

Specific Infrastructures in Relationship with the Landscape

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Abstract

The design of specific infrastructures in relationship with their landscapes is a constant challenge, to achieve public acceptance through a harmonious integration. In the last three decades, we chose to work on this topic over a geographical, and technical point of view. This design path is explained over four different projects, in various contexts and at different scales— where consistent attention to the city, landscape, fabric and structural behavior subtly combines into specific designs: how asymmetry orientates the project in Bordeaux; the meeting of two districts over the railways in La Rochelle; a viaduct that offers an urban roof in Paris neighborhood; and a dialog between city and landscape in Linz (Austria).

Keywords: infrastructure, landscape, bridge, specificity, geography, structure

1 Introduction

We take a positive look on the infrastructure. Beyond usage, it is an appropriated and shared space which can always be enhanced.

Our experience and knowledge gained as Architects and Engineers allows us to develop, based on the infrastructure, projects that release themselves from constraints to offer generous urban or territorial situations.

Bridges obviously occupy a significant part of our work. In France, China or elsewhere we identify the local conditions; the site and geographic ones, but also the resources, the knowhow, the local skills which inform our work in order to give priority to local situations and therefore design specific structures.

Every experience adds value to the specific over the generic, the local over the global, and allows to express the location's qualities as well as the work's expertise, by developing an attentive materiality to a world transformed by Architecture.

We always give priority to the capacities that an infrastructure must go beyond its functional characteristics to constitute public realm offered for sharing.

Bridges always magnify the site's environment and offer to everyone shared and appropriable realm. This skill about infrastructures and the technical knowledge on which it is based on, enabled us to expand our projects to specific architectural programs, developing approaches such as inhabited bridges.



Figure 1. Aerial view of the La Rochelle Train Station