

Design. Create. Learn. Repeat.

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Summary

The designing process of a footbridge is complex, many variables must be considered that are non-linear and feedback on each other. The creative process is iterative, approximating and depending on the conditions of the environment. In this process is very important the intuition of the designer, or expert, which leads the result in one or another direction.

But how is born this intuition? How is it created? It's hard to narrow down, it's like trying to teach a child how to ride a bike. You have to pedal, for the first time you fall, but after a few hits on the ground you start to ride alone. Intuition is learned through experience and not with books, you learn designing, building, creating.

Every new project we face is fed with our previous experiences. In this article we explain our design process through our most recent projects, both successful and problematic.

In this moment the technological tools have reached to us the most complex forms. We must think about if this should define our way of designing and the footbridges we make. Technology and technique are the tools we have to define forms and materials. But there are other aspects such as the location, its itinerary of the path, the accesses, how it relates to the environment, the user experience and the constructive details, that are elements which define the solution and it cannot be analysed from a theoretical point of view. Each situation is unique and is where the experience of the expert cannot be replaced.

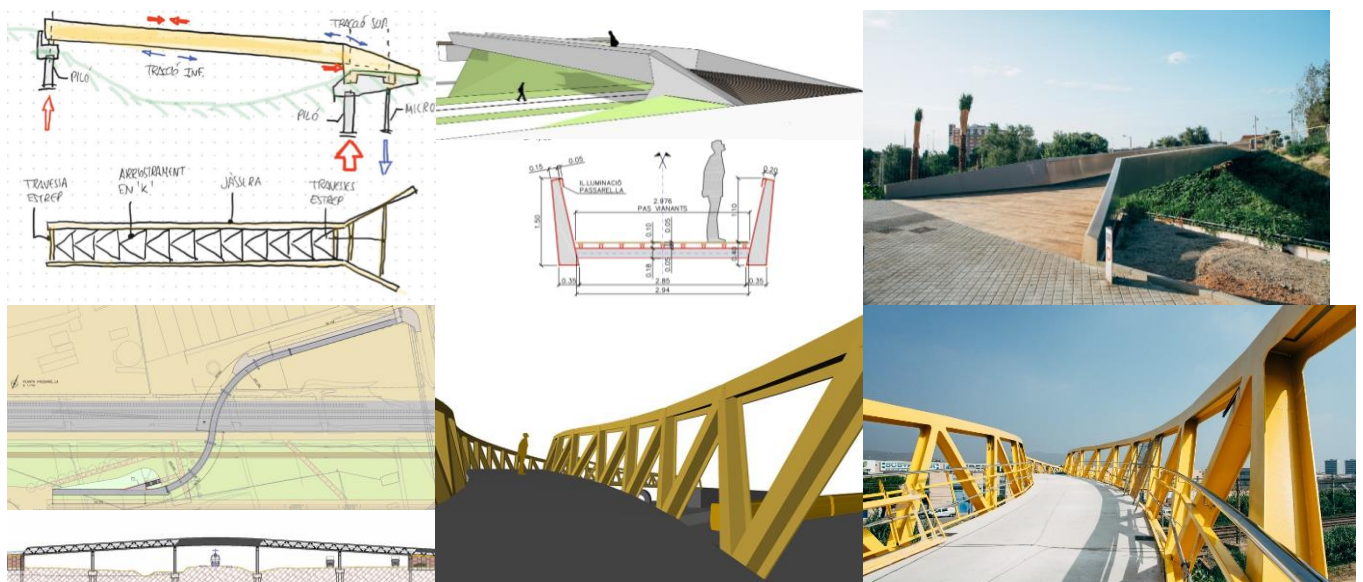


Fig. 1. Design and construction of Torrent de la Font Footbridge (top) and Ca n'Alemany Footbridge (bottom)

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