



Low carbon bridge engineering: from life extension
of existing structures to new stone arch bridges

ERMABI workshop, September 2023

Brian Duguid, Chair, Net Zero Bridges Group

AECOM
Amey
ARCADIS
Arup
Atkins
BEAM Architects
BG&E
Buro Happold
Cake Industries
Cass Hayward
COWI
Expedition
Format Engineers
GHD
Hewson
Jacobs

Kier Consulting
Knight Architects
Mott MacDonald
Moxon Architects
Nuttall Bowser
Ramboll
Robert Bird Group
RPS
SWECO
Tony Gee
Useful Studio
Waterman
Weston Williamson
Wilkinson Eyre
WSP



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UK Architects
Declare Climate
and
Biodiversity
Emergency

UK Civil
Engineers
Declare Climate
& Biodiversity
Emergency

UK Structural
Engineers
Declare Climate
& Biodiversity
Emergency



To accelerate progress towards Net Zero
carbon bridges by sharing knowledge
and ideas, and shaping best practice

Our objective



Just Bridges

Just Net Zero

What about climate resilience?



1. Climate context
2. What about construction?
3. Climate action
4. Masonry arch bridges
5. A future for stone?



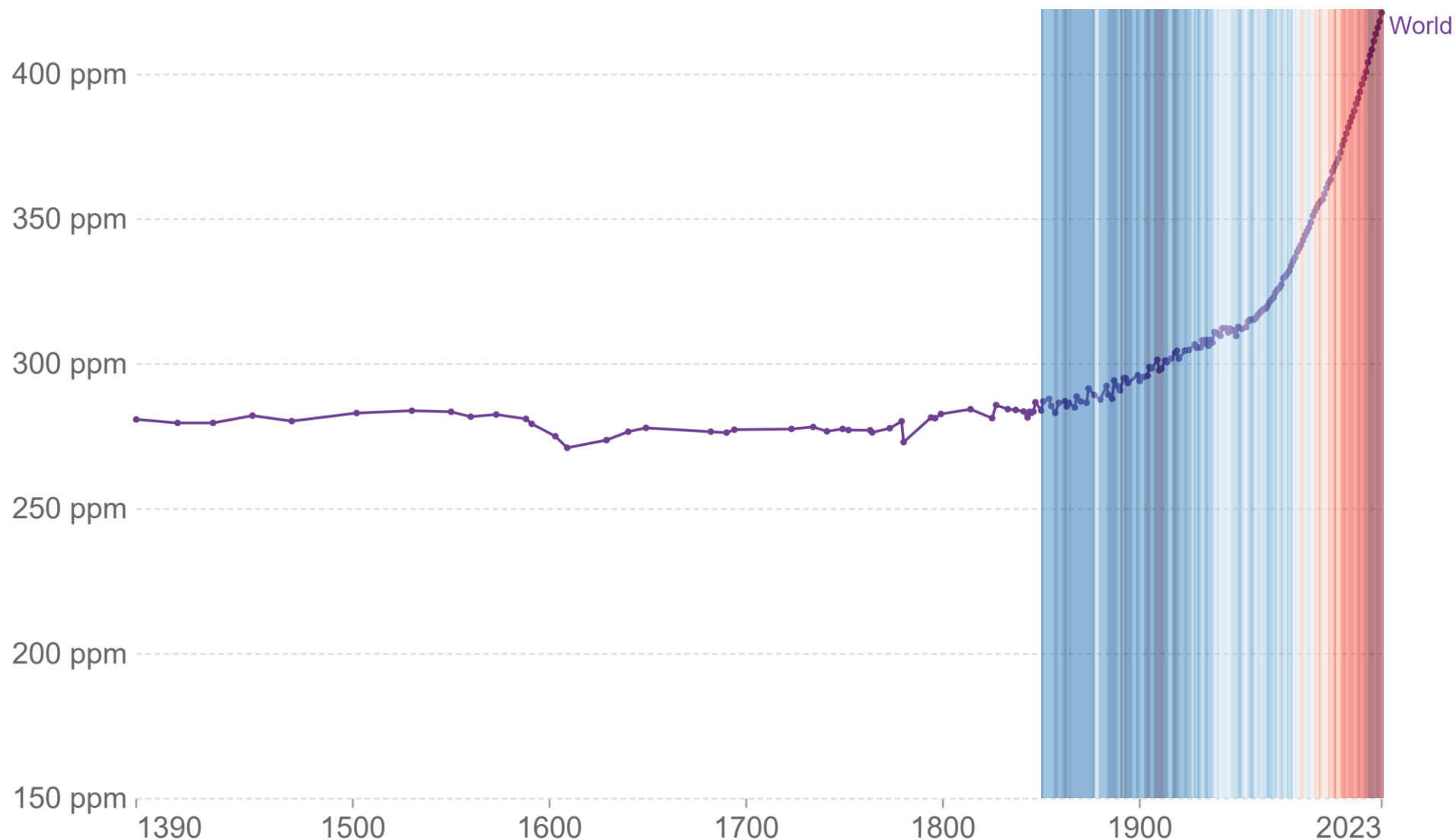
1. Climate context



showyourstripes.info, Global mean temperature 1850-2022

Global atmospheric CO₂ concentration

Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration is measured in parts per million (ppm). Long-term trends in CO₂ concentrations can be measured at high-resolution using preserved air samples from ice cores.

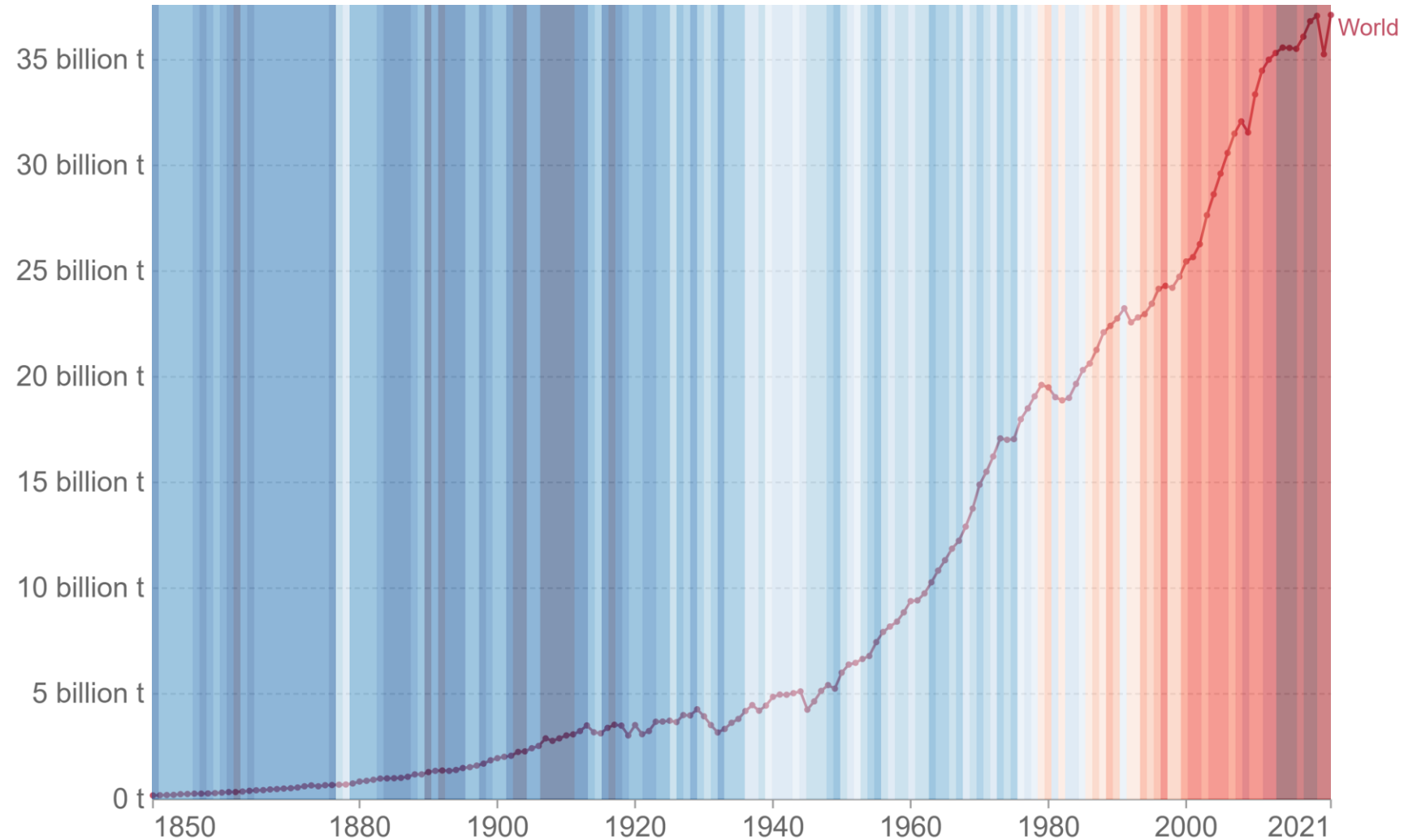






Annual CO₂ emissions

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuels and industry¹. Land use change is not included.



