POLLUTION-EATING BRIDGE

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02 : 04 : 2015

BCQ Architecture : Pollution-eating Bridge : Whole System Thinking

Barcelona – A bridge over a dual carriageway north of the city centre is being refurbished with pollution-eating concrete.

- Photocatalytic concrete turns harmful pollutants into harmless elements such as oxygen, nitrates and sulphates, washed away when it rains
- The aim is to make the bridge more appealing to pedestrians, despite the traffic below

Spanish architecture firm BCQ plans to revamp the Sarajevo bridge in Barcelona and, along with using photocatalytic concrete, it will also add plant walls to the verdant and clean-air atmosphere of the bridge, as well as photoluminescent paint on the pavements, which will glow at night like Studio Roosegaarde’s painted roads. Solar panels will also be installed to power the LED lights along the bridge. ‘[The redesign] enables better interaction between pedestrians and vehicles, provides the space with vegetated arcades and changes the image of the bridge to distinguish it as one of the gates of Barcelona,’ says BCQ.

The Big Picture: Architects are taking on Whole-system Thinking in their designs to create solutions to modern urban problems.