

Binary Tree Project Statement

Boasting the height of giant redwoods and the foliage of coast live oaks, the Binary Tree structures in Arena Green Park serve as organic metaphors for the iconic stature of Silicon Valley innovation. This impressive feat of public sculpture and placemaking proposes aesthetically intriguing objects that will anchor the urban center of San José, as well as providing inclusive civic hubs for recreation and introspection.

Featuring trunks of Corten steel, fabricated with embedded solar harvesting panels supported by net-zero energy technologies, each sculptural tree features a corona of branches lush with fiber optic leaves. Nestled among the branches, stepped sequences of interior and exterior spaces offer visitors diverse places for gathering, recreation, and introspection, with incredible panoramas of the surrounding metropolis and the valley beyond. This collection of interior structures and aerie-like observation decks are reached via an elevator integrated in the trees' trunks, or a winding stair that twists around the height of the trunks. Multitudes of programmable leaves emit patterns of gentle light throughout the night, creating a wondrous spectacle observable from miles around.

The treehouses' interior spaces are held within round-house structures, reminiscent of nests or yurts, the better for views of both distant landscapes and the intimate, scintillating lights of the mother tree itself. Multiple structures at various heights create an intriguing vertical arcade, providing spaces for galleries, cafes, workshop spaces, restaurants and play areas. Between them are spacious expanses of walkways, decks, and stairs. In designated areas, the trees and leaves will be interactive, responding to ambient motion or sound with light and movement.

Beneath the treehouses' spectacular expanses, earthbound recreational areas may take advantage of the unique patterns of light and shade cast by the structures; here gardens, walkways, playgrounds and fountains proliferate, ensuring an unparalleled immersive experience for the community and visitors alike.