

# Veterans Memorial of San José ~ Santa Clara Valley

Artist Team: Manhattan Projects

November 1997

350 Park Avenue at Guadalupe River, San Jose, CA 95113

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The design for this project was selected as part of the San José/Santa Clara Veterans Memorial Design Competition in 1994. Located on Park Avenue at the Guadalupe River, the Memorial is an enduring tribute to the men and women who have served our country in peacetime and in times of war. The designers visualized a memorial that is also has the feel of a sanctuary. The artwork is comprised of 76 white flags on stainless steel poles in formation beyond a wall of glass imprinted with photos of local soldiers and communications sent back home during times of service; the threshold in front of the glass is inlaid with military insignias.



Above: Detail of *Veteran's Memorial San José/Santa Clara Valley*



Above: Close view of *Veteran's Memorial San José/Santa Clara Valley*

The neutrality of colors and repetition of an unmarked flag, like the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, honor all soldiers of all wars. Without glorifying war, they embody elation and loss, pride and sacrifice, courage and suffering. The snapping of flags in the wind, contrasted with the serene canopy of white banners, reflects the

military strength which seeks to preserve peace.



Above: *Veteran's Memorial San José/Santa Clara Valley* at night

And the letters remind us of the importance of family and friends to soldiers during their tours of duty, and after their return.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST TEAM**

Manhattan Projects was a New York-based collective of artists and architects that included Stuart Basseches, Pablo Castro, Peter Coombe, Betty Chen and Daniel Heuberger.

#### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART TEAM**

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.