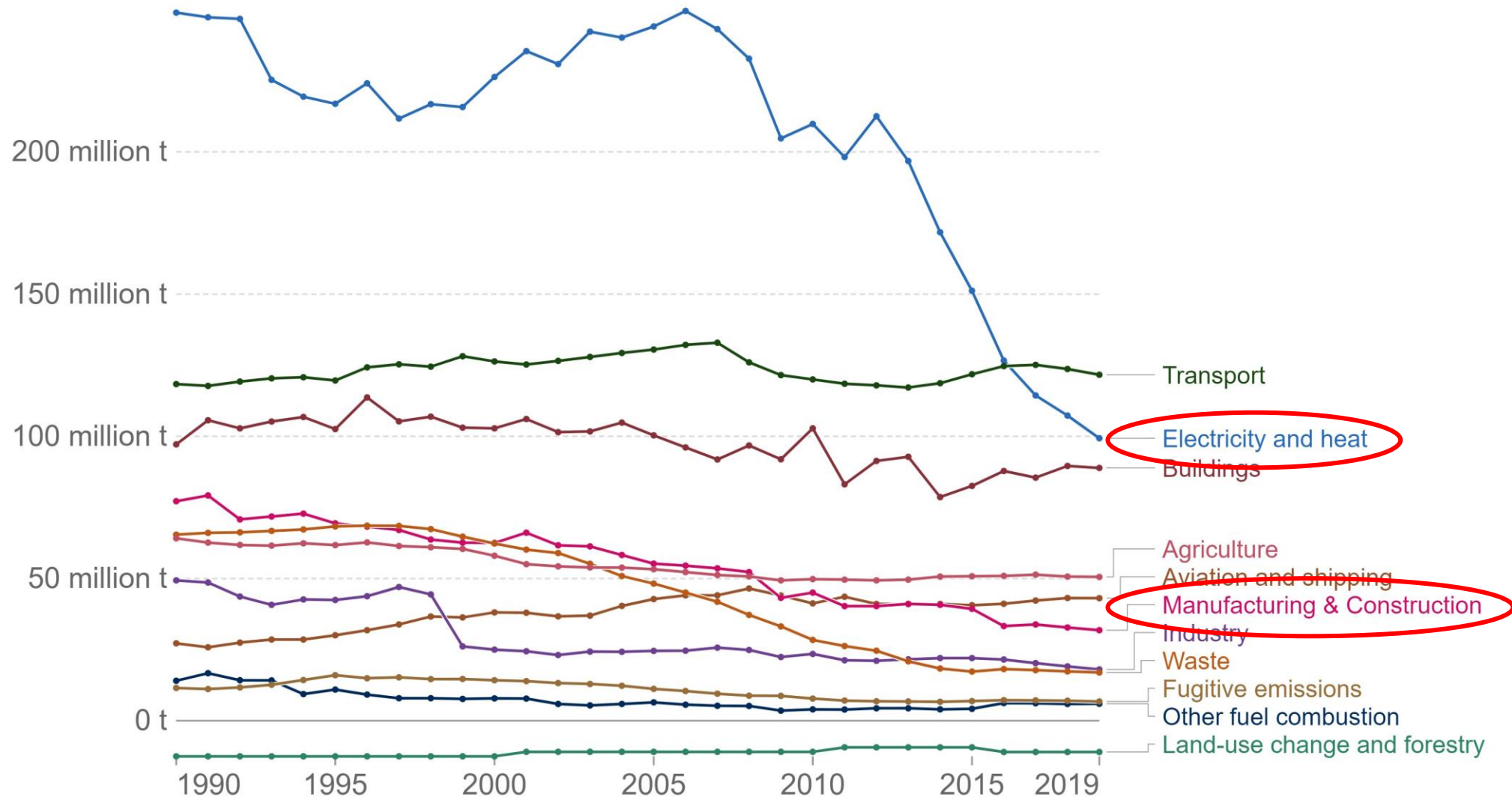
Source: Global Carbon Budget (2022)

OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions • CC BY

1. Fossil emissions: Fossil emissions measure the quantity of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted from the burning of fossil fuels, and directly from industrial processes such as cement and steel production. Fossil CO₂ includes emissions from coal, oil, gas, flaring, cement, steel, and other industrial processes. Fossil emissions do not include land use change, deforestation, soils, or vegetation.

Greenhouse gas emissions by sector, United Kingdom

Emissions are measured in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂eq). This means non-CO₂ gases are weighted by the amount of warming they cause over a 100-year timescale.

