

Pedestrian bridges, walking routes and placemaking: contemporary and historical examples from New Zealand.

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The pedestrian bridge structure in New Zealand has historically conformed to standardized typologies of functional design. Since the 1990s however urban places have been progressively enriched by new articulations of pedestrian bridge structures. Bridges, including examples such as Matchitt, Gray and Thompson's, *City to Sea Bridge* (1994) in Wellington, carved a new space for the bridge structure as cultural statement and sculptural form.

The ongoing imperative to provide routes for pedestrians and cyclists in urban development contexts has opened opportunities for innovative architecturally engineered structures (see Wells, J., 2011). Structures such as the Westgate Footbridge (Aurecon, Jasmax, NZTA, 2013) reclaim pedestrian space and time within an environment that has been radically altered for use by motor vehicles. As distinctive forms in the environment these bridges inscribe a new relationship between structure, place and people that is progressively embedded by their use.

This paper will contextualize the design of examples of pedestrian bridge structures in New Zealand in relation to their socio/spatial contexts. It will consider how these examples assert the importance of pedestrian space and experience in placemaking processes.

Reference

Wells, J., (2011) Recent pedestrian oriented bridges in Auckland; connection and disconnection, Austroads Bridge Conference, 8th, 2011, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Short Biography

Dr Jacqueline Naismith is Senior Lecturer in Design at the School of Design at Massey University, Wellington New Zealand. She is a design researcher and educator, who supervises Master of Design research projects, teaches in the spatial design research and development programme, and in the history, theory and practice of spatial design and architecture within interdisciplinary contexts. Formerly Programme Leader Master of Design, and Programme Leader Critical and Contextual Studies, she has recently held the position Postgraduate Coordinator, Design (Acting). Her research is interdisciplinary and focuses on the mediation, performance, and experience of place as designed environment and as discursively configured representation.