



# Baskonia bridge

Basauri, Spain / 2017

Client  
Scope

Ayuntamiento de Basauri  
tender design

The proposed bridge seeks elegance and meaning through simplicity and economy of means, which, in our view, is more appropriate for what a public investment should be.

The design has been conceived while avoiding a disproportionate formalism in relation to the technical requirements of the problem to be solved. The total length of the bridge is 90 m, while the span between abutment axes is approximately 65 m; it is therefore a relatively modest span in terms of bridge technology in these first decades of the 21st century.

Considering the environmental exposure conditions of the bridge, it was decided not to use arches with cables or hangers, since these require careful maintenance and will eventually need replacement, representing a considerable burden for a Municipal Administration.

The proposed bridge is an innovative reinterpretation of what a 21st-century beam bridge can be, where the beam structure is “emptied” wherever it is not needed and where the variable depth expresses the structural demand along the bridge. The forms therefore respond to a structural logic that ensures a strict use of materials, achieving the intended welcoming effect but with a formal and budgetary restraint consistent with the basic premise of rational use of public resources.

Furthermore, in line with the idea of minimizing construction costs and reusing, as far as possible, the parts of the existing structure that remain in good condition, the proposal makes full use of the abutments of the current Baskonia bridge, proposing a simply supported structure on them. In this way, the investment is focused mainly on the deck, which is also the most damaged and therefore the most critical element of the existing bridge.



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