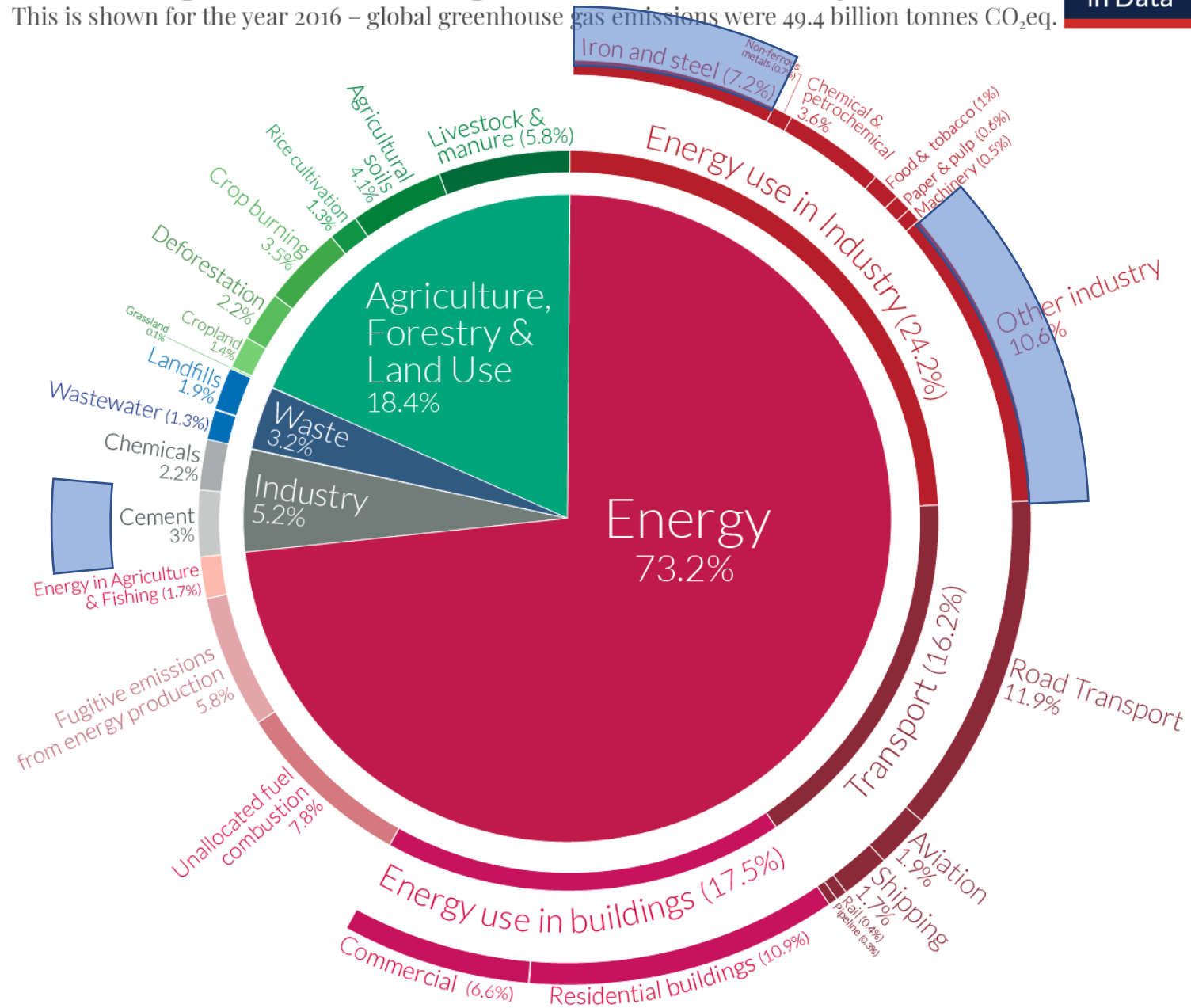




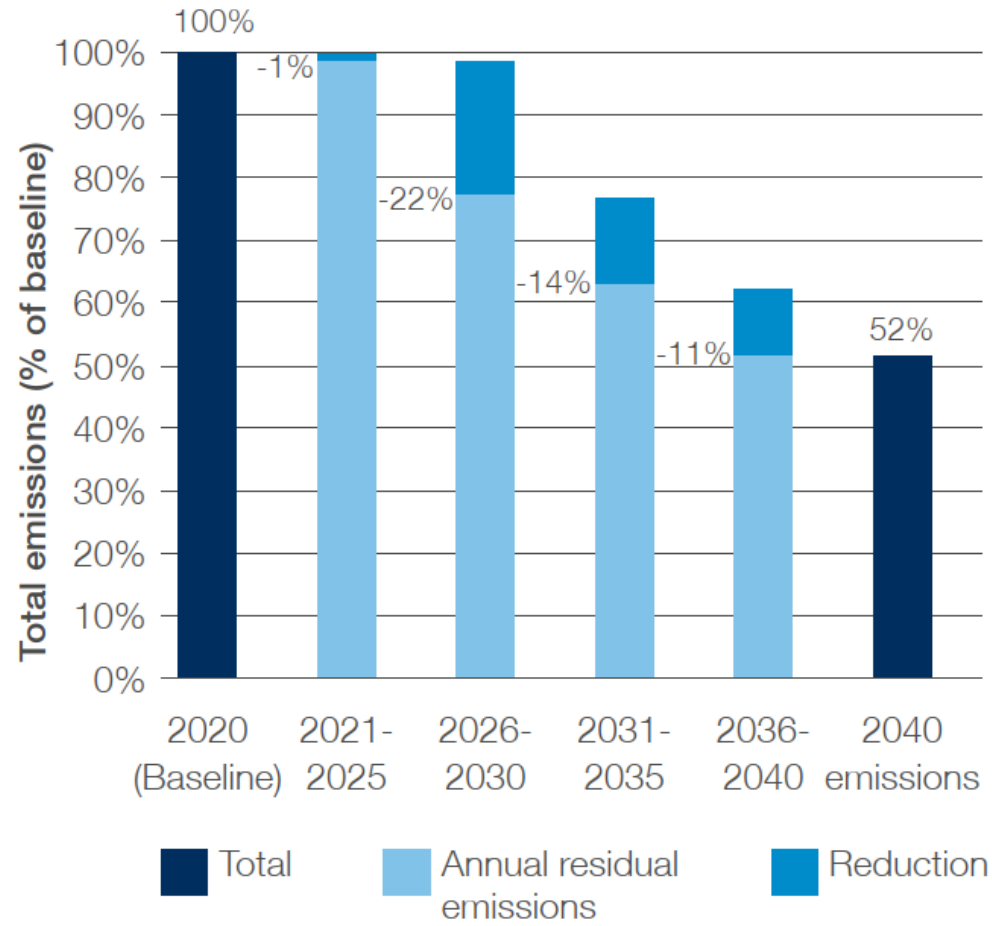
2. What about construction?

Global greenhouse gas emissions by sector

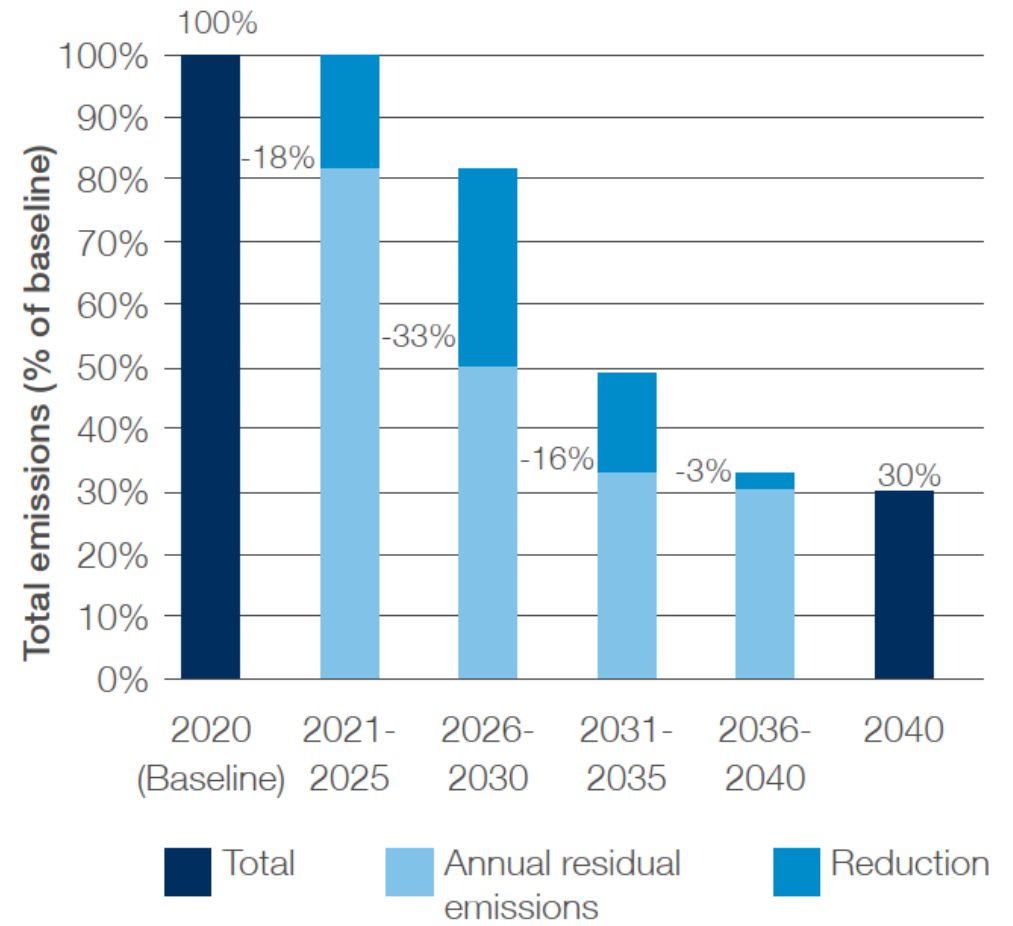
This is shown for the year 2016 – global greenhouse gas emissions were 49.4 billion tonnes CO₂eq.



Embodied carbon = Quantity x Carbon factor



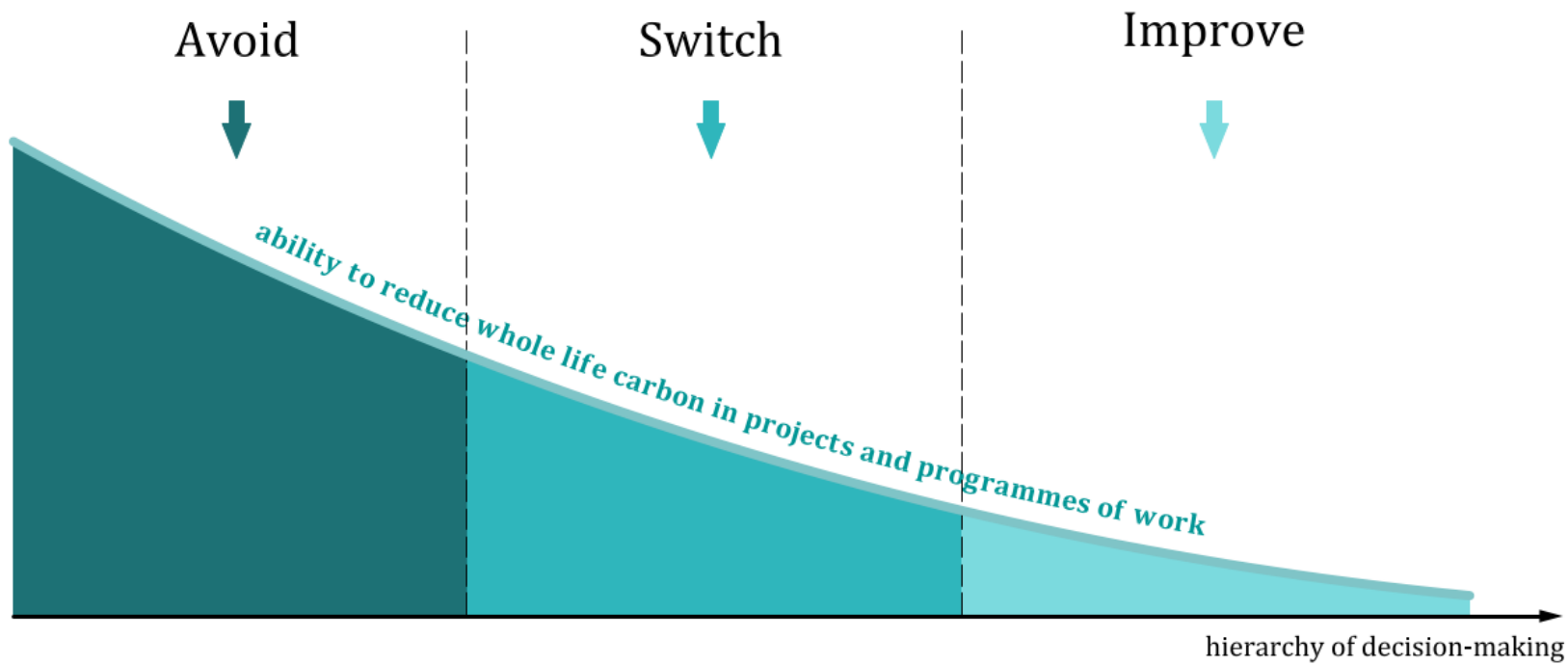
Current concrete decarbonisation trajectory



