



Nesciobrug, Amsterdam. A symbol for a new suburb, inspirational and functional

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Angus Low, born 1947, graduated from Cambridge Univ. and joined Arup in London in 1968, where he has since spent most of his career designing bridges. He aims to understand design at a fundamental level, enabling simpler solutions.



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Summary

Nesciobrug is a key feature of Amsterdam's new showcase suburb of IJburg. The scale of this cycle bridge and the constraints on its alignment pushed the designers towards a dramatic configuration. This paper discusses ways in which the impact of the basic concept was reinforced by adapting its setting and by ensuring that the details were appropriate. The emphasis is on achieving dramatic effect through simplicity.

Keywords: Cycle bridge, footbridge, self-anchored suspension bridge, steel box girder, synchronous lateral excitation, wetlands.

1. Introduction

Nesciobrug is a key feature of Amsterdam's new suburb of IJburg which is being built on land newly reclaimed from the sea. The city wants IJburg to be a showcase for 21st century living (Fig.1)



Fig.1. View of Nesciobrug

and Nesciobrug which carries the cycle link into the city across the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal was chosen as one of two bridges to demonstrate the project's commitment to design quality, and sensitivity to the environment. The bridge also carries pedestrians who want to cross the canal from