



Proposing an icon for the city requires an enormous effort since the idea will become the image and representation of the city. With this in mind we try to discover what is the essence that underlies San José City, and we can say without a doubt, that it is its innovative spirit and its capacity to conjugate the human intelligence to expand and explore the limits. We truly understand that in that city is where the most brilliant minds are working with the possibilities of the future and that is why we propose a formal abstraction of a neuron, as the essential element that allows us to articulate the project. Intelligence understood as the ability to relate between people to create something better, to investigate the future and propose new forms of life, more humane, close and sensitive.

The location for this icon has a very particular characteristic: it is the confluence of two rivers, but we also understand that it is a point where various axes of the city converge: it is the point of articulation between the historic city, the new central location of Diridon Station and the Silicon Valley area and is the access point to a linear park that ends at the airport. In other words, not only do two rivers converge, but there are also the tensions between the historic city and a future city, between nature and built environment, and therefore will merge in just one place all the habitant's needs. As a gesture of respect for the site, the buildings/icons we will build are located in the gaps that exist, so that we do not have to remove trees. This strategy, together with the use of solar energy and the recovery of rainwater for maintenance purposes, has an impact on the net-zero energy goal. All structures are metallic, therefore reusable and recyclable. Our proposal not only seeks to create an image for the city, but we understand that this image must be able to be used, appropriated by the citizens. Each one of these neurons will have a different use; coffee, museum, reading place, bird shelter, rainwater container, space for plant growth, solar energy collector, viewpoints and from the highest ones, we propose that people can cross the park by means of a zip line system at more than 100 feet high, so that they can fly through the park, feeling a new and unique sensation.