Current steel decarbonisation trajectory

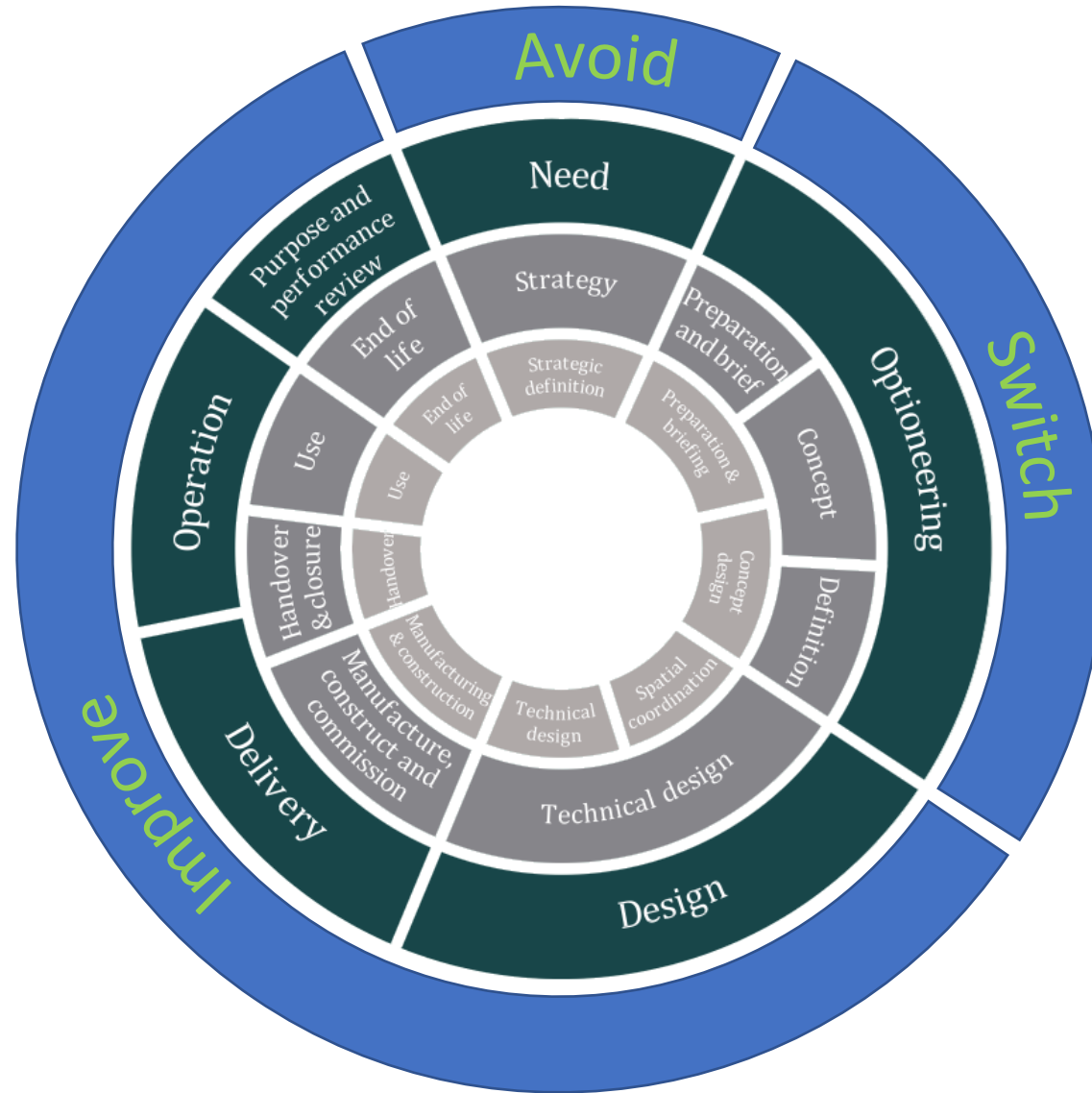


3. Climate action

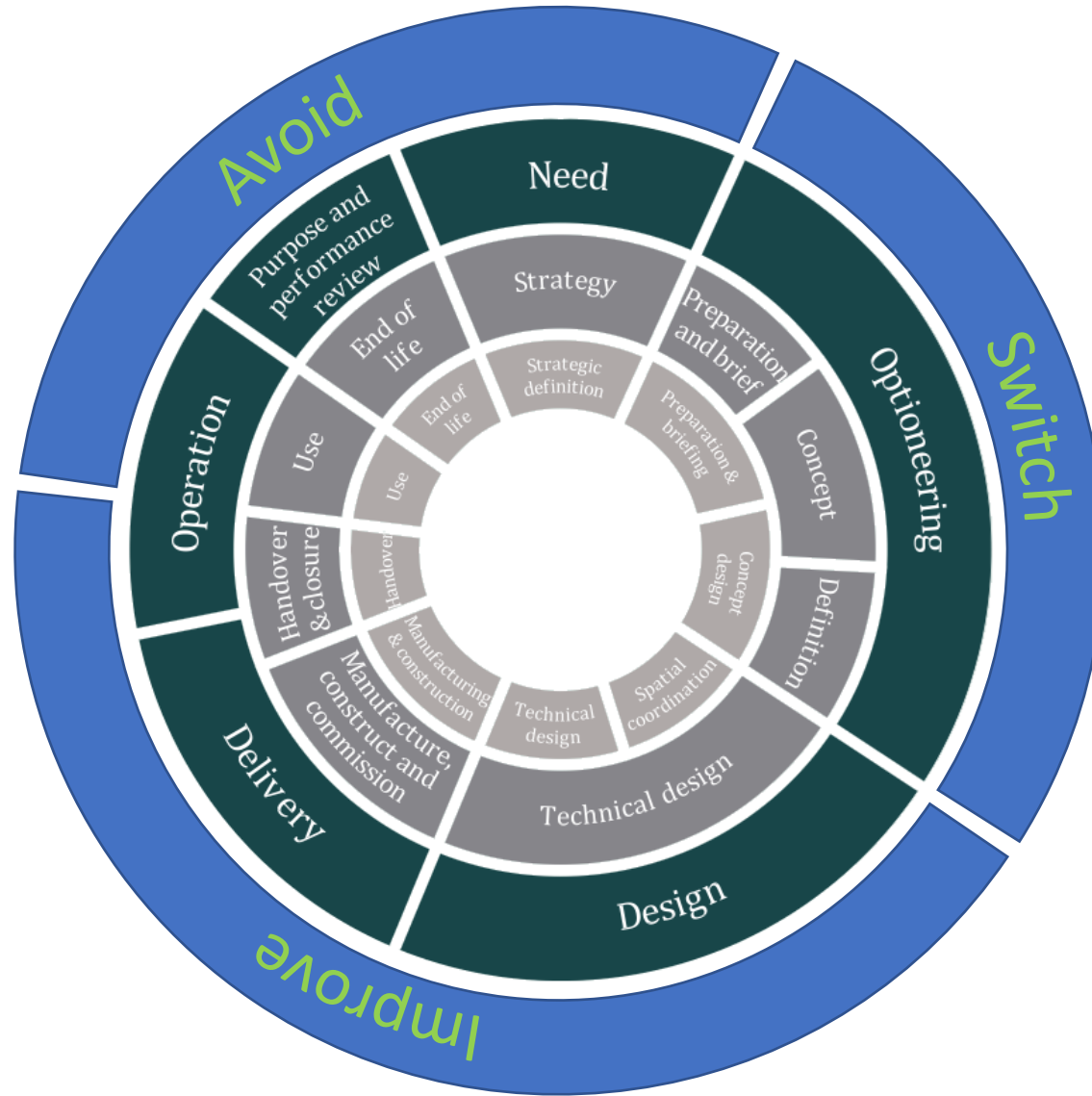


Source: PAS 2080:2023





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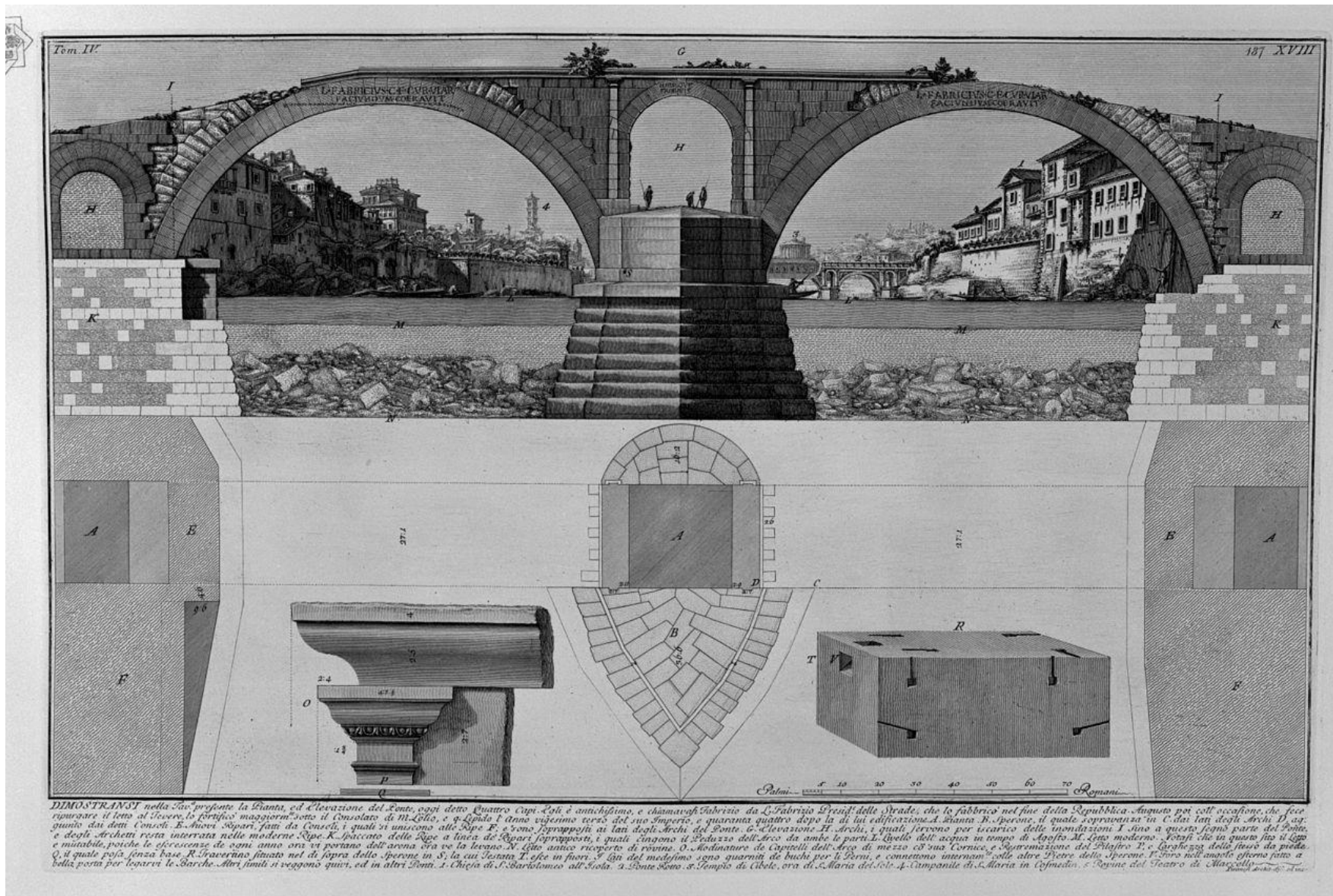
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4. Masonry arch bridges



