

FOOTBRIDGES EMBRACED BY THEIR USERS

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Summary

A good design is reflected in how the users appropriate the structure. A bridge must never be designed merely from a functional point of view, where the user's perception is forgotten or left to chance. As designers, it is essential to comprehend and respect the history and the environment of the place, to analyse all the possible needs the users have, and combine all these inputs in one whole.

Using several footbridges designed by Ney & Partners as example, this article will show the importance of considering user experience and perception when conceiving a bridge. When the appropriate marketing and communication is integrated in the design methodology, the future users of the bridge can participate, become involved in the project and understand the design. What the users of a footbridge experience is what defines how they embrace it, how the bridge will become a part of their lives, of their environment and it is also what will determine the use the footbridge will have. User experience is thus a fundamental consideration in the design process of a footbridge.



Fig. 1. People resting in the Lentloper. Photograph by Thea van den Heuvel.

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