

AS SMALL INFRASTRUCTURES MAKE A GREAT LANDSCAPE POSSIBLE

Authors: Pedro Pablo Arroyo Fernando Porras-Isla

Affiliation:

Pedro Pablo Arroyo, PhD Architect PhD Engineer. Founder of Arroyo Alba Atelier Alba, Zürich. Professor Universidad Europea de Madrid, en excedencia. arroyo.alba.atelier@gmail.com

Fernando Porras-Isla, Msc Architect. Founder of Porras Guadiana Arquitectos and Porras La Casta Arquitectos, Professor Universidad de Castilla La Mancha, Spain (on leave) . fpi@porrasguadiana.com

Summary

Objectives of the paper:

The text is related to the conference: "Footbridge as an important part of a system: the context as experience".

The purpose is to explore the relationship between the small and the large scale and the ability of the former to modify the parameters of the latter.

Infrastructure elements such as pedestrian walkways or connections that save fords or topographical discontinuities are often pieces that solve local problems, but, according to our thesis, they also entail an enormous potential to become links of mega landscape structures, transforming and enriching them.

Brief summary of the work:

The work that will be used to develop our argumentation belongs to our own experience, in particular the project Green Belt 7 Bridges, which is a commission carried out by a team of Spanish architects and engineers of which we are part. It is a real work developed in the city of Lingang, in Shanghai, China. It was a very unique commission, in which we have had the opportunity to design and build, in a context as particular as the Chinese society, a complete system of structures for pedestrian use that is inserted in an urban landscape that is being forming in the present time.

The entire process will be presented, like a journey that was born from the first sketches submitted to the selection by the local Pudong government, to the construction of a global story that supports and defends the system conceptually.

In this project, the immediate mission of saving seven channels is not, in essence, the first objective to be achieved, contrary to what firstly it might seem. The opportunity to work on the configuration of successive sutures on a circular landscape, as is the case, raises issues of much more scope, transforming addressing topics related to perception, orientation, landscape reference, continuity, cultural context, etc.

Relevant conclusions:

Working on a set of punctual infrastructures, has an enormous relevance, if understood as a system has an enormous relevance, because they are capable of modifying large-scale elements.

The sum of specific interventions that can be part of complete readings establishing relationships between very different elements, extraordinarily expands the ability of each piece to transform its surrounding landscape.



Keywords: Landscape, Scale, Transformation, Relationship, Continuity