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HOW LIGHTING CAN BRING A BRIDGE TO LIFE (abstract)

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As a design office specialising in both bridge design and outdoor lighting, we know from experience what good lighting can do for a bridge and its surroundings. Our lecture will focus on several real-life projects where adding light has played an important role in transforming a bridge into an experience.

One of the examples will be the Hovenring, the hovering roundabout bicycle and pedestrian bridge in Eindhoven, where we have created a well-functioning and spectacular lighting design without a single light pole.

Another will be the Hefbrug project in Ulfst (NL), where lighting played a vital role in connecting the new bicycle and pedestrian bridge to the existing historical vertical-lift bridge. Here, lighting also brings to life the technical mechanism of the industrial heritage bridge, as the vertical shafts have been illuminated.



Fig. 1. Hefbrug, Ulfst



Fig. 2 De Hef, Rotterdam

In Rotterdam, illumination gave a local historical icon a new lease of life: the iron railway bridge known as 'De Hef'. Having been out of use for decades, it still portrays part of the city's history as is much loved by locals. The lighting design literally brings the bridge and its history back to life, as twice every night a dynamic light effect portrays a passing train.

Another example of how lighting can add to the user experience are the illuminated railings of the Miljoenenlijntje railway, pedestrian and wild life bridge near Kerkrade (NL). These literally show images of local wildlife as well as the historical train that the railway line was built for.



Fig. 3. Miljoenenlijntje bridge