



**RIBA South West**

**ICE| South West**

**Royal Society of Architects in Wales**

**ICE| Wales Cymru**

# Linking the lands

## Concept competition and exhibition



Raising the profile of architecture and engineering in Wales and the South West

Meads Beach Bridge by Niall McLaughlin Architects - RIBA Award winner 2000 Photo: M. TecPhotogenics



? BRIDGE

## Is the time right for a third crossing of the Bristol Channel?

### Could you design it?

RIBA South West and the Royal Society of Architects in Wales (RSAW) are working in partnership with the Institution of Civil Engineers in the South West and Wales to co-ordinate a competition and exhibition highlighting the potential of a third crossing of the Bristol Channel.

The first Severn Bridge arose out of the need to bridge the gap between England and Wales. The second Severn Bridge was built because of the sheer weight of traffic travelling across the original bridge. Now that traffic is currently growing at an average rate of 3% per year, perhaps the time is right to consider a third crossing.

The ICE and the RIBA for Wales and the South West are inviting architects, engineers and students of either discipline to submit speculative concepts for a third crossing of the Severn Estuary/ Bristol Channel, within the project 'Linking the Lands'. There will be no commitment to build the scheme. To encourage architects and engineers to develop working relationships with each other, we welcome teams or partnerships of mixed disciplines to enter, as well as entries from individuals. However, teams should be of no more than 4 members, including both architects and engineers.

### Competition Objective

- To raise the profile of architecture and engineering across Wales and the South West of England
- To emphasise the partnership between engineering input and the architectural design process
- To encourage good working relationships to develop between architects and engineers
- To design a concept crossing for the sole reason of providing passage over the obstacle of the Bristol Channel. We hope that your imagination will lead to creative interpretations of 'Linking the Lands'
- To design a crossing between the land on the Welsh side of the Bristol Channel and the English side.



? FERRY

### A brief history of the Severn Crossing

Crossing the Severn Estuary was, of course, one of the quickest ways to enter and leave Wales, but from ancient times, the only access across the river was the ferry service which crossed from Aust Cliff to Beachley Peninsula, 8 miles upstream from Avonmouth.

The ferry was replaced in 1966 by the first Severn Bridge (which has two spans: the main span across the Severn Estuary, and the second smaller span across the River Wye). This bridge provided a direct link into Wales from England via the M4 motorway. However, the bridge was closed in adverse weather conditions, and an increase in traffic flow led to severe congestion in summer and at peak times. This led to the building of the second bridge, at English Stones (5km downstream from the existing bridge), which was opened in 1996. The M4 motorway was re-aligned to the second bridge, whilst the first bridge became part of the M48.

The rail link to Wales was built by the Great Western Railway between 1873-86, after several proposals for a railway bridge to span the gap, were unsuccessful.



? TUNNEL

Butetown Tunnel, Cardiff Bay Photo credit: Acup

# Competition Description



The competition, will be divided into three categories:

- Part I architectural students and engineering students up to 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate
- Part II architectural students and engineering graduates
- Chartered and Incorporated Members in the disciplines of both architecture and engineering

Initial judging will select a shortlist, from each category, of entries that will form the subject of a touring exhibition and accompanying catalogue. Final judging will select a winner and commended entry from the shortlist for each category.

Each winning team within the student and graduate categories will receive £200 of vouchers from RIBA Bookshops and £200 of vouchers from Thomas Telford Limited Bookshop. The winner of the Chartered and Incorporated Members category will receive a trophy, and a certificate recording their achievement.

