

Transforming Falcon Road Bridge

Adams & Sutherland
architecture landscape urban design

atelierANF make:good Artin.
positive participation in local change

The Battersea Frieze – Adams & Sutherland with Atelier ANF, make:good and Artin Light



Inspired by the rich heritage of the area, detailed colourful and textured linings introduce moments of delight into this dramatic engineered space, complementing the massive structures and enhancing the pedestrian experience.

The Falcon Road Bridge is a huge space of urban engineering, forming an important route under the thundering train lines of Clapham Junction. Lighting is harsh, the space unloved, and the busy road dominates narrow footways. In this aggressive and visually chaotic place, human scale is unconsidered.

But this muscular existing space also has a strong spatial character. The different bridge structures above are varied and complex, and the cracks and voids between allow delicate patterns of light to animate the tunnel. The tiled walls, although dirty, still reflect light and recall Victorian civic ambition, whilst recesses and arches hint at previous uses.

Acknowledging the large size of the space, the relatively limited budget and the importance of materials to be low maintenance and very hard wearing, our proposals work with what is there, complementing and amplifying existing qualities and features with a series of wrapped, inlaid, applied and illuminated interventions. Together these:

- Break up the long tunnel into a sequence of more defined spaces.
- Focus on moments of high-quality materials set onto the existing walls.
- Transform the space into a welcoming, safe and delightful place for pedestrians.

We propose bringing a lasting sensual delight, of quality and substance, to an everyday part of the city. This will be achieved through using exquisite materials and the very accessible, visual language of pattern. Three different scales of intervention add to the drama of

the tunnel:

- Flat panels of colourful, patterned and textured ceramic tiling, set against cleaned existing walls, form a backdrop to passersby on the footways.
- At the scale of passing buses, a frieze of enamel panels, finished with larger fragments of the patterns, wraps over the two existing protruding services bulkheads.
- Larger again 'city-scaled' details are painted onto the bridge frontages at each approach, announcing this transformed place to Battersea.

A programme of community engagement including a Young Designers Programme (a paid opportunity for local young people) and co-design workshops will involve local people in creating the artwork. Patterns will develop from a patchwork of local, personal or cultural histories, and in turn will become the basis for the new finishes.

New lighting will transform the character of the space. Highway lighting, integrated into the frieze, uses smaller individual lights to reduce glare. Concealed lighting under the bulkheads creates a more intimate pedestrian scaled space. Coloured jewel-like lighting within the three voids between roof structures creates a sense of mystery and further differentiates the sequence of spaces.

The Battersea Frieze is Arts & Crafts for the city of the 21st Century, multicultural but universal, luxurious and sensuous but robust and urban, decorative and meaningful.



Please scan this QR code to submit feedback on the proposed competition entry

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