

Le Pont de la Paix

The Peace Bridge

William C. Culbertson

1988

Contents

Proposal In English

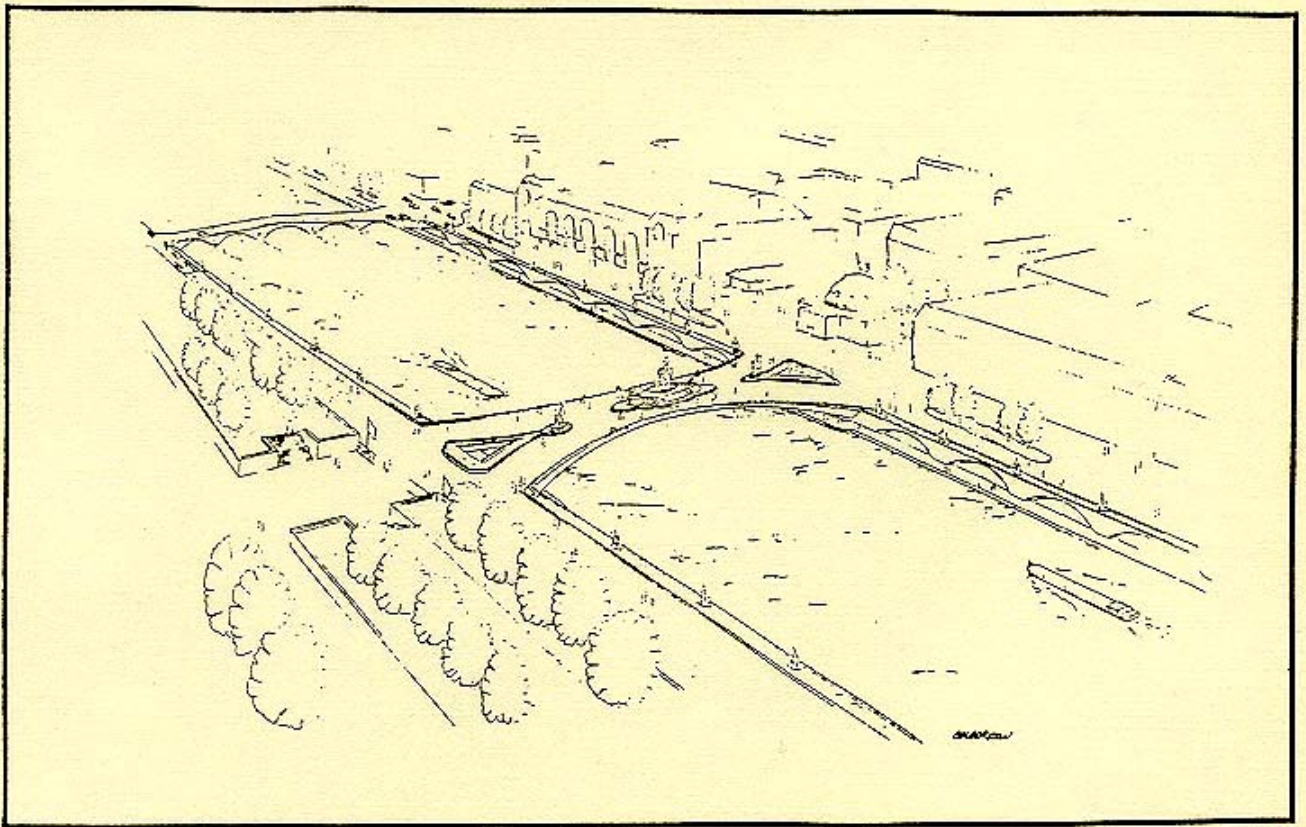
Proposition en Français

About the Designer

Related Correspondence

Proposal

As the people of France so honored our country's centennial with the gift of the Statue of Liberty, a beacon of hope and inspiration to countless millions, so shall we return the positive gesture on their bicentennial. For this, a project is proposed: *the gift of a bridge*. But, not an ordinary bridge. Not just a simple passage between two points. This bridge will serve as a pedestal, displaying the ideals of peace, freedom, and human rights in mid-air for all to see. This pedestrian bridge shall be named **Le Pont Paix - the Peace Bridge**.



