

Contact author: Guillem Collell, [guillem.collell@gmail.com](mailto:guillem.collell@gmail.com)

## HIP HOP, A CONTEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGE DESIGNER'S DELIGHT

Authors: Guillem COLLELL MUNDET

Affiliation: DOBOOKU, Barcelona, Spain

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Do contemporary footbridge designers take ideas originated from vulnerable and disadvantaged social groups into account? I believe the direct response, unfortunately, is clearly no, they do not.

Footbridge design is a top-down practice, typically associated with a sophisticated yet snob and elitistic culture. This paper strives to debunk this misconception with a counterexample. The counterexample must represent of today's society and it must take form to include different cultural contexts. You cannot find a better example to illustrate such a fine and necessary opportunity as what hip hop represents in current culture.

Since its origin in the 1970s, hip hop evolved to become a mainstream culture in no more than two decades overcoming socio-cultural barriers and influencing other industries such as fashion, poetry, film and even business. Perhaps it is time to expand its area of influence and use hip hop as a contemporary footbridge designer's delight. Popular culture, hip hop, in particular, can be a useful tool that can help citizens to figure it out how to design a better world by their own contributions. It impacts people emotionally, it strikes at the core, and as a result, it has a unique power to expand people's empathy, which is why the perspectives of hip hop applied on footbridges can be so shocking.

We can make it different by doing. We can start with some of those materials or proposals that were going to be thrown away, there is no need to waste money, the need is to earn experiences. For example, I have dared to write my first rap lyrics ever. It is not a masterpiece but it is a beginning.

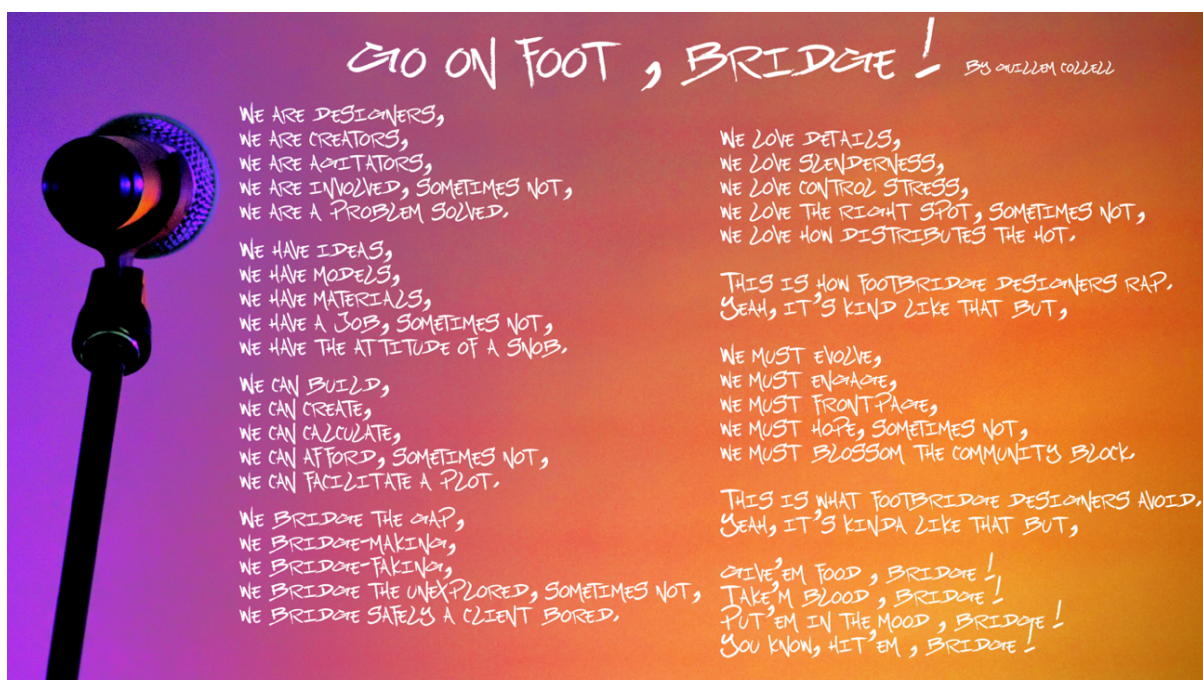


Fig. 1. Go on Foot, Bridge! Rap lyrics by Guillem Collell.

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