

## Across the Los Angeles River, A Statement in Steel Reconnects the City's Urban Fabric

By ANNA BERGREN MILLER • January 28, 2014

Architecture City Terrain Transportation West



THE TAYLOR YARD BRIDGE WILL LINK CYPRESS PARK AND ELYSIAN VALLEY (STUDIO PALI FEKETE ARCHITECTS)

“We got very attracted to the project, and to the idea of making something that reconnects [Los Angeles](#),” Zoltan Pali said of Taylor Yard Bridge, the pedestrian and bicycle bridge designed by his firm, [Studio Pali Fekete architects](#) (SPF:a). Originally introduced [as part of a mitigations package twenty-two years ago](#), the bridge, which will span the [Los Angeles River](#) between Cypress Park and Elysian Valley, should be completed within two years at a cost of \$5.3 million.

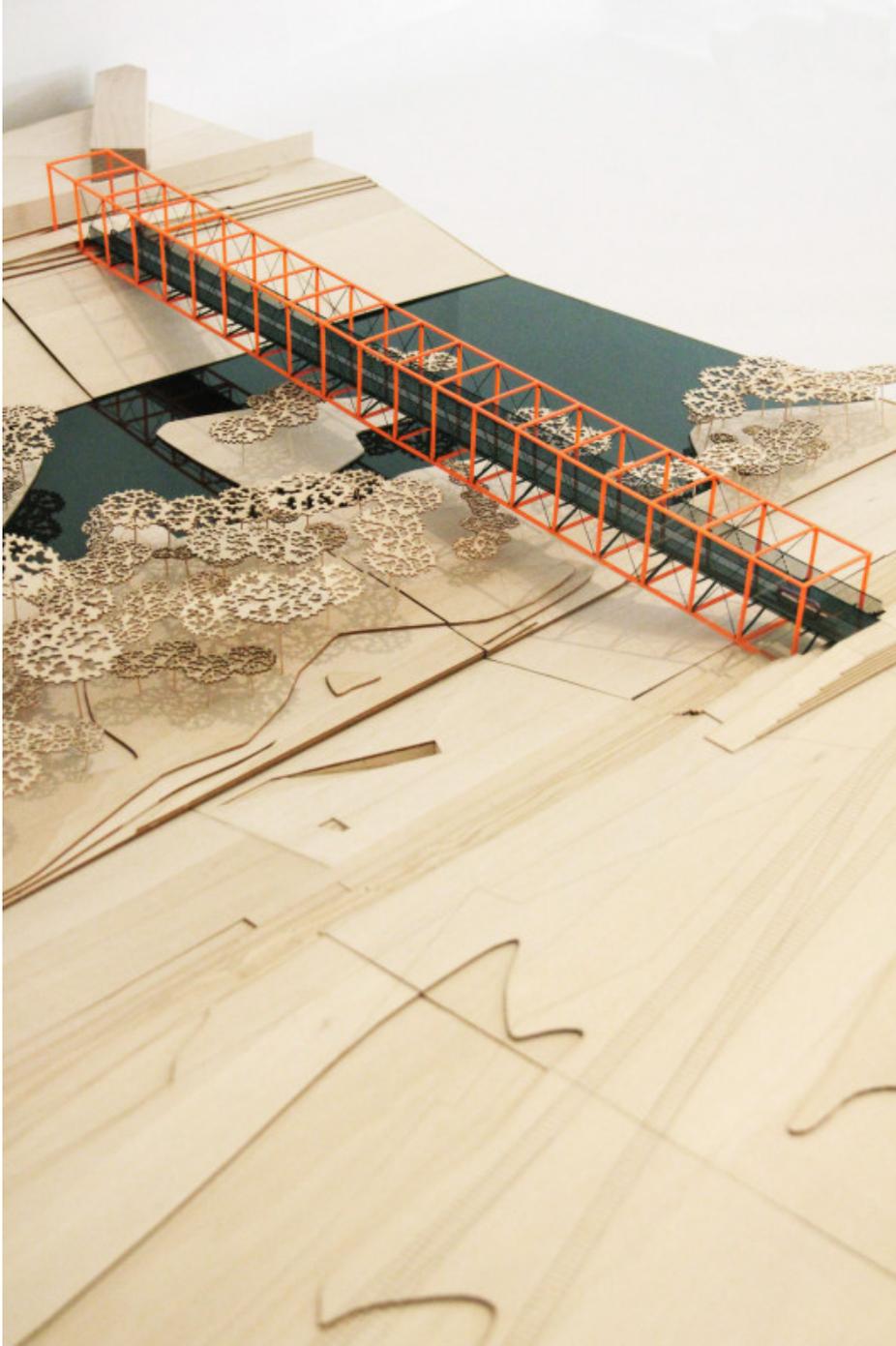


THE ROAD PLATFORM IS CONTAINED WITHIN A GIANT BOX TRUSS (STUDIO PALI FEKETE ARCHITECTS)

“Frankly [bridges](#) are a very interesting topic,” Pali said. “It’s also one of those types of things that you can design ten bridges in ten minutes, there’s so many different ways of looking at it.” In the case of the Taylor Yard Bridge, the designers faced a unique set of challenges. Large power lines on the Taylor Yard side of the 360-foot span limited the height of the bridge. Also on the Taylor Yard side is a maintenance road, hampering access to the riverbank; on the opposite side is a narrow bike path. Finally, the two banks are about ten feet apart in height, necessitating a 3 percent grade. “[We] had a lot of issues we had to deal with from the standpoint of geometry,” Pali said.

To deal with those concerns, and to minimize construction time, Pali and his colleagues chose a lightweight steel construction that eliminated the need for supports in the river bed. The body of the bridge is a 30-foot-by-30-foot box truss, painted orange. A DWP recycled water pipeline, painted purple, will provide a contrasting splash of color. The 17-foot-wide road platform, designed with lanes for pedestrian and bicycle use, “kind of floats, almost seems as if it’s suspended” within the truss, Pali said.

The Taylor Yard Bridge is more than just a solution to a set of practical problems. It's also Pali's way of pushing back against [over-the-top bridge designs](#). "Truth be told, we really wanted to have a counterpoint philosophically and architecturally from the sort of heroics that lots of folks go through to make bridges," he explained. The designers aimed for "simplicity, elegance. We wanted to refer to those really beautiful, utilitarian bridges you see around the world, plus the railroad bridges that used to span the [LA River](#). Just do what you need."



THE MINIMALIST DESIGN CREATES AN ILLUSION OF LIGHTNESS (STUDIO PALI FEKETE ARCHITECTS)