



Twin Sails Bridge

by WilkinsonEyre

With extreme traffic pressure on Poole's existing road bridge, this new crossing is an essential component in the town's strategy for future growth. Connecting the Old Town to Lower Hamsworthy across a busy channel, the second crossing opens almost hourly for maritime traffic. The design is driven by the need for robustness and reliability.

The bridge is configured as a simple bascule – a flat deck with two hydraulically operated lifting sections. Normally the joint between each section is transverse, but here it is skewed across the deck creating two triangular leaves. These cross as they rise and come to rest in an overlapping composition, mirroring the shape of racing yachts passing through the bridge in this international sailing centre. As they lift the bridge becomes a sculptural piece, introducing new vertical elements into the otherwise flat vista of sea, land and sky.

Details

Location: Poole, UK
Client: Borough of Poole
Architect: WilkinsonEyre
Structural Engineer: Gifford & Partners
Mechanical Engineers: Bennett Associates
Span: 140m
Value: £11.9M
Completion: March 2012

Awards

RIBA Award 2014
Civic Trust Award 2014
RICS Awards 2013 – South West and Wales Award for Infrastructure
AL Light & Architecture Design Award 2012 (Outstanding Achievement)