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I really want to take advantage of this unusual urban site that will be experienced by 3 very different sets of viewers. First the non-stop, drive-by, panoramic experience from vehicular traffic, second the men and women who work in the building and their day-to-day, repetitive experience and finally the surrounding residential hillside neighborhood and their very clear, long distance view. The building despite it's new transparency and value engineering will be surrounded by a beautiful and large perimeter of trees. I want the artwork to act as an abstract sign for the vital city functions taking place at this location. I propose 3 signposts as sculptures. The tallest located at the corner of Evans and Toland make it the most visible to vehicular traffic and a future landmark/symbol for the TC&FSD. The other two signs are markedly shorter and are anchored within the secure L-shaped parking area. The taller of the two near the Toland entrance and shorter work near the Evans entrance. The artworks within the secure area are more complex and offer a much more intimate experience for the men and women of the SFPD where repeated viewing will reveal the logic of the sculpture's progression and repetition. The tighter more complex and climbable support structure is safe within the parking area and yet the works are still tall enough to be viewed from the street. I am proposing that the yellow symbols on the artwork be painted with applied glass bead reflectors. This will allow the symbols to appear illuminated when headlights rake across them. The sculptures themselves and the subtle light show created by passing traffic will be easily viewable from the hillside vantage points.

I have taken my design cues from the input from the SFPD representatives wanting specific representation and I have also followed my own logic in terms of pattern and repetition. Specifically I started with the DNA strand and two molecules stretched across a helix ladder. I don't know if this exists in nature but I wanted to pursue the progression from two headed/spherical molecules to three and four headed structures. The molecules/globules are supported by a double helix structure minus a climbable ladder that multiples to support the additional spheres. The stacks of the globules progress doubles from 1 - four headed to 2 - three headed to 4 - two headed sets. The reflective yellow symbols that are significantly embossed on the head of each unit are the simplified 7-point star of the SFPD and the cross within a circle of the Traffic Company.

I am confident that this 3-part sculpture can be built of steel and aluminum, and an indestructible paint within the budget. I look forward to refining the sculptures as we move through design development and construction drawings.

Jim Isermann
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