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<https://www.bizjournals.com/sanjose/news/2023/03/08/adobe-opens-founders-tower-san-jose-downtown.html>

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# Adobe has opened its new Downtown San Jose office tower

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Tomas Ovalle / The Silicon Valley Business Journal

Adobe opened its fourth building in Downtown San Jose — dubbed Founders Tower

after the company's creators — on Wednesday.

Adobe Inc. officially opened its new office building at its Downtown San Jose headquarters campus on Wednesday, part of the company's ambitious plan to double its workforce there.

The software giant's employees started to work out of the 18-story structure, now known as Founders Tower, on Wednesday. Adobe will gradually open all of the building's floors to them, said Eric Kline, the company's head of workplace experience. Among the people they may run into: CEO Shantanu Narayan and his executive team, who have workspaces in the new building.

"It's been really great to be able to have a space that people can be excited about coming into," Kline told the Business Journal.

Adobe named its new tower, its fourth at its Downtown campus, after Charles "Chuck" Geschke and John Warnock, who co-founded the software giant in Warnock's Los Altos garage in 1982. The pair named their company after Adobe Creek, which ran behind Warnock's house.

The software maker, which moved its headquarters to San Jose from Mountain View in 1996, is now one of Silicon Valley's largest employers. About 3,000 of the 29,239 total workers it had as of Dec. 2. are based locally, according to Business Journal research from last year and the company's annual report.

Located at 333 West San Fernando St., Founders Tower will accommodate a total of roughly 4,000 workers; the company plans to eventually employ about 7,000 people in Downtown San Jose.



TOMAS OVALLE/SILICON VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## Adobe's Founders Tower

**Height:** 18 stories

**Size:** 1.25 million square feet, including 700,000 square feet of office space

**Construction start:** 2019

**Developer partner:** Sares-Regis Group

**General contractor:** Devcon Construction Inc.

**Architect:** Gensler

**Construction cost:** Undisclosed

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## Founders Tower is all-electric

Adobe designed Founders Tower around sustainability. The building is all-electric, meaning it doesn't have any natural gas connections for heating or other uses. It's powered by renewable solar and wind energy.

To reduce the building's energy demands, its exterior includes an external shading structure that reduces the amount of heat that builds up in the building by roughly 40%, while still allowing in ample amounts of natural light through its windows.

One of the most difficult challenges in designing the structure was figuring out how to incorporate within it a 50,000-square-foot commercial kitchen that didn't have any natural gas cooking elements, Kline said. Beyond finding the right electric appliances, such as pizza ovens, Adobe also had to train the kitchen staff on how to use often-unfamiliar electric cooking tools, he said.

But the challenge was an important one for the company to solve, he said. The cafe will feature cuisine from numerous parts of the world.

"We're pretty serious about food," Kline said. "We think the original version of social networking is sharing a meal."

At the moment, the company is recommending staff to be in the office about half the time, Kline said. But Adobe prioritizes flexibility, and managers have discretion to accommodate individual workers, he said.

The company's executive team will be working out of Founders Tower, Kline said. The building's executive areas are similar to the spaces for the rest of the staff, he said. They'll accommodate small and large meetings and support individual-focused work.

One of the things employees and visitors to Founders Tower will likely notice is its splash of colors. In designing its entire, Adobe was intentionally trying to experiment with using different hues to represent different kinds of space, Kline said.

Orange areas, for example, are focused on community and collaborative activities, he said. Green denotes learning and growth. Blue is for focused work.

"We tried to tap into a lot of new data from the neuroscience field around how we can help employees reduce their cognitive load when they come into work," he said.

## **Adobe is working on a bridge**

On the main floor of Founders Tower, Adobe has opened a museum that includes some of its products, employee photos, original code and other things from its history. The company also plans to open a public coffee shop in the building early next year.

Another element that remains unfinished is a bridge that will cross West San Fernando Street to connect Founders Tower to the company's other three office buildings on the next block south. Construction is ongoing on the bridge, and the company expects to open it by early next year.

Adobe (Nasdaq: ADBE) hasn't figured out how long the new tower will be sufficient for its needs, or whether the company will need to expand again in San Jose in the near future. For now, its business is doing well, and it intends to keep growing its workforce.

"We want to make sure that our headquarters approach really supported that," Kline said.



**Max A. Cherney**

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