

THE HEART OF SILICON VALLEY

A Skywalk Park for Urban Confluence Competition Icon of Silicon Valley, San Jose, USA

The icon of Silicon Valley should be a landmark from every perspective. People experience it in the park, enjoy it on the riverbank, encounter it on the street, capture it on the highway. Especially, people can have a birds' eye view on it from the airline and identify it on the satellite map. The proposal THE HEART OF SILICON VALLEY presents such a landmark.

First, when people take off or land on the Mineta San José International Airport, they could see a heart-shaped skywalk structure consisting two angled semi-circles. It is also recognizable on the satellite map for its circle shape of 670 feet in diameter, which makes it a symbolic center of Silicon Valley. This is not only a new icon of Silicon Valley, but also a walkable place and urban confluence. Then, the site, Arena Green, will be transformed into the skywalk park.

Second, the proposal fully meets the requirements of the site. The skywalk structure flying over the rivers bridges the east and the west sides of the site. The top point of the skywalk structure reaches 100 feet in height, much lower than the airline requirements of 200 feet. This is a smart way to connect two isolated parts of the site. The palm trees, the Five Skaters and the ellipse pool on the south-west corner are well preserved and become an integral part of the skywalk park. The rivers, their banks, the green spaces and the trees in between are remained and there are enough spaces above them from the structure.

Third, as a pedestrian place, the skywalk structure is designed for all. People can start their 2000-foot-length circular roam from two grounded parts of the skywalk, which are the supports of the skywalk structure. People can enjoy the Silicon Valley's scenery, take sun-bath, shot pictures, walk in leisure, and meet with friends on the skywalk. The bottom surface of the structure is covered by the mirror metal panels, which could reflect the surrounding landscape with itself disappeared. The walking path made from recycled soft timber on the top represents the real life world, while the mirror made from recycled metal on the bottom surface symbolizes the virtual world. This is a kind of net-zero strategy, a sustainable design.

It is unique, but operable.