

COMPETITITION STAGE 1B 16.02.2015



NINE ELMS BRIDGE COMPETITITION STAGE 1B 16.02.2015

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN STATEMENT

Structure and Art

The ubiquitous understanding of bridges are of structures connecting point A to point B. Through pressures of functionality and efficiency the residual experience is often linear, a consequence of a reductive expedience in design, material content and cost. Bridges are structural, but we see the counter discipline of Art as fundamental in the formation of a worthy cultural experience and joyful crossing. The dialogue between Structure and Art, the imbalance or balance of rational science and creative freedom combine to make one bridge mundane and another truly memorable. For the Nine Elms Bridge we have conceived of a bridge supported by a lyrical tracery of structural curves, a field of structure in which to suspend our crossing.

Stability and Understanding

In structural terms, bridges are comprised of primary forces, foundation and support, of tension and compression. Our common comprehension of such forces in bridges is often very two dimensional. We perceive stability in form, extracted through plan and elevation, in cross and longitudinal section. For the Nine Elms Bridge our interest has been the creation of a rich and unique experience through the exploration of stability in three dimensions, both perceptively and physically, the formation of non-linear stability. Through a network of pathways connecting points in space the structure will work to resist the fundamental forces in play.

Order and Experience

The Studio applies non-linear, generative methods to create extraordinary designs that fundamentally reorganize space. This approach stems from a unique investigation into the crossover between the boundaries of advanced art and science. Routed in applied mathematical order our Nine Elms Bridge stems from curves created in an exploration of structure derived from compound sine and cosine waves. The logic and science reveals itself in moments of pure plan, section and elevation, and then evaporates into a tracery of sweeping arches over the water. It is the occupation and movement through this network and space that we believe will provide an experience that is both dynamic and

unexpected... an Unimagined Bridge



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