Arkadiko Bridge, circa 1300 BCE, source: Wikipedia



Pons Fabricius, 62 BCE, source: Wikipedia



Anji / Zhaozhou Bridge, 605 CE, source: Wikipedia



Stephenson's Bridge, AECOM Mott
MacDonald JV / BB Heritage Studio / BDP

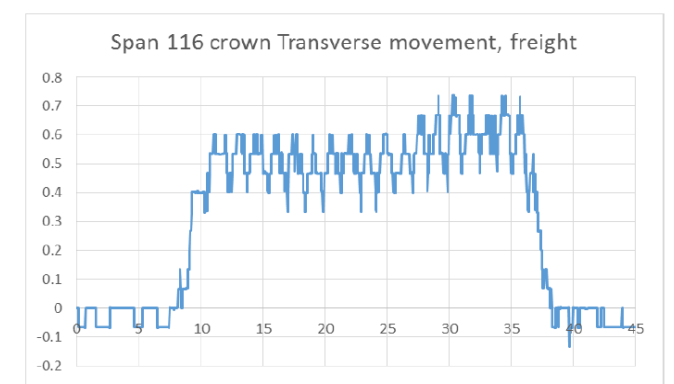
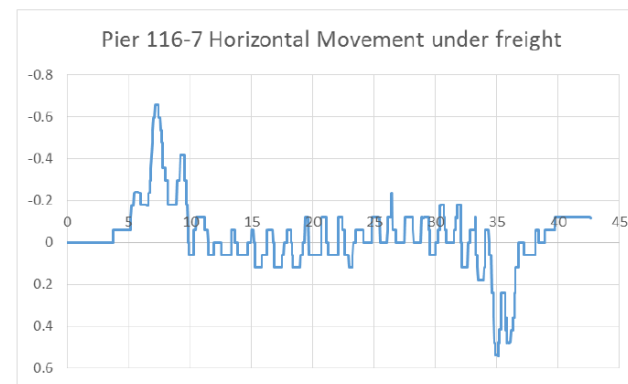
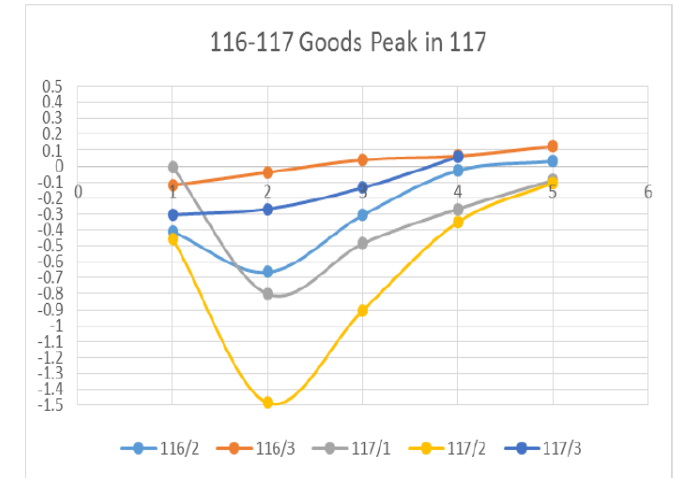
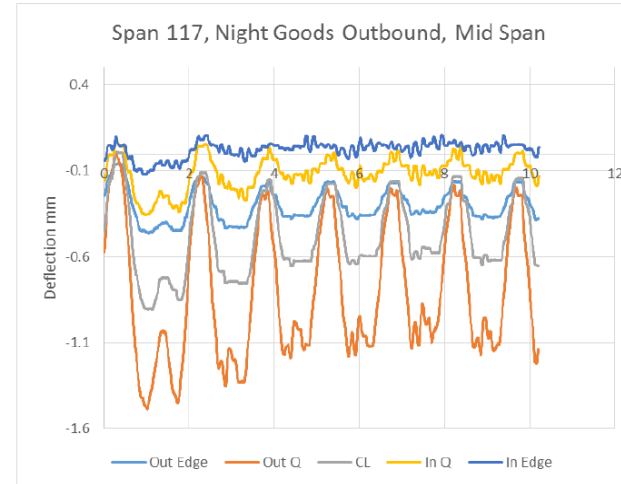






