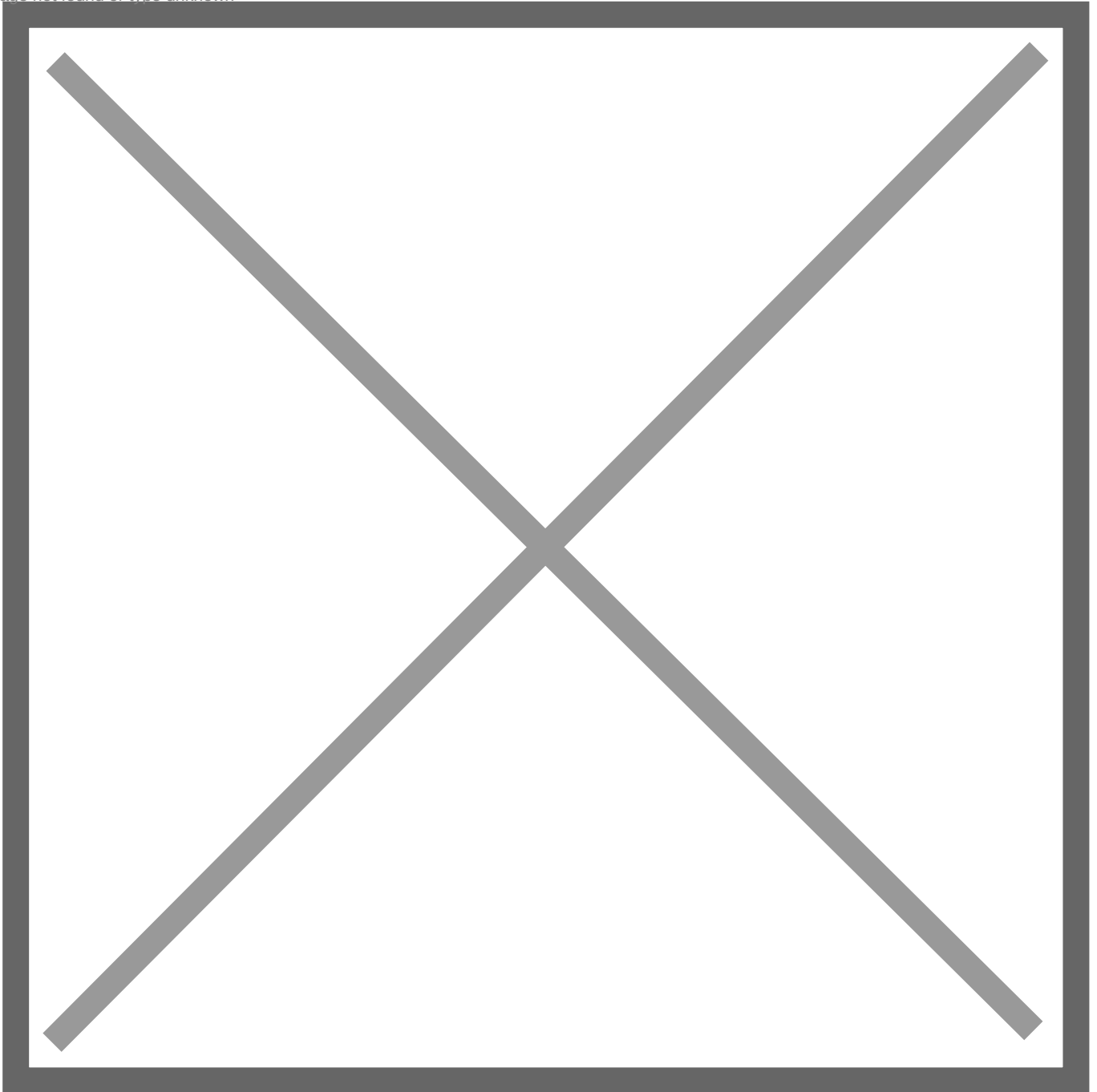


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Passerelle Mativa [Mativa bridge]

Belgium

Passerelle Mativa, between Quai Mativa and Parc de la Boverie

Région wallonne (Wallonia region). Liège (province) 4020 Liège

Commission

1904

Completion

1905

Other denominations

Pont Hennebique

Original use

Transportation and infrastructure/bridge

Current use

Transportation and infrastructure/bridge

Engineers

François Hennebique

Others

Société de fondation par compression mécanique du sol (Contractor)

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

One-dimensional/arch [bridge]

Description

The Mativa Footbridge was built over the Meuse River for the Liege World's Fair in 1905 to connect the city to the island where the fairgrounds were located, now known as Parc de la Boverie.

The footbridge was innovative for its time, using unmistakably modern forms. It covers a distance of 80 meters, with a central arch that spans 50 meters. It was built as an example to showcase the possibilities of a new material – reinforced concrete – which allowed for much slimmer structures than had ever been seen before.

The footbridge became a further attraction at the Fair, putting on a public display of its stability as it was crossed by 450 horsemen at a gallop or a marching infantry battalion.

François Hennebique, a self-taught architect, engineer and builder, was a key figure in the development of the reinforced concrete industry at the end of the 19th century. His contributions to the understanding of the structural behavior of metal reinforcements were especially influential. He developed and patented a reinforced concrete construction system that was used in more than 7,000 buildings from 1892 to 1902. A years later, in 1903, his patent was rejected in favor of another that had been presented earlier by another pioneer in the history of concrete, Joseph Monier.

Links

[Histoires de Liège_ Aux origines du quai et du pont Mativa](#)