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News

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK BRIDGE WINS AWARD FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT, DARING USE OF HIGH-TECH MATERIALS

4240 Architecture, known for using advanced building materials, forms a pedestrian bridge out of plastic. The longest pedestrian bridge ever would span Pittsburgh's three rivers.



The carbon fiber material used for the bridge is five times lighter than steel and ten times lighter than concrete. It makes possible the slim profile and long span of the bridge.

Chicago [IL], July 2007 – The Chicago studio of **4240 Architecture**, an 80-person international design firm that is known for its creative use of technology, won a Spark! Award for the design of the proposed Glow Bridge, a pedestrian bridge in Pittsburgh that is molded from carbon fiber reinforced polymer [essentially, a type of plastic].

The bridge was one of 62 winners and one of only 15 Spark! Awards. The special Spark! Awards [those that have an exclamation point after them] signify “the highest accolade in the whole competition,” according to Spark Executive Director Peter Kuchnicki. The first-ever Spark Awards competition recognizes superior design for products and buildings in seven categories that improve people’s lives, health, and the environment. The Glow Bridge won this top honor in the architecture/design category.



The design for the longest clear span pedestrian bridge in the world.

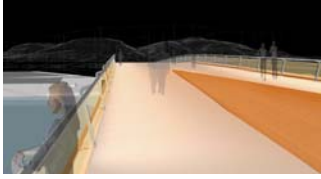
Robert Benson, Design Director for 4240’s Chicago Studio said, “4240 is excited and honored to receive a Spark! Award for the Glow Bridge. This award program makes us feel part of a significant international movement – and we have the privilege of being there at its very beginning. The Spark Awards competition is unique for its inclusiveness, interdisciplinary nature, and wide public outreach. We applaud its mission to bring smart design to a broad audience, which is even more important than the recognition given to individual designers.”

[More]

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A luminescent pigment included in the bridge material absorbs sunlight during the day, so that it emits an iconic, yet subtle orange glow.



www.sparkawards.com

To create the longest pedestrian bridge in the world, 4240 used a new plastic composite that was selected with the help of carbon fiber specialist, Comptek Structural Composites, Inc. The same carbon fiber has been used to repair bridges and on F-22 Raptor fighter planes – but never for a bridge.

4240 also collaborated with structural engineer, Joseph Burns from Thornton Tomasetti on the design, which creates an up-to-date image for the Steel City that represents the future in Pittsburgh’s vast materials science resources and manufacturing prowess. Besides enabling 4240 to create an ultra-slim profile for the pedestrian crossing, the carbon fiber absorbs daylight and then glows in the dark to illuminate the Pittsburgh riverfront as its steel factories once did.

Background: *4240 Architecture, a talented team of architects, planners and interior designers, is a new iteration of a firm formed in the 1970s. 4240 designs buildings, community frameworks, and spaces ranging from entire neighborhoods, resorts, and commercial architecture to interiors and private homes. Established in 2003, the firm’s offices in Chicago [located at 42° latitude] and Denver [located at 40° latitude] comprise “4240.” In just four years, the firm has grown into an 80-person team of professionals who are equally fluent in designing for urban settings and high-mountain properties – and for just about every context in between. For more information, please visit 4240 Architecture’s Web sites at www.4240arch.com and www.listenresearchdraw.com.*

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