

SYNERGY OF CULTURE AND CIVIL ENGINEERING – PROJECT “BRIDGE BUILDERS” ORGANISED BY WROCLAW EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

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SUMMARY

Wrocław in Poland and San Sebastian in Spain were awarded the title “European Capital of Culture 2016”. The project “Bridge Builders” was one of many events organised within the cultural programme organised under this patronage taking place in Wrocław in 2015. For one day 27 bridges were converted into theatre scenes, concert spaces and art studios. Visitors had an opportunity to experience cinematography, dance, theatre, literature, and spatial installations. The project “Bridge Builders” is presented in this paper in many of its offerings. A particular attention is given to the project “Zwierzyniecki Bridge Copy – Paste”. Within this project, a 1:4 scaled model of a steel arch bridge – Zwierzyniecki Bridge, was designed, constructed and taken on a journey around the city. The whole process of realization of this undertaking is presented, starting from the design specifications, through concept design, detail design and construction, to transport of the bridge model to its final destination. Selected technical challenges and their solutions are discussed, pertaining to material selection, load effects and construction.

Keywords: *European Capital of Culture 2016, Cultural Events, Bridges.*

1. WROCLAW – EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2016

Wrocław in Poland, together with San Sebastian in Spain, was awarded the title “European Capital of Culture 2016”. To celebrate this occasion, Wrocław created many open, dynamic and friendly public spaces to provide an arena for the interaction of a wide public with culture and art. To maximise the benefits of this opportunity, eight curators were appointed responsible for architecture, film, literature and book reading, music, opera, performance, visual arts and theatre. Each curator was coordinating the organisation of a series of events corresponding to their specialism. The main goals of the “European Capital of Culture Wrocław 2016” programme concerned the increase of access and participation in cultural events, development of new cultural initiatives, and promotion of the city and region in Europe for long-lasting economic benefits [1].

2. PROJECT “BRIDGE BUILDERS”

Wrocław, the heart of Lower Silesia, is one of the oldest and most picturesque places in Poland. An extensive network of water ducts, including Odra River and many of its channels and tributaries, crosses the city centre, demarking 12 islands and providing context to over 300 bridges located within the city boundaries. As such, the special place of bridges in the “city of bridges” – as Wrocław is commonly referred to, could not be omitted from the programme of events highlighting the role, history and diverse cultural life of Wrocław.

Project “Bridge Builders” was one of many cultural events organised under the “European Capital of Culture” patronage. Twenty-seven bridges, denoted on the map in Fig. 1, were converted into theatre