

Commissioning Authority: **Stadt Balingen**

Principal Designer: **Ingenieurbüro Miebach**

Main Architect/Structural Engineer: **Moxon Architects / Ingenieurbüro Miebach**

Principal Contractor: **Schaffitzel Holzindustrie GmbH + Co. KG (Superstructure)**

Other Key Firms: **Gottlob Brodbeck GmbH & Co. KG (Foundations contractor)**



Parkufersteg Bridge in Balingen, Germany

The result of a 2019 design competition, Parkufersteg is an innovative structural timber footbridge designed by Moxon Architects and timber bridge specialist Miebach Ingenieurbüro. It transforms the banks of the Eyach River into a green leisure corridor that runs the length of the town in southern Germany and replaces a lower, shorter structure that was susceptible to seasonal flood damage.

The new bridge consists of a pair of elegantly shaped timber beams spanning over 40m from bank to bank. They carry a 3m-wide bridge deck that flares to 5m at both ends to join an improved network of footpaths and cycle tracks. The deck gradually rises as it crosses the river in order to maintain views over the beams at their tallest (mid span) point. The upstand beams double as parapets, comfortably cradling users while leaning away from them to create a sense of openness within the wooded, river environment. By exposing the beams externally and cladding them in native timber internally, the robust and low maintenance structure serves as the primary aesthetic element, visually linking the two halves of Balingen.

The project required close collaboration across a diverse team of specialists in traditional and contemporary construction methods. Regionally harvested spruce was conventionally milled into lamella which were then glued and pressed into a computer-defined form within a workshop. Tight tolerances allowed a precise interface between the glulam beams and transverse U-frames made of galvanised steel. These fabricated elements support tertiary larch purlins upon which slip resistant FRP planks were laid and fixed.

The bridge and the surrounding river park will be focal points of the Baden-Württemberg Garden Show that opens 5 May, 2023.