

Project Statement

Overview

Late in the 19th century, eight years before the Eiffel Tower, The Electric Light Tower in San Jose was erected to demonstrate new technology. It was the embodiment of technological advancement and a manifestation of the second industrial revolution – the era of electricity, petroleum, and steel. Now, in the 21st century, we live in what has been called the third industrial revolution. It is characterized by “fundamental economic change occurring when digital communication technologies converge with new energy regimes” – with the advent of the third industrial revolution, the information age was born in Silicon Valley. Signifying the importance of this era - at the urban confluence; digital information, communication, and a data driven economy intersect to create a nexus, an attractor for people to build community through the exchange of ideas, experiences, and art.

Arena Green Reimagined

A new urban plaza anchors the southeast corner of the Arena Green, providing a much needed public gathering space for the City and the SAP Center. Data Gate becomes the new entry to the park. Pedestrian paths and a landscaped bridge unite the entire park from east to west. The bridge widens in the center providing a moment to stop, view the city, river and Data Gate. During festival times and all through the year, park visitors can make their way from the SAP Center to Little Italy. All along the pathways and bridge a “path of silence” is provided by a sound cancelation system which will give everyone a peaceful experience and respite from aircraft noise.

The Data Gate

The Data Gate is a dynamic symbol of the information age in the heart of Silicon Valley. Rather than a static monument, Data Gate is experiential, changing depending on time and position. It is composed of a 3D lattice of identical modules. A rapid prototyped structure, modules are assembled on site to form Data Gate which supports the bridge with suspension cables.

Net zero energy is achieved using photovoltaic cells embedded on the bridge surface and in the hardscape. The sun powers everything in the park. Digitally controlled lighting brings Data Gate to life. A revolving collection of local artists are commissioned to design lighting experiences. Artists will sample data provided by park visitors to create varied lighting effects. Through light, Data Gate synthesizes shared information into an immersive and memorable sensory experience.