All student architectural and engineering entrants must be either student members of the ICE or RIBA:

- ICE Student membership is also FREE - apply online at [www.ice.org.uk](http://www.ice.org.uk)
- RIBA Student Membership is also FREE for Part 1 and Part 2 students – apply online at [www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com)

## Timetable of competition and exhibition

The competition programme, which may be subject to slight alteration, is as follows:

Launch date:	Monday 01 March
Submissions deadline	Friday 30 April, 4pm
Shortlist announcement	Wednesday 19 May
Awards Ceremony, Wales	Wednesday 23 June (announcement and formal presentation of winners of all categories)
Exhibition launch, South West	Thursday 22 July

## Eligibility

The competition is open to all Chartered and Incorporated Members of the ICE and RIBA, and to architectural and engineering students and graduates enrolled at any of the following:

- Bath University – Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
- Bristol University – Faculty of Engineering
- The Arts University College at Bournemouth – School of Design
- Plymouth University – School of Architecture and Design
- University of West of England – Built and Natural Environment (including Architecture and Civil Engineering)
- Cardiff University – School of Engineering/ Welsh School of Architecture
- Newport University - Engineering and Professional Studies within the Business School
- Glamorgan University - Faculty of Advanced Technology
- Swansea University – School of Engineering

Wherever possible, the joint institutions of the ICE and the RIBA will endeavour to assist with matching architecture students with engineering students.

No member or employee of the organising committee or the assessment panel shall be eligible to compete or assist a competitor.

## Copyright

The ownership of copyright in the work of all competitors will be in accordance with the Copyright and Patent Act 1988, i.e. copyright of the design will rest with the author. The joint institutions of the ICE and the RIBA reserve the right to publish or have published on their behalf, illustrations of any design, either separately or together with other designs.

# Entry submission



- Entries should be submitted on one A1 landscape lightweight 5mm foam board
- The board should incorporate a statement explaining the project as simply and as clearly as possible (no longer than one sheet of A4, size 12 font). The statement should be sellotaped to the reverse of the foam board.
- Photographs of models can be submitted as part of the entry
- Photographs may be included on the A1 board
- The entry should be accompanied by a separate CD of up to 5 medium sized jpeg images and images of the A1 board for press and publicity use
- The entry should also be accompanied by a letter, giving the name of the entry, the names of the team members with their academic disciplines and the name(s) of the university(ies) at which they study. If the team wish to assign themselves a name, this should be included in the letter. The joint institutions of the ICE and the RIBA reserve the right to alter or omit the name if it contravenes with the rules of this competition.
- The A1 board submitted should be titled but must not have any name, logo or distinguishing mark of any kind. The judging will be anonymous, to ensure equality.

Competitors may enter more than one submission, however the fee must apply accordingly.

Postal entries should be sent in a single package accompanied by the entry form and entry fee, to arrive no later than 4pm on Friday 30 April, and addressed to the Royal Society of Architects in Wales (RSAW), 4 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9LJ.

Entries can also be hand-delivered to your RIBA or ICE office as listed below:

**ICE South West**  
2nd Floor  
47 Fore Street  
Ivybridge  
Devon PL21 9AE

**RIBA South West**  
Unit 4.8, Paintworks  
Bath Road, Arnos Vale  
Bristol BS4 3EH

**ICE Wales Cymru**  
Suite 2, Bay Chambers  
West Bute Street  
Cardiff Bay CF10 5BB

**RSAW**  
4 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff CF11 9LJ

T 07152 895426  
[ice.southwest@ice.org.uk](mailto:ice.southwest@ice.org.uk)

T 0844 800 2767  
[riba.wessex@inst.riba.org](mailto:riba.wessex@inst.riba.org)

T 029 2063 0561  
[cherry.cronly@ice.org.uk](mailto:cherry.cronly@ice.org.uk)

T 029 2022 8987  
[rsaw@inst.riba.org](mailto:rsaw@inst.riba.org)

## Entry fees

Architectural and engineering student members  
Chartered/ Incorporated Members of the ICE or RIBA

£10 + VAT (total £11.75)  
£100 + VAT (total £117.50)

Please make your cheques payable to the RIBA.

## Please note:

The judges' decisions are final.

It is the responsibility of the entrants to ensure the arrival of their submission before expiry of the deadline.

The joint institutions of the ICE and the RIBA will exercise all reasonable care but will not be responsible for loss or damage to submissions which may occur either in transit or during exhibition, storage or packing.

Competitors requiring proof of delivery should enclose with their package a stamped, sealed envelope addressed to a third party. This will be posted on receipt of submission.



**Linking the lands: architectural design informed by engineering analysis**