

The greatest accomplishment of the information age has been its power to bring people together. Across borders, languages and cultures, the innovations of Silicon Valley have continuously fostered unprecedented human connection. I designed a monument to reflect that: a great footbridge that spans Arena Green, connecting east and west in a fresh, beautiful and awe-inspiring way.

Made of curtain walls of delicately glazed glass in the manner of London's Shard, the skyway will be simultaneously transparent and reflective, offering sweeping views of the valley while reflecting the moods and patterns of the seasons' skies. Its angled glass walls and open-air roof will engender both a sense of enclosure and a spirit of freedom, while its glass stairs (and connected glass pathways around the green) a la the Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge will create both a feeling of movement and a synthesis with nature.

Industrial and cutting-edge in material with its glass shell and stainless-steel undergirding, it will be simple and organic in spirit, soaring upward and culminating at an otherwise unadorned vertex. LED strips powered by off-site solar will illuminate its form at night. Referencing the Platonic ideal of unity and return to form, the two staircases meet in perfect harmony, mirroring each other down to the rivet and making for a truly beautiful piece of public art.

It will follow the trend of NYC's Vessel by serving as both sculpture and staircase, inviting visitors to literally ascend, and to discover more and more about their city and themselves as they climb ever higher. By the time they reach the top, they will have climbed over 300 steps and risen 200 feet. As the structure is triangular, they will not simply reach a top, but scale and crest a summit. This personal effort and achievement will allow guests to reflect on the struggles of Silicon Valley's greatest innovators to better the world. As they descend the other side, returning from the idyllic top to the imperfect world below, perhaps they'll be inspired to tackle some of those problems in the bold and creative style of Silicon Valley's greatest icons.