The Solar Tree

The project explores the concept of a vertical “cellular,” leafy” observatory tree tower, which encourages both individual and collective viewing/participation. The vertical core consists of a circular ramp that connects to an orbicular corridor leading into individual observatory cells. These cells are rotated and stacked to create a dynamic assembly that offers varied vistas and experiences at every level. Each modular prefab “cell” consists of projecting balconies that allow the viewers to step out of the tower’s skin and absorb the landscape and environment devoid of any visual barriers. These cells also house lightweight “solar leaves” that potentially contribute to net-zero energy requirements.

The “Tree” aims to address sustainable design initiatives governed by net-zero design principles to combat climate change. The top of the tower is capped by a sky deck and an all weather glass pod. The top floor offers a 360-degree panoramic view of the breathtaking landscape. The project is conceived as a composite steel and wood structural assembly. These prefabricated modular cells can be deployed and erected on site. The prefabricated cells are stacked vertically to create a composite structural system in synergy with the central steel core consisting of the ramp and corridors. The “Tree” aims to create an iconic observatory tower in sync with nature and the landscape governed by net zero design principles.