



# Gateshead Millennium Bridge

by WilkinsonEyre

Winner of the 2002 RIBA Stirling Prize, this unique crossing for pedestrians and cyclists has already become a new landmark for Gateshead and the Tyne, a river famous for its historic bridges. The bridge links Newcastle's bustling quayside with Gateshead Quays – the new arts and cultural quarter to the south.

The bridge is essentially two graceful curves, one forming the deck and the other supporting it, spanning between two new islands running parallel to the quaysides. These pivot around their common springing points to allow shipping to pass beneath, using an innovative rotational movement similar to that of a slowly opening eyelid. The parabolic curves of the deck extend the 105m crossing distance to around 120m, giving enough extra length to provide the required clearance above the water. Visually elegant when static and in motion, the bridge offers a great spectacle during its opening operation – both during the day and by night.

## Details

Location: Gateshead/Newcastle, UK  
Client: Gateshead Metropolitan Council  
Architect: WilkinsonEyre  
Structural Engineer: Gifford & Partners  
Mechanical Engineer: Bennett Associates  
Span: 105m  
Value: £17.7M  
Date: Completed September 2001

## Awards

RIBA Stirling Prize 2002  
(IABSE) Outstanding Structure Award 2005  
Balthazar Neumann Prize 2004  
Institution of Structural Engineers Awards, Supreme Award For Structural Excellence 2003  
Royal Fine Art Commission Trust, Building of the Year Award 2002  
Civic Trust Award 2002  
Structural Steel Design Award 2002