



Connecting Link - Wienflussbrücke Vienna, Austria

Client: City of Vienna
Architect: Knight Architects
Structural Engineer: Arup
M, E & H Design: Kenneth Grubb Associates

Competition: 2010 (shortlisted)

This competition-shortlisted design of a new lifting bridge in Vienna explores a new lifting bridge typology.

In its normal position, open to pedestrians and cyclists, the bridge is a seamless flowing continuation of the Donaukanal walk – a 65m slender steel beam whose elegant cross section is shaped to catch light and shadow, and to complement the ornate delicacy of the neighbouring Radetzkybrücke.

The act of opening is a surprise: a hidden mechanism raises the crescent-shaped structure in a charming salute to its decorative neighbour, providing both the full navigation clearance to vessels manoeuvring in the waterway and a symbolic visual frame to the Wienfluss.

At deck level, an open mesh parapet on the outside of the curve maximises visibility and transparency in counterpoint to the inside

parapet, which gently rises to the centre of the span as an illuminated arc. On the underside, cantilevered ribs are expressive of the structurally efficient solution.

A continuous LED panel to the face of the upstand beam on the inside of the curve provides a clear and safe environment for all users as well as offering a beautiful night-time spectacle with minimised use of energy.