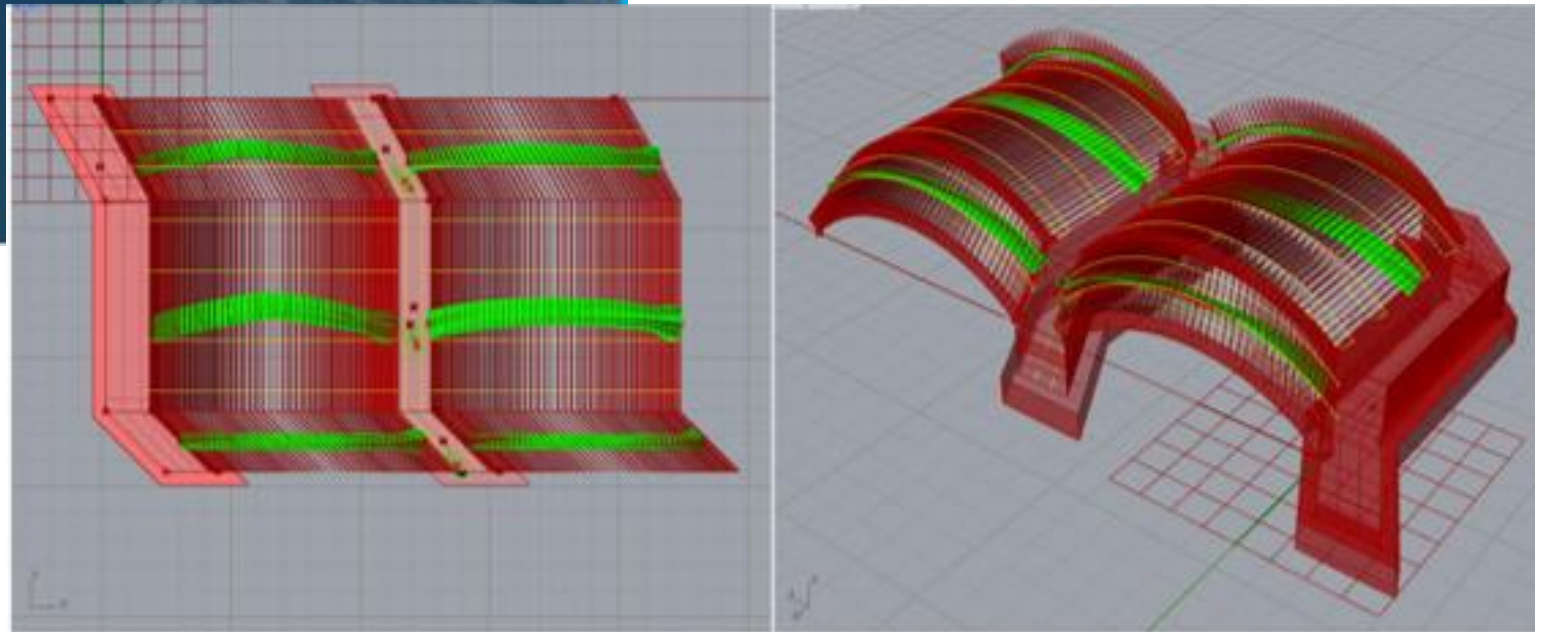


COL viaduct monitoring, AECOM Mott MacDonald JV / Bill Harvey Associates





Linton Bridge stabilisation and strengthening, Mott MacDonald



Hardys Gate Bridge, Mott MacDonald



5. A future for stone?

New stone bridges – why?

For

Durability?

Low maintenance?

Whole-life cost?

Whole-life carbon???

Design standards?

Against

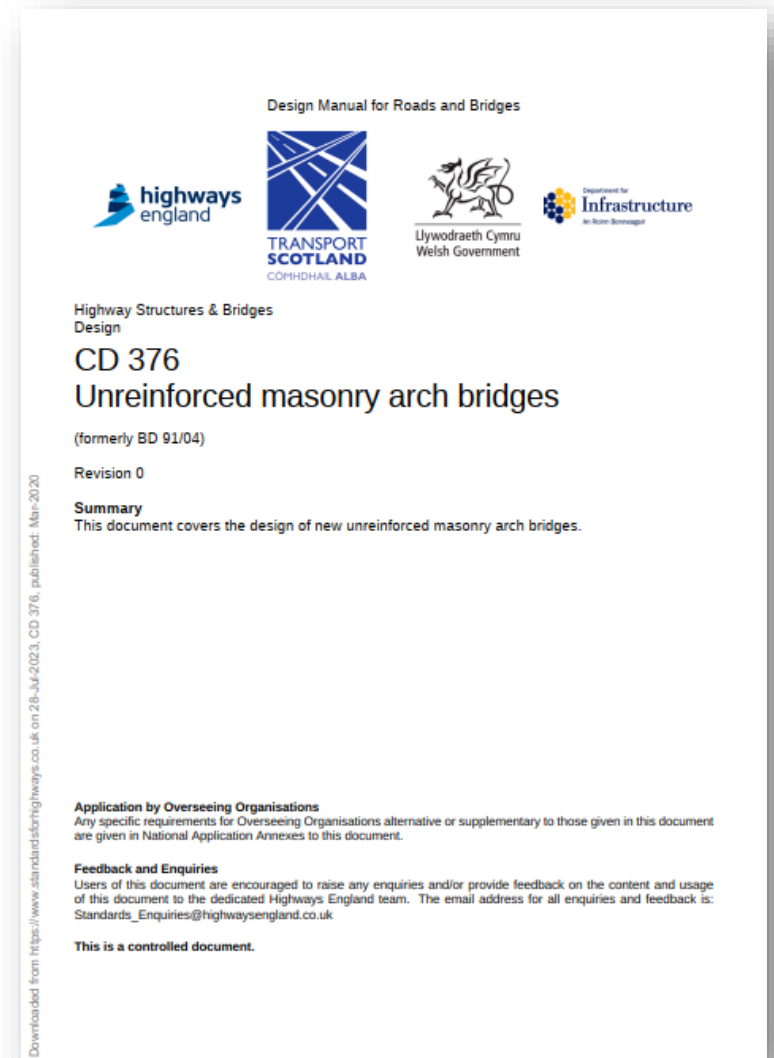
Capital cost?

Design competence?

Material availability?

Construction competence?

Construction programme?





Tan y Manod, 2004

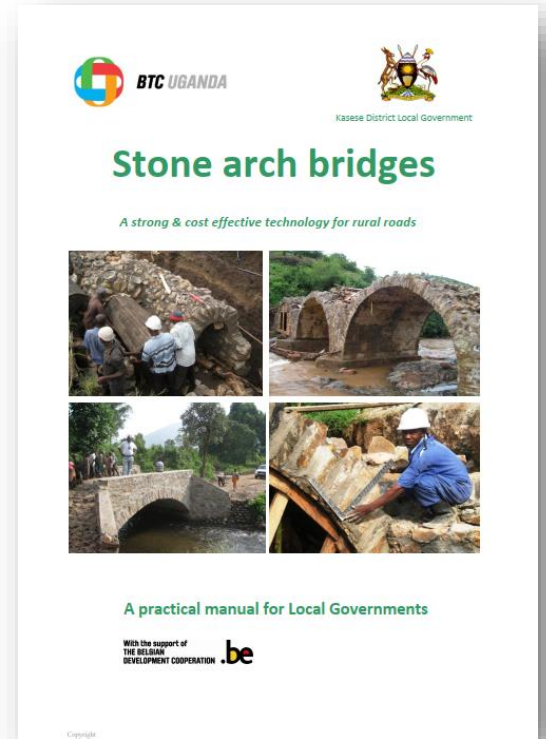


Abergeirw, 2003

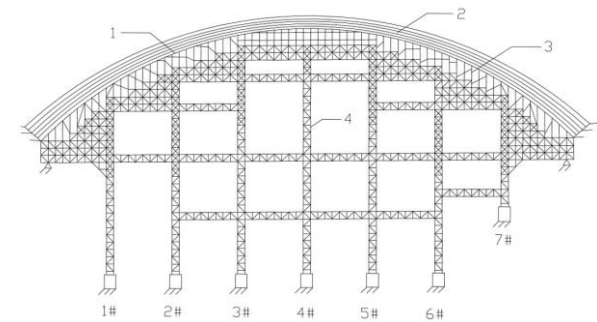


Abergeirw, 2003

Masonry bridge
widening, north
Wales, source:
Osian Richards,
YGC



New stone bridge construction, Tanzania, 2018 – to date, [Enabel](#) and partners



