

Bridges in contemporary museum: objects, symbols, functions

Ivan Grinko

Head of The Center for museum research and planning (Russian Institute for heritage research), Visiting professor, The Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences (MSSES)

Kenneth Hudson used to compare museums with bridges and it wasn't exaggeration or mistake. Museums connect epochs, nations and cultures as well as bridges. Therefore, it's a good reason to discuss interaction of museum and bridges.

Today we can find a lot of museums devoted to concrete bridges. Also as a part of historical and cultural heritage bridges are usually presented in museum expositions but in fact today its role in creating of museum space is much more important.

So the point of our research is to analyze in what way contemporary museums of different types use bridges to reach the specific goals .

Today bridge (or its miniature) is not only museum object but very useful instrument of museum workers. We can mark at least four crossing functions that could be found in museum expositions.

- Aesthetical
- Symbolical
- Transitional
- Functional