

# ZEPHYR

## Project Statement

The new landmark is conceived as the **graphic outline** of a traditional high-rise building. The program unfolds within this “outline”, surrounded only by light and air, **defying** typical spatial and programmatic conventions.

One of the building’s vertical outlines was removed to create a spectacular cantilever floating above the public space. At night, the building is transformed. As it lights up, the missing outline is revealed in the form of a grand beam of light. **A Pillar of Light**. The illusion theatrically affirms light as a **symbol for Technology**, one of the founding principles of Silicon Valley.

The top level hosts a panoramic observation platform, a café, a gallery and a large suspended plaza in the middle. Here, dramatically hanging above the public space, one finds the (to-be) **world’s widest web**. This new public space promises to immerse the audience with a contrasting sense of openness and intimacy, evoking the **spirit of adventure** that defines Silicon Valley. The suspended net is equipped with LED’s underneath, capable of displaying digital content – artistic, institutional or commercial - into the streets below.

The 200-foot structure occupies a prominent place at the junction between Santa Clara and Autumn Streets, facing the future Google Village and San José’s Diridon Station. The building's location at the edge of the park favors the environmental **preservation of Arena Green** while simultaneously maximizing it’s **urban exposure**, with the new landmark being visible for quite a distance.

Sculpted from the ground up, the building provides an urban frame for contemplation and offers new spaces to exercise, rest or dream. A climbing wall lines the western core, staging a compelling **symbol for opportunity, challenge and overcome**. At a height of 200 feet, it would become the **tallest artificial climbing wall** in the world.

At ground level, the building is open and transparent, with a total **footprint as little as 530 square feet** that keeps the gardens as untouched as possible. The slender core-structure and open layout allows the sun to shine on every corner of the park and its slim profile **reduces wind loads** and tunnel effects. The building’s geometry is based on a structural 3D lattice, composed to **mimic the growth excisions of palm trees**, in reference to the trees found on-site.

## Key features/ideas

- People-centered Landmark
- Interactivity
- Lightness & Weightlessness
- Environmental Protection: low impact, absolute smallest footprint
- Graphic Expression: clear and unmistakable
- Biomimicry
- Sustainable Technologies
- Powered by anti-glare solar panels (solar farm)
- Innovative Program & Use of Space
- Timelessness & Simplicity

## Records/achievements

- Smallest footprint for an accessible landmark
- World’s largest suspended net
- World’s tallest artificial climbing wall
- Largest digital screens (top 100 overall, top5 horizontal)