

# NEWSWISSARCHITECTURE

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Thames & Hudson









**OPPOSITE** The shape of the wood and steel footbridge evolved in response to the river bank topography. **ABOVE** Because of its S-shaped form, the bridge absorbs all structural tension, spanning the river without any supporting elements.



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## FOOTBRIDGE AREUSE

Boudry  
pp. 060-061

### ARCHITECTS

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### OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Civil Engineering: Chablais et Poffet  
Metalwork: Steiner  
Masonry: Michel Morciano  
Carpentry: Tschäppät  
Metallic Construction: Technique Métal Sàrl

### CLIENT

Canton of Neuchâtel

### PLANNING

1999-2002

### CONSTRUCTION DATES

2002

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This small feat of engineering in the Jura Mountains is a footbridge over the Areuse River, constructed without any supporting elements. The S-shaped bridge absorbs all structural tension, enabling it to soar freely across the water.

The width of the footbridge varies in response to two different topographical features, creating the impression of an organic sculpture. On one side of the river, the footpath follows the contours of a steep slope, while the footpath on the other side travels over flat, gentle terrain. The footbridge links the two banks of the river with a structure that evolves in shape from one side to the other.

The resulting dynamic form of the undulating structure is emphasized by the pattern of the openwork walls and roof. A combination of wooden slats and steel sections envelops the footbridge, creating an open membrane, so that anyone using the bridge can enjoy views of the river and its banks while crossing in safety.

Because of its discreet use of materials and its organic form, the footbridge blends well with its natural surroundings. As a dynamic physical structure, it also has presence that provides an added attraction for walkers using this stretch of the footpath.

01 Site plan 02 Elevation

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