THE "PONT DU LION", SAINT-GENIS POUILLY, FRANCE: A CREATIVE TRANSFORMATION TO REDEFINE THE CITY ENTRANCE

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Summary

This paper presents the creative transformation of an existing stone bridge to enable a safe car traffic together with pedestrians and disabled circulation, and redefine the entrance of the city of Saint - Genis Pouilly along the "rue de Genêve" near the CERN in France.

Keywords: Existing bridge, stone structure, France, revalorisation, public space, railing, moiré, new space, sense of place, aesthetics, architecture and structure

1. Introduction

The project consists of a new development and the requalification of the "Pont du Lion" at Saint - Genis Pouilly at the border of Geneva in France. The existing bridge is a stone bridge and spans over the river Lion. It allows road and pedestrian traffic at the entrance of the agglomeration. The approximate overall width of the roadway is 7 m, and the span of the bridge is about 17.5 m. As a continuation of the renovation work on the rue de Genève, the aim is to redefine the bridge, create a new entrance to the city and a safe public footpath, without altering its existing structure. The main design concept objectives are the following:

- Create and compose an integrated project and an overall consistent image.
- Mark the city entrance along the main road axis "Rue de Genève".
- Create wider path to enable a functional and safe continuity for pedestrian, and disabled.
- Revitalize the natural promenade axis of the transversal river le Lion.
- Create a new sense of place by creating continuous balustrades and inhabited balconies.
- Generate a "vibrant" and dynamic dissymmetric balcony to emphasize the natural geometry.
- Minimize the impact on the existing bridge structure.
- Accommodate the construction sequence brief requirements including alternate traffic.

Fig. 1. Project renderings (Grauvisuals)