Danhe Bridge,
China, 2008,
source:
highestbridges.com



Digital stone bridges – Adrienn Tomor

Source: ["Feasibility of new masonry arch bridges in the 21st century"](#), 12th North American Masonry Conference, Adrienn Tomor



Suransuns
Bridge,
Switzerland,
1999, source:
author's photo



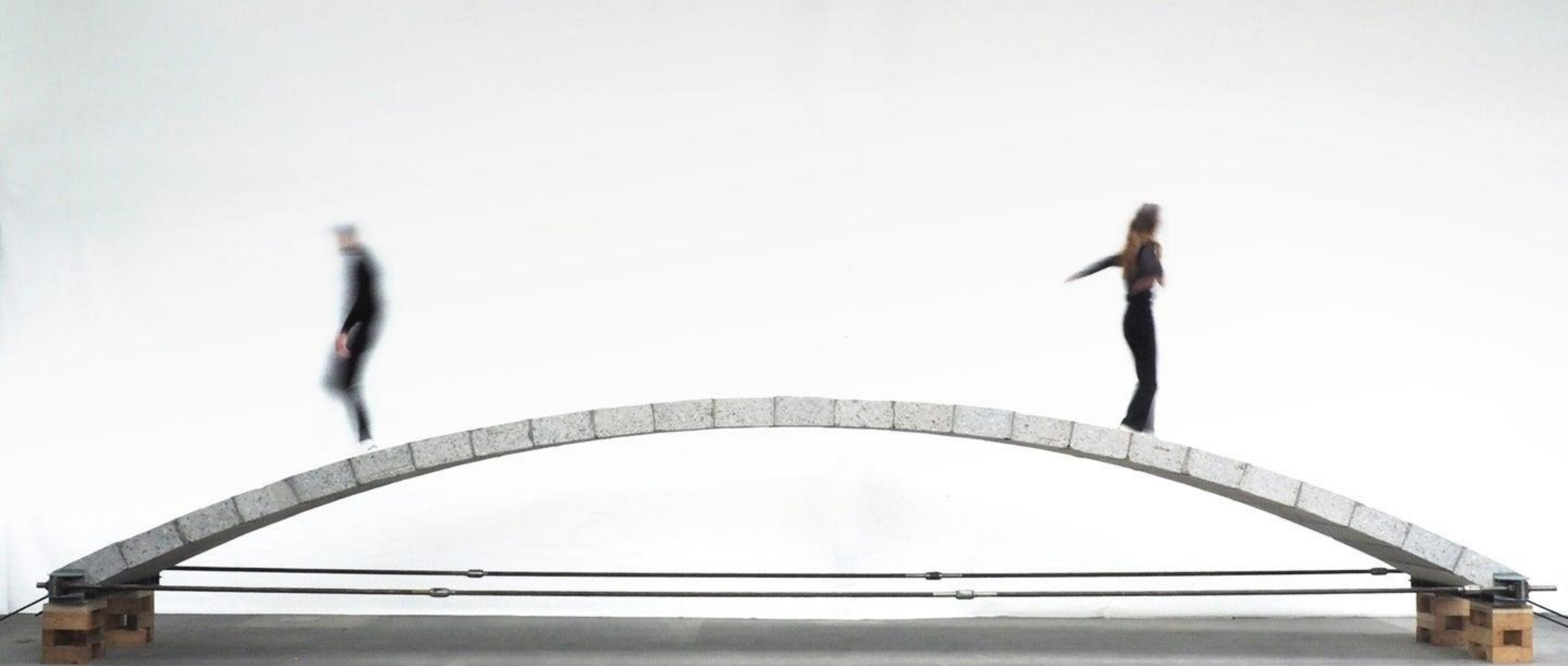
Waterfall Bridge, Switzerland, 2013,
Jürg Conzett, source: arcdog.com



