



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

Woven for safety: metallic mesh used in bridges

When planning and constructing pedestrian bridges, appearance and safety are of equal importance. The opportunity to lend a bridge its own individual flair is what makes metallic mesh from GKD – GEBR. KUFFERATH AG the material of choice for many modern bridge structures. This is why the architects of the Amgen Helix Pedestrian Bridge in Seattle, USA, and the Griffith Drive Pedestrian Bridge in Burnaby, Canada, decided to go with stainless steel mesh from GKD. Acting both as a windbreak and fall guard protection on these pedestrian bridges, the textile material combines visual attractiveness with sustainable safety.

In keeping with its location on the premises of the world's largest biotechnology company, Amgen, the Amgen Helix Pedestrian Bridge is reminiscent of the double helix of a DNA molecule. At the Seattle research and development facility, the bridge allows employees and visitors to pass safely over the railway lines and access the company premises. The structure of the helix is formed from curved steel tubing, which is connected by tensioned stainless steel mesh. The architects Johnson Architecture & Planning chose two different types of mesh from GKD for the cross-walk. The textile structure of the Tigris and Lago cable mesh types follows the arches and windings of the arched bridge. Four arches, each comprising eleven mesh panels, then form the curved helix. Their transparency makes the pedestrian bridge appear as though it is floating. At the same time, the woven structure offers protection from the wind and weather, as well as serving as a highly effective fall guard.



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In the Canadian city of Burnaby, the Griffith Drive Pedestrian Bridge links residential areas with the schools located on the other side of a 4-lane motorway. The design, created by the architects at Perkins+Will, is characterised by its single, pronounced arch that stretches diagonally across the bridge and is connected to the supporting structure using elegant stainless steel cables. Two-metre high GKD Futura 3110 metallic mesh elements fitted on the sides protect pedestrians crossing the bridge from gusts of wind. The 32 panels in total, which curve slightly toward the centre of the bridge, not only provide reliable fall guard protection but also underline the transparent appearance of the design. The mesh allows unrestricted views from the bridge, as well as being very rugged and easy to look after. In fact, the bridge is so low maintenance that it has relieved the pressure on the city's budget – an argument that also played an important part during the design and construction phase.

GKD – WORLD WIDE WEAVE

As a privately owned technical weaver, GKD - Gebr. Kufferath AG is the world market leader in metal, synthetic and spiral mesh solutions. Four independent business divisions bundle their expertise under one roof: Industrial Mesh (woven metal mesh and filter solutions), Process Belts (belts made of mesh and spirals), Architectural meshes (façades, safety and interior design made of metal fabrics) and Mediamesh® (Transparent media façades). With its headquarter in Germany and five other facilities in the US, South Africa, China, India and Chile – as well as its branches in France,



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Spain, Dubai and worldwide representatives, GKD is close to markets anywhere in the world.

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