a new space for community events and programming underneath. The garden is accessible via a sloped path as well as an elevator directly to the viewing-deck. Skylights provide daylight below and low-level lighting at night. Underneath, a forest of columns creates a place for community use, open and connected to the adjacent park. The sloped park is conceived as a botanical garden of indigenous and drought-resistant vegetation, reintroducing the local natural biotope in to the urban core.

The Net-zero energy approach of the project is 3-fold. An optimised slender steel structure makes the project possible using the smallest amount of material, utilising only recycled steel. The raised garden acts as an enormous rain & storm water retention and mitigation system for the adjacent landscape. Photovoltaic panels are

intermixed within the sloped green, unobtrusively providing the energy needed for lighting and operation.