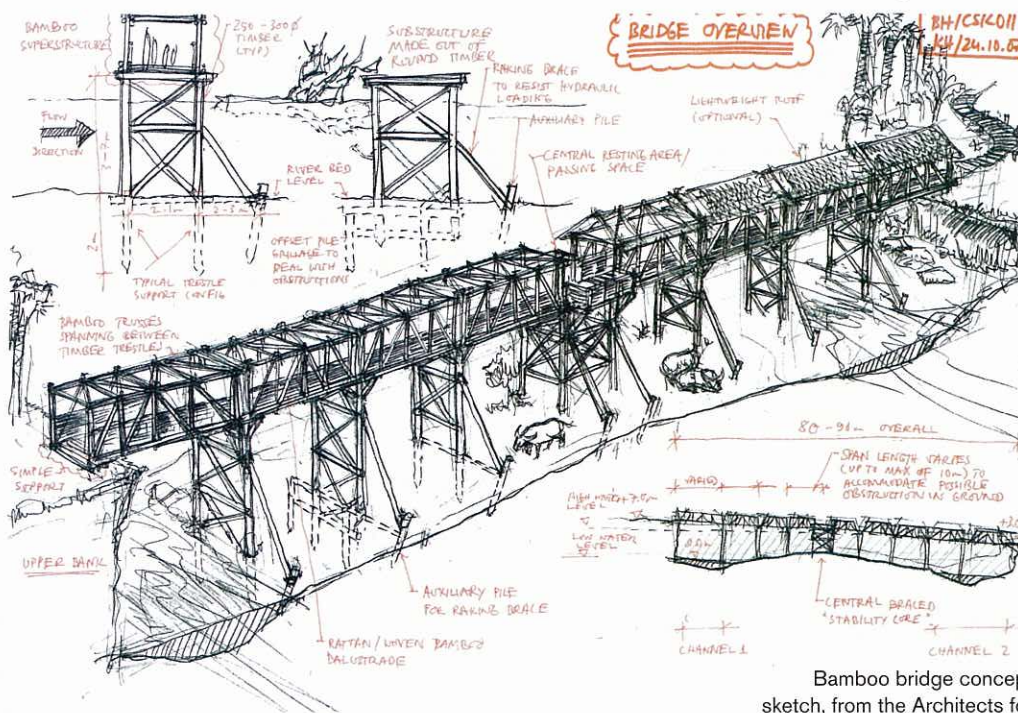


BAMBOO BRIDGE DESIGNS PUT TO THE TEST



Bamboo bridge concept sketch, from the Architects for Aid workshop, by Kien Hoang

Last week, charity Architects for Aid hosted a workshop on using bamboo for construction in the developing world.

The organisation used the session, held on 20-21 October, to test out ideas for a bridge-building project in Thailand, on which it is collaborating with engineer Buro Happold.

The project is to replace an 80m bridge which had connected the village of Wikhadi to its farmland, but which was washed away by floods in 2005. It is being carried out for sustainable living and learning centre Whispering Seed.

Following a feasibility study undertaken earlier this year, the team decided to use bamboo, which would fit its £5,000 budget. The project will be a temporary solution and act as a scaffold for a future, more permanent development.

At the workshop, held at a Territorial Army centre in central London, engineering and architecture students as well as practitioners were led by a team of bamboo experts, and built three different prototype 4m span bridges using both traditional and modern techniques.

The session culminated in the testing of the designs on a rig using the teams themselves as loading – all but one bridge survived the robust and informal experiment.

The outcome of this workshop and more rigorous strength testing undertaken later in the year at Bath University will inform the final design of the Thai bridge, to be built early next year. *Kaye Alexander*
www.architectsforaid.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

Tours of Innovation Park, BRE
Six demonstration projects showcasing MMC, sustainability and new technologies
1 November (repeated throughout November)
BRE, Watford
www.bre.co.uk/events

Sustainable Construction: Moving on Up
Presentations on Wessex Water (Bennetts Associates) and the Genesis Project (Archtype), including extensive post-occupancy data.
5 November, 9am-6pm
RIBA Wessex
Eden Project, Cornwall
catherine.gandon@inst.rib.org

Health and Safety Update
7 November, 1.30-5pm
RIBA West Midlands
Birmingham
sue.spencer@inst.riba.org

Concrete Elegance: Loft Inspired Ideas
Dow Jones Architects, Buschow
Henley, White and Reid.
7 November, 6.30pm
www.buildingcentretrust.org

Talking Water 07 – Under Pressure
Focus on water pressure and the Code for Sustainable Homes
8 November, 9.30am-3.20pm
GLA City Hall, London
www.bre.co.uk

Designing Safer Environments,
13 November,
Wellcome Collection,
London NW1

Visit the AJ conference for insights on designing out crime. Speakers include Stefanie Fischer and John Burrell of Burrell Foley Fischer, and Peter Chlapowski of PCKO Architects. Issues discussed will include: how masterplanning can improve safety; is Secured by Design too prescriptive?; and how can surveillance be increased without sacrificing design quality?
www.ajsaferevironments.co.uk