Waterfall Bridge, Switzerland, 2013,
Jürg Conzett, source: arcdog.com



Dorfbrücke Vals, Switzerland, 2009,
Jürg Conzett, source: arcdog.com

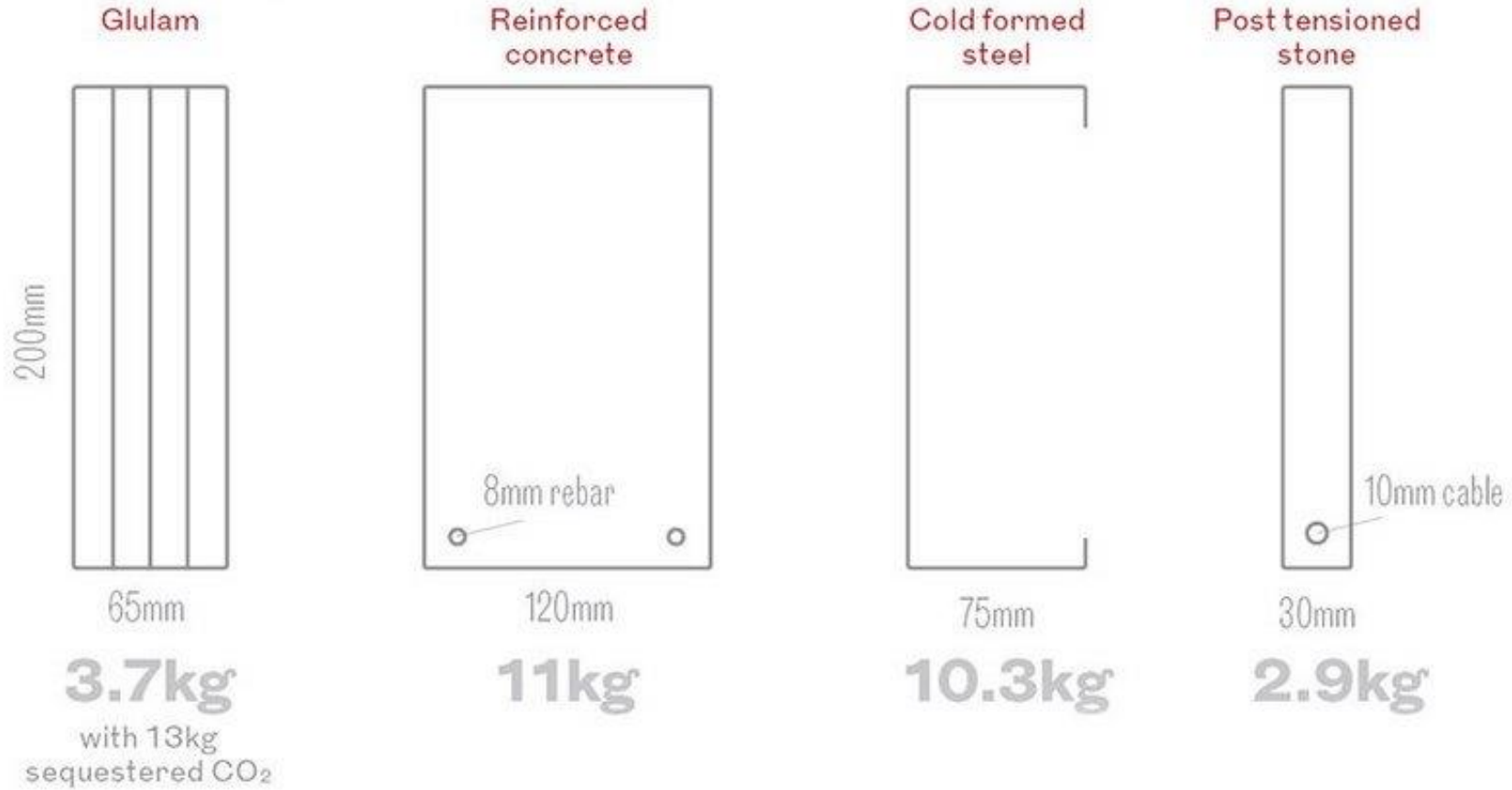


ReCrete Bridge, EPFL, Switzerland



ReCrete Bridge, EPFL, Switzerland

Carbon cost of structural members in different materials



Steve Webb, RIBA Journal, 29 May 2020

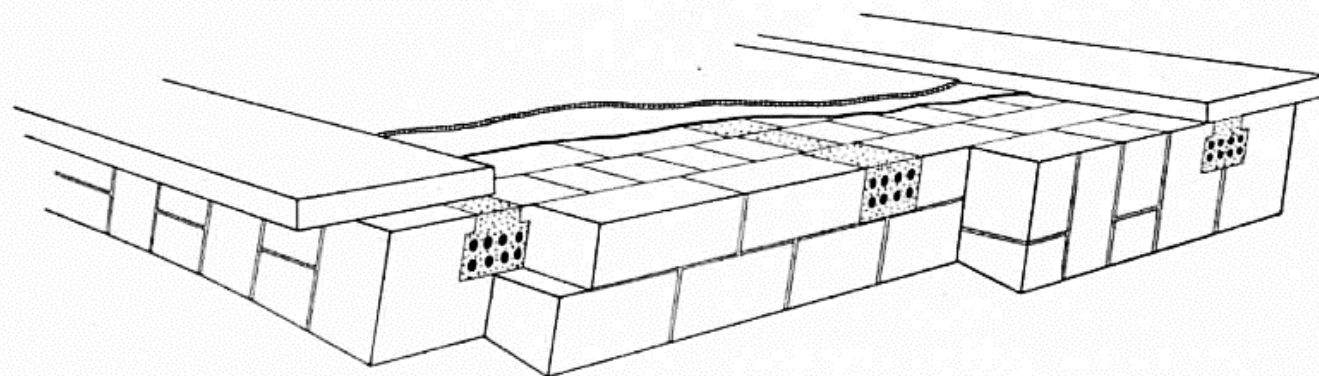


Bild 2. Querschnitt in der Nähe der Mittelpfeiler mit prinzipieller Anordnung des Mauerwerkes und der Spannkabel

Teufelsbrücke, Heinz
Hossdorf, source:
Schweizerische Bauzeitung
(1954)

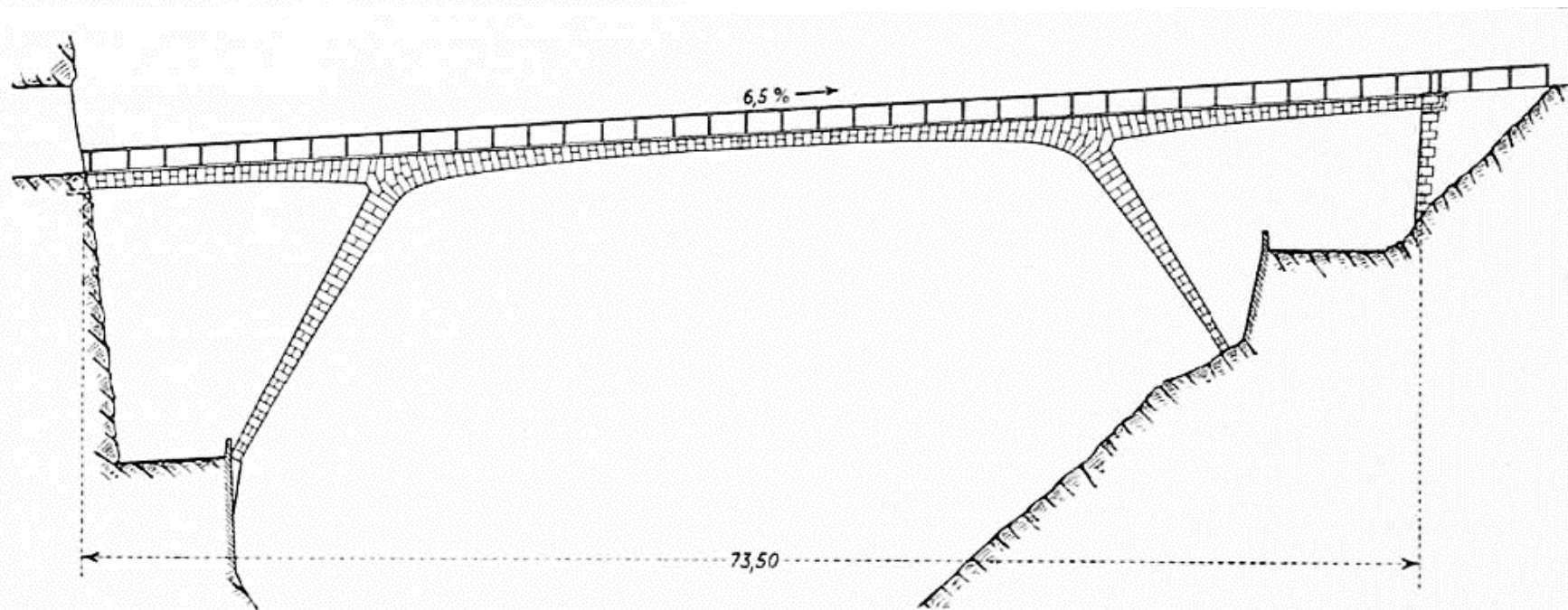
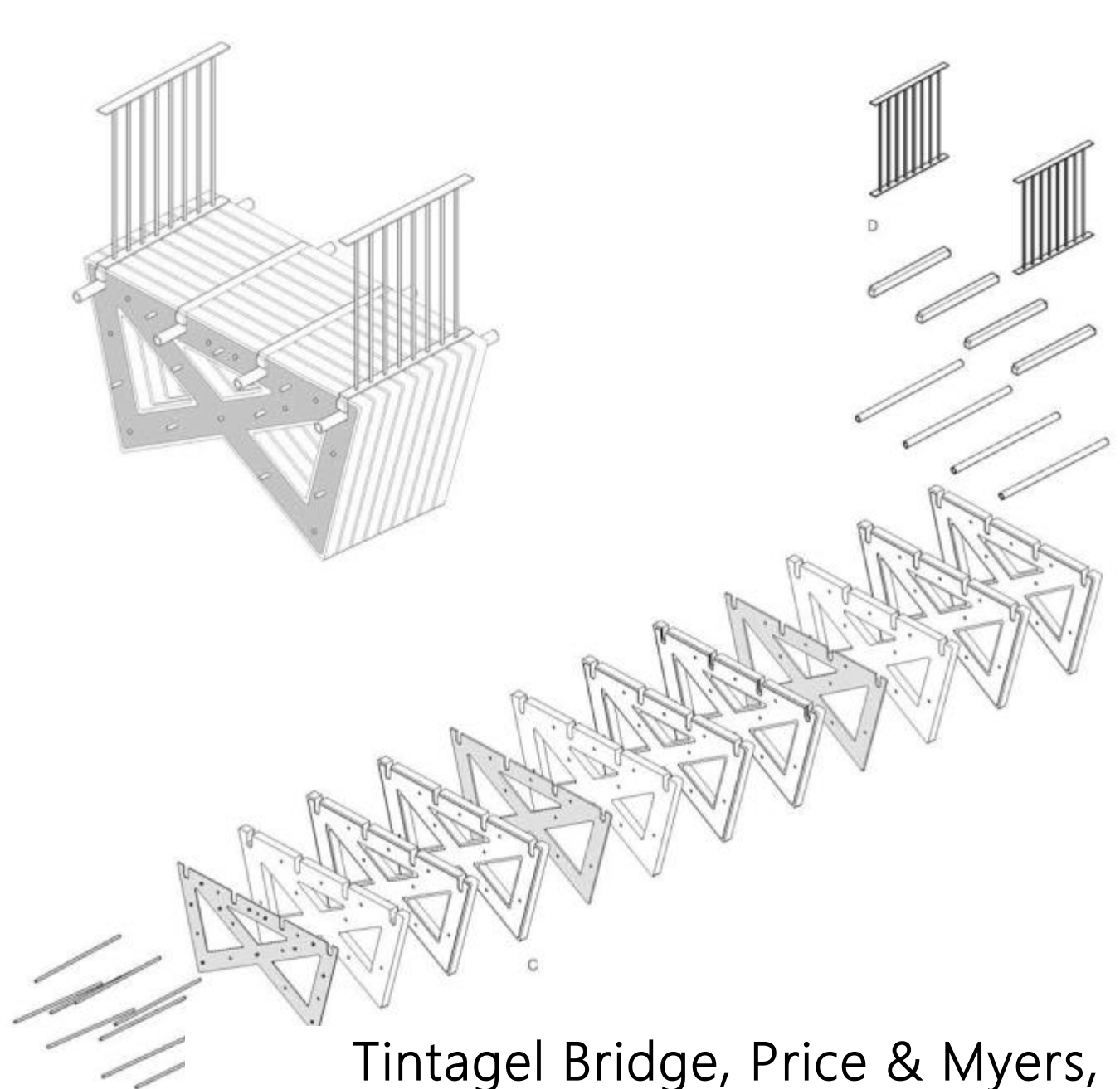


Bild 1. Teufelsbrücke in vorgespanntem Granit. Masstab 1:750



Town Centre Gardens, 14.35m span, Stevenage, Kusser, 2011



Tintagel Bridge, Price & Myers,
source: [Malcolm Reading Associates](#)



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