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Bridges We Love



Cables and abutments went fancy for a distinct purpose: to convey passersby—not folks whizzing past on vehicles—with personality. Here's a list of bridges that are anything but pedestrian.



A



B

A. Kurilpa Bridge

Brisbane, Australia
Arup
1,541 feet

The slew of cables and tubes isn't just a seemingly random array of mastlike visuals, but instead it functions as the tension-supported cable-stay system hoisting the steel bridge over the Brisbane River. The bridge features viewing platforms, all-weather canopies, and ever-changing LED mood lighting. A purple bridge, anyone?



C

B. Te Rewa Rewa Bridge

New Plymouth,
New Zealand
Novare Design
285 feet

The graceful Te Rewa Rewa span over the Waiwhakaiho River presents visitors with a sense of transformation as they cross through the gateway to the sacred land of the local Maori tribe. The white steel ribs form an arch, artistically symbolizing the path of the wind while also framing Mount Taranaki.

C. Linked Hybrid

Beijing, China
Steven Holl Architects
Eight bridges totaling
1,004 feet

The Linked Hybrid bridges harness color and under-lighting to animate and reflect off the pool below. The eight enclosed bridges connect eight buildings at slightly differing levels and with varying interactions—including a swimming pool, auditorium, and cafe.

D. Harbor Drive

San Diego, California
Safdie Rabines Architects
550 feet

This skeletal, sculptural structure in downtown San Diego connects trolley tracks to Balboa Park. Visitors are enticed to the walkway by a glass elevator tower, which showcases the elevator's inner workings as it ascends to the steel-and-concrete bridge. The curve of the crossing, along with the bridge's iconic spear, ensures varying visual interest from all sides—even from below.



D



E

E. Canoe Bridge

Vancouver, British
Columbia
PWL Partnership
131 feet

Vancouver's Olympic Village melds a modern, urban vibe with a working edge, reminiscent of the site's past. The Canoe Bridge meshes too, its true-to-life canoe form offering a modernly smooth yet ruggedly distinct design that both contrasts with and complements the seawall walking path.

—Tim Newcomb