

Silver
HARD HAT AWARD
 Outstanding Private Project

Lionshead Skier Bridge
 Vail

Project Team

Owner Vail Resorts Development Co.

Architect 4240 Architecture

Design Team Alpine Engineering,
 Golder Associates, BAI/Braun
 Associates, Carter & Burgess

Contractor Edward Kraemer

Submitted by 4240 Architecture

The new Lionshead Skier Bridge spans Gore Creek, serving as a gateway between Vail Mountain and the redevelopment of Lionshead, now known as "Vail Square." The bridge is the only skiable link from the mountain to the Eagle Bahn Gondola. Skiers and snowboarders traverse the bridge upon an average of three ft of man-made and natural snow. In the summer, the span provides a smooth landing surface for hard-driving mountain bikers.

Designed to be consistent with and contextually supportive of the development's Bavarian Alpine environment, the span embodies a timelessness and richness of material sorely lacking in the original. Stone-clad approach spans made of cast-in-place concrete bracket the steel center span and appear as arched masonry abutments resting upon the creek's steeply sloped banks. The 150-ft center span is supported by a tapered deck arch, was fabricated from weathering steel to give the bridge an Old World — although industrially-inspired — appearance. By using a lightweight steel arch in the clear spanning of Gore Creek, it was possible to build the bridge during a short construction season. This strategy also helped avoid damaging environmental impacts on the creek and surrounding wetlands. <<

