

Sky Warp of San Jose

Background

Beyond the confluence of two rivers and the heart of Silicon Valley, San Jose rises as the heart of the world under globalization of technology. Its virtual infrastructure and invention has reshaped our physical reality across every aspects of lives worldwide. Amid all technological innovations, its core value is a clear and powerful one i.e. connecting people around the globe across all walks of life, gender, age, races and background. Technology is to connect people. Thus, the landmark should be one that symbolises connections across humanity through time and space.

Inspiration

Sky has always been a source of scientific knowledge and artistic inspiration throughout human civilization. Our proposal "Sky Warp" uses sky as its ever-changing medium or canvas for an iconic structure that is unique at various times of a day, a season or a year. It generates a new social landscape and draws people's attention to the sky that we all live under, connecting different people with each other as well as nature.

Design

The shape of "Sky Warp" is one that is both historical and futuristic. The shift of circle in Classical Architecture to ellipse in Baroque period as a representation of the world is one of scientific development due to a better understanding of the earth surface. "Sky Warp" essentially is a membrane stretched by two ellipses that generate a space warp in-between. It represents the connection between different worlds, times or dimensions.

Activation

The transparent membrane creates a canopy and a gathering place for leisure, entertainment, imagination or even daydreams. It provides a weather shelter while allowing everyone to observe the sky under its membrane. The warp of the canopy collects rainwater which swirls down the canopy into the reflection pond under an elliptical oculus at the center. Grey water stored can be used for irrigation and cleaning in the park. At night, the solar LEDs embedded around the two ellipses glow inward, creating two light orbits that highlights the warped membrane and the oculus which could be seen along the Guadalupe Freeway as the iconic gateway of San Jose.