

The story of Silicon Valley is one of technological innovation. The development of silicon-based transistors and the microprocessor, the discovery of increasingly efficient photovoltaics, and the rapid evolution of the internet - the Santa Clara Valley has become a global hub of technology.

The design proposed here, itself a working piece of technology, acts as a tribute to this history. Much like the monoliths that allowed ancient people to track the passage of time, this monumental sundial traces the path of the sun. During the day, the shadow of this structure marks the hour on the plaza below while photovoltaic panels embedded in the plaza floor capture the sun's energy. This energy is then used to illuminate the corresponding hour mark during the evening. This PV system allows for net-zero energy consumption on the site.

The monument is located on Arena Green West. A semi-circular plaza acts as the dial plate on which the hour is marked. This plaza becomes an outdoor gathering space, interspersed with small lawns and pools. The 200' tower is visible not only by those exploring the park and the city, but also by drivers on the Interstate. Clad in stainless steel, it rests on a single-story plinth which contains a café, souvenir shop, art gallery, and elevator lobby. The elevator affords visitors a ride to the top of the tower and a grand view north toward San Francisco Bay.

The plaza lighting is similar to the current lighting level of the Arena Green public spaces. This reduces the impact on the riparian corridor but still allows for nighttime gatherings. Lighting of the tower itself minimizes UV wavelengths that interfere with local insect and bat populations. Light systems include time clock control and allow for full cutoff as needed, such as during times of avian migration.