

# WINDFIN

An Observatory of Air in Motion

The connection between human beings and the air we breathe has never been more relevant. We now know that the atmosphere that we inhabit connects us in ways that are far stronger than the world economy, the internet, and global politics.

The question of how to create a timeless landmark in San Jose should not only respond to local, regional or even national conditions. This landmark should be global, while, at the same time, avoiding the irrelevance of adding up to the growing list of conscienceless tourist attractions. We believe that a California landmark of the 21<sup>st</sup> century ought to acknowledge its place on our planet, understanding it as a highly complex system of ecological interconnections that we deeply rely on. The proposed San Jose landmark is situated in the atmosphere, raising consciousness of our profound dependence on the ethereal and massive 'aerial ocean' (Fitzroy, 1863). It will be an Atmospheric Landmark.

WINDFIN is an observatory of air in motion: its existence is instrumental to reveal and create awareness of the atmosphere's presence. It is a giant sensor of wind movement, and a climate remote sensing station focused on atmospheric change. Forty thousand thin film mini-solar panels will oscillate with the wind to generate enough energy to power the new 30,000 sqft 'SJArt. Community Center,' the Observatory's Periscope, and remote sensing equipment.

The purpose of WINDFIN's shape is to reactivate the park underneath. A two hundred feet high column supports an ultra-light structural web that keeps an elevated 'Eco-Loop' promenade suspended over the creek and the river. Gentle ramps slope up and down on both ends, connecting and activating all four corners of the park. To the west, the existing carousel and play areas will be reorganized to allocate the new Observatory's Educational Gardens, that will serve as an atrium for the Community Center. The existing Five Skaters Monument will be kept and enhanced as the main access point for Arena West. To the east, the earthworks for the loop landing will allocate a new Arena Green Amphitheater for outdoor events facing Arena Green. All the existing landmarks and memorials will be kept intact.

WINDFIN is set right in the threshold between earth and sky, between technology and ecology, between culture and nature. Our evolution as a species will depend on our ability to inhabit these thresholds. Our future is in the air.