This paper illustrates some examples of designs created for Istanbul: a metropolis divided between two continents which, on one hand, still shines with the glories of imperial history, and, on the other, represents the most modern and dynamic image of Turkey. The city is a very complex metropolis, constantly evolving and full of contradictions, in need of attention from functional, historical, and social points of view.

The architectural concepts proposed here attempt to reflect these needs by offering solutions that, while responding to the city’s current functional, social, and transportation needs, also look to the future by outlining the development of the areas for which each bridge has been designed.

The case of a pedestrian crossing over the enlarged Kennedy Street; the Şirinevler Footbridge; the case of the Yeni Gezi Footbridge in the Gezi Park; a panoramic terrace overlooking the Bosporus in the Beykoz District; a ribbon stressed footbridge crossing the Mahmutbey Yesilkoy Baglanti Yolu in the area of Çoşanççeşme; and the design for the Sünnet Bridge crossing the river Cendere at its confluence with the Haliç.

These are the cases for which concept proposals are described in this paper reporting the basic principles that governed the design of the concept, and in doing so, to underline how important the anthropologic and cultural points of view are in the design process.

Figure 1: Concept sketch for the “Open Hand, Beykoz Panoramic Terrace and Footbridge”.