

DOI: 10.24904/footbridge2017.01030

## INFRASTRUCTURE TO CREATE VALUE

**Marc MIMRAM**

CEO  
Architect & Engineer  
Marc Mimram

[marc@mimram.com](mailto:marc@mimram.com)

**Razvan IONICA**

Director  
Bridge Engineer  
Marc Mimram Ingénierie

[razvan@mimram.com](mailto:razvan@mimram.com)

### Summary

We intend to interrogate in this article the role played by infrastructure, and in particular by pedestrian bridges, in the development of the city.

How are these infrastructures changing our way of thinking about the public space? How do we create positive views on infrastructure projects? How do we combine usages to bring social coherence?

The footbridge is a spanning structure too often limited to the mono functionality of the crossing. But this structure can accommodate other urban functionalities, open to the landscape, in dialogue with the city.

We want to explore this quality of accommodating structure that the footbridge could have, by the multiplication of urban situations and the mixed functions that this could create, as well as by modularity, assembly, juxtaposition of elements that can be added to the structure and their evolution in time.

**Keywords:** public space; urbanity; centrality; symbolic development; landscape; balcony; historic heritage; inhabited; factory

### 1. Introduction

We take a positive look on the infrastructure. Beyond usage, it is an appropriated and shared space which can always be enhanced.

Our experience and knowledge gained as Architects and Engineers, allows us to develop, based on the infrastructure, projects that release themselves from constraints to offer generous urban or territorial situations.

Bridges naturally occupy a significant part of our work. In France, China or elsewhere we identify the local conditions; the site and geographic ones, but also the resources, the knowhow, the local skills which inform our work in order to give priority to local situations and therefore design specific structures.

Every experience adds value to the specific over the generic, the local over the global, and allows to express the location's qualities as well as the work's expertise, by developing an attentive materiality to a world transformed by Architecture.

We always give priority to the capacities that an infrastructure has to go beyond its functional characteristics to constitute public realm offered for sharing.

On the Rhine, a place at the heart of a geography informed by History.

In Paris, Linz, in the historic city, a balcony onto the river.