

## Urban Confluence Design Competition

### Project Statement

**Design Inspiration** did not arrive immediately. Researching cultural heritage of the region and taking notes, I was looking for a way to make a personal connection. Early sketches were derived out of some sort of futuristic imagery, even going back to “The Jetsons” impressions lingering on in my mind. Subsequently, typing the “Silicon Valley” in the Google search box, it became obvious that the word silicon was the key representation of the sense of place for the birthplace of the computer technology advancements. The 3-dimensional molecule model became the central theme of the design inspiration.

**Design Intent** strongly highlights the maximum preservation of the natural environment allowing for minimum footprint for the structure’s pad. It is imperative that all proposed elements are ADA compliant providing easy access. Some of the existing elements and amenities on the site need to be relocated with the approval from the governing agencies. Shapes of most of the proposed planting areas mimic the grassy areas near the Vietnam Memorial providing design continuity while enhancing the theme of the dynamic interactions of the flowing water and wind. The landmark shall become both a destination point for world travelers and a gathering place for local community members. Sharing of the diverse cultural experiences can be enhanced providing various educational and art opportunities.

**Design Process** began with the development of the multiple combinations of the silicon-oxygen tetrahedron molecule models, primarily as children’s playground climbing equipment. Over time it became a single molecule which grew into a structure that was defined largely by the nature of the site-specific constraints. The essential plan view silhouette can be derived out of a shape of a tree at the base of the structure representing the life, growth and living with sustainability minded principles. The glass and steel structure then represents the technology growth, where nature and science coexist supporting each other.

**Activation Strategies** shall be explored after a more narrowly defined design program is established. Space allocation options for the main structure include: Art Gallery, Gift Shops and Book Store, Interactive Museum of Technology and Science, Refreshment Stands, a Bistro and Restaurant(s) to take in the outstanding views. Special emphasis shall be given to the lighting design, making the glass structures a light show canvas with artists designed themes for Special Events including Holydays and the New Year Celebrations, much like the Times Square.