

CREATING “MOMENTUM”

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Summary

This paper discusses the design of footbridges that create holistic experiences within the urban or landscape context. It does introduce several projects designed between 2018 and 2021 by the studio STERLING PRESSER taking part of competitions, calls for ideas and direct commissions. The projects have been designed and developed in different cultural, social and urban contexts, but they follow a consistent approach: they create **sensitive urban sequences** and “**new momentum**”. The approach is multi-disciplinary and focuses on the larger landscape impact of the architecture and structure design.

Keywords: Momentum, urban sequences, landscape, experiences, perceptions, new connections, architecture, structure, sense of place, time.

1. Introduction

At the **cross over between architecture and structure**, the design of footbridges is to be considered within a wider scale: they create new links, entrances and gateways, and as such they redefine existing boundaries. The footbridge projects we develop aim at **articulating a urban sequence**, creating **new places**, and create a fluid connection within the context.

The key aspect is the relation between structure, space and time. Creating momentum makes us “**inhabit**” the footbridges. They are experienced at relatively low speed in comparison to large bridges: they allow the slow movement, the bifurcation, the “promenade” creating a valuable intervention in public space. As they facilitate the fluid circulation for pedestrians, disabled and cyclists, they create as well a creative pause and an invitation to stay.

Some of our projects inhabits activities, integrates furniture, and uses the balustrade a visual active surface. The structures together with their equipment are designed to be spatial using geometrical parametric variation to create a subtle visual ambiguity and explore new aesthetics.