

Project Statement

While Silicon Valley has prospered as a global center for technology and innovation, we still remember its historical bond with Element Silicon. Pioneers from Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory and Fairchild started the legend of Silicon Valley by exploring monocrystalline silicon. Considerable startups have been incubated successfully in Silicon Valley, including many of today's tech giants. Silicon could not only denote Silicon Valley's distinctive history but also symbolize San Jose's culture which embraces diversity and openness.

The idea of Sicon (Si + icon) stems from silicon spontaneously. The diamond cubic crystal structure endows silicon with a series of compelling characteristics. Semiconductors, integrated circuits, and plenty of revolutionary technologies are propelled by this micro yet magical pattern. From a macro perspective, if the silicon crystal structure is applied to the architectural design, it will generate a harmonious arrangement of space. Triangles, rectangles, and hexagons could be observed from different viewpoints, thus creating exciting visual interactions. The order and aesthetics underlying the unique structure imply the infinite possibilities of Silicon Valley, bringing inspiration to people from all over the world.

As for the site per se, there is already a landscape infused with history, culture, community connections, and natural identities. The concept of "vertical park" is adopted out of respect for the original site. We will extend Sicon skywards, guarantee ample natural lighting during the day, and meanwhile maintain the existing landscape – from palm trees to Five Skaters – to the greatest extent. The see-through structure with attached stairways enables a pleasant symbiosis of light and shade. At night, a minimal use of lighting could add a graceful glow to the whole structure. Temporary platform units could be utilized to accommodate community activities, such as exhibitions, to display the civic pride in San Jose. The scalability and multifunctionality of Sicon will make it the next iconic destination of the region. Apart from the stunning visual presence, Sicon would provide people with immersive feelings through multisensory experiences. Walking along the delicate stairways and up to the topmost observation deck, people could enjoy beautiful vistas and even panoramic views of the entire city. Sicon will communicate the vibe of San Jose to tourists in a fresh and eco-friendly way.

For the net-zero energy design principles, since Sicon itself does not consume any energy except for night lighting, it will be very simple to meet the requirement by installing solar grids at the site location.