

FOOTBRIDGE OVER BRENTELLA CHANNEL TO SERVE THE CYCLE TRACK IN VIA PELOSA (PADUA, ITALY)

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Summary

The design of the footbridge of Via Pelosa in Padua stems from the intention to reconnect a Roman road, the prosecution of decumanus of Padua to Vicenza, which penetrate directly into the city's oldest issue, now interrupted at many points by infrastructures built over the years. The project is an example of that urban development quality which is one of the main themes of policy for land management in the city of Padua. Until now the city of Padua has committed, in fact, the construction of about 150 km of cycle tracks, ordered by a plot of articulated pathways that allow to freely move inside and outside the city centre, discovering places previously unknown. It is included the old Pelosa Road, of Roman origin, whose continuity was interrupted by the construction in the twelfth century of Brentella channel. As a kind of artificial barrier, the channel has created over the centuries a real rift between the inhabitants of the city of Padua and the neighbouring Municipalities of Selvazzano and Rubano, and that issue is now even more accentuated by the lack of secure connections for pedestrians and cyclists as an alternative to existing ones, more suitable for the one-step automotive.

Keywords: footbridge; light structure; steel; cable-stayed bridge; deck; formal approach; design.

1. Aim of the Project

The new footbridge, opened on 4th October 2008, is a response to this problem, restoring the ancient link between the two stretches of Via Pelosa placed at east and west of the channel. The footbridge looks like a curved structure, which draws on the surrounding elements defining a relationship between nature and structural element: the morphology is "meandering" path of the river, in particular, to define the shape of the deck. Its curved approach, in addition to making the most welcoming the use of the access ramps to the banks, offset each other, create new points of view on the surrounding place, unexpected panoramic views from the footbridge but also towards it: this footbridge really creates a new perception of the landscape.



Fig. 1 Pelosa Footbridge, plan