Wildlife transfer Rynetel, Suhr

2021

It took a long time to convince people: more than 20 years ago, Stefan Zöllig demonstrated that wood is the right choice of construction material for wildlife bridges. Today, the wooden bridge over the A1 highway between Suhr and Hunzenschwil is impressive.

The project

Because traffic routes cut through the habitats of wild animals, the Federal Office for the Environment defined wildlife corridors of supraregional importance. The corridor "AG6" connects the Jura region with the Central Plateau and runs between Gränichen and Suhr over the A1 national road. Here today, the new 50-meter-wide arched wooden structure allows wildlife to cross the highway safely. During the planning phase, various construction methods were tested and compared with each other. The renewable building material came out best in this comparison - the decisive factors were the better ecological balance and the faster execution.

The construction

The wildlife overpass is constructed of 156 prefabricated glulam arches. The girders, each weighing two tons, are 17.4 meters long, have a cross-section of 24 by 76 centimeters and are mounted on the cast-in-place concrete walls with steel joints. The girders are made of Swiss spruce boards and an RF adhesive bonded to keep their shape.

The challenge

Construction projects over traffic routes are always challenging, as the highway was reduced to two lanes from 9:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. each night for just 24 nights to install the structure. Furthermore, a lot of pioneering work was done for the planning of this lighthouse project.

The wooden structure remains visible from below

Assembly work at night

Assembly work during the day

Aerial view during assembly

Construction Data
- Spans: 2 x 17.4 meters
- Length: 35.6 meters (across the carriageway)
- Width: 54 meters (lengthwise to the carriageway)
- Bridge area: 1'922 m^2
- Structural timber: 850 m^3 Spruce
- Origin Switzerland

Construction costs
- 13.9 million francs

Services of Timbatec
- SIA Phase 31 Preliminary design
- SIA Phase 32 Construction project
- SIA Phase 41 Tendering and comparison of offers
- SIA Phase 51 Implementation project
- SIA Phase 52 Execution
- SIA Phase 53 Commissioning
- Fire protection planning

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