

FOOTBRIDGE TO THE OSCAR NIEMEYER INTERNATIONAL ART CENTRE

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ABSTRACT

Among the different human paths, always accompanied by concerns and doubts, after a series of preceding projects, the Niemeyer footbridge emerges, tracing an experimental path. Formal purity, purity of materials, perfection of detail and the prefabrication of elements are the beginning at the bridge at the Public University of Navarre, continues one step further at the Aranzadi footbridge, in its expression of respect for the natural environment, up to the San Jorge footbridge and its fluid and free outline materialised in tubular Corten steel profiles. At the end of this path, the Niemeyer footbridge, overturns the emotion both in the spatial resolution of the surroundings and in the object itself. The history of the place is the basis, where the challenge has to face both the integration of a marginal space in the city, and its fusion with the Oscar Niemeyer Cultural Centre. Within this main challenge, the promenades of the estuary into the city are incorporated, and the footbridge generates an elevated walkway with different viewpoints overlooking the city and the Niemeyer Centre. To meet this challenge, the footbridge was designed as a slender symmetrical steel portico, conditioned by tracing the minimum route necessary to cross the train tracks, ochre in colour and integrated with the façades and roofs without blurring them, which the city's inhabitants christened *THE STAPLE*.

Keywords: aesthetics; formal purity; steel structures; prefabrication of elements; landscape design; spatial integration; structural design; civil engineering design; footbridge

