

CONFLUX CORRIDOR

The proposal is a response to the cultural context of Silicon Valley as well as California at large. San Jose can be seen as a junction of the two: harmonious with nature in the pastoral roots of California and an American symbol of innovation stemming from Silicon Valley that has had a rippling effect on emerging cultures through its unique role in technological progression. The proposal embodies the soul of California by functioning as a key cultural destination. It expresses openness to nature and cohesion with the surrounding landscape to create a public forum adapted to a technological age.

Severed by the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek, the site is reinterpreted conceptually in the compositional narrative: a merging of two differentiating structural ribs together forming a single channel. These outer load-bearing ribs are arrayed along a concentric curve and take the form of the riverbank to the east. The proposal acts as a gateway to the riverfront. This flexible access encourages people to flow into a new cultural core that connects the park to the city.

The structure is an exoskeleton that suspends two core elements: (i) a plinth along a colonnaded passageway serving as a public utility at the ground level and (ii) a viewing corridor above that brings a new cultural destination to the community.

At the base, the community is placed at the forefront to create a public space to accommodate socializing, working, leisure, and events. Visitors are welcomed by a series of public space programs that include cafes, restaurants, and bars. The landscape permeates the ground level to reveal itself through a limestone walkway that

follows the concentric corridor from the North to the South ends of the site. Rest areas, work areas, charge stations, and social gathering spaces populate the communal access-way acting as a public utility that is powered by photovoltaic panels mounted to the structural canopy above.

Clad in polished aluminum panels, independent volumes are suspended within the structural frame and loom above the public passageway reflecting light and adjacent context down below. These fragmented spaces provide all-encompassing views that pan the length of the site. Art and cultural exhibition spaces allow for rotating galleries that create viewing experiences that are not a 'one-stop-shop' but instead offer cultural versatility. Together, these elements stitch landscape, culture, and various site activity into a seamless whole.