Le Pont Paix - The Peace Bridge

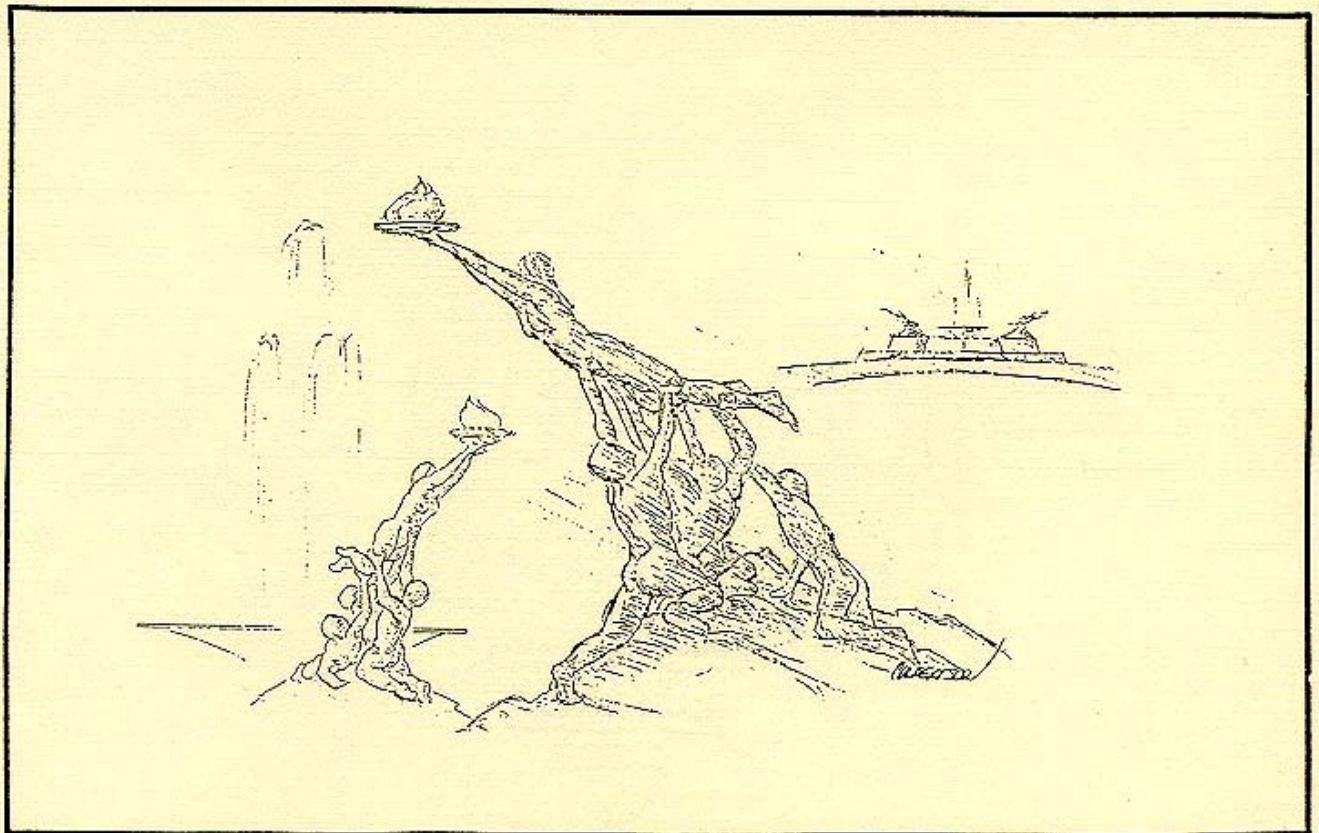
1988

The Project

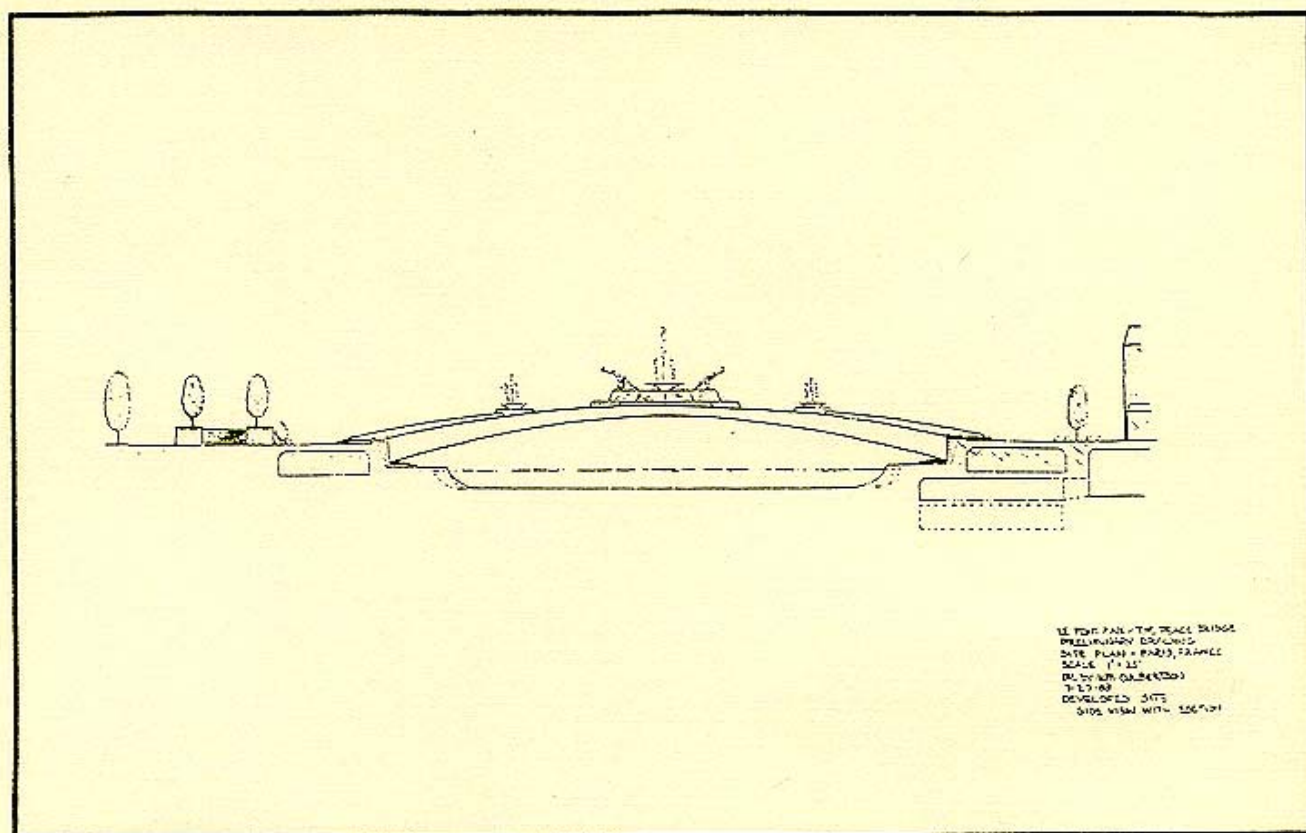
Simplicity and directness are the key words to describe the overall classic styling of the bridge. The major elements have been designed to work harmoniously with the existing architecture and the overall Parisian atmosphere, the site being across the Seine River in Paris. Although its visual impact is clean and simple, like classical architecture, its proportions are precise and calculated. Its hidden geometry additionally conceals the unique subtleties that help to transform this bridge into a work of art.

At the apex or crest of this 400 foot single span bridge is a large central fountain. As the focal point of the overall structure, three magnificent plumes of water rocket skywards from a large horizontal dish. Beneath the spray of this fountain are two large sculptural figure groups. One group to exalt peace, the other freedom. The composition of these groups symbolize the human effort so vital to achieve and maintain these ideals.

The figures of the **Freedom Group**, modeled in a *Rodinesque* style, depict man struggling to lift aloft the allegorical female figure of **Freedom**, holding her flame which alights the sky for all to see. Similarly, the figure of **Peace** is held aloft by the efforts of men who believe and support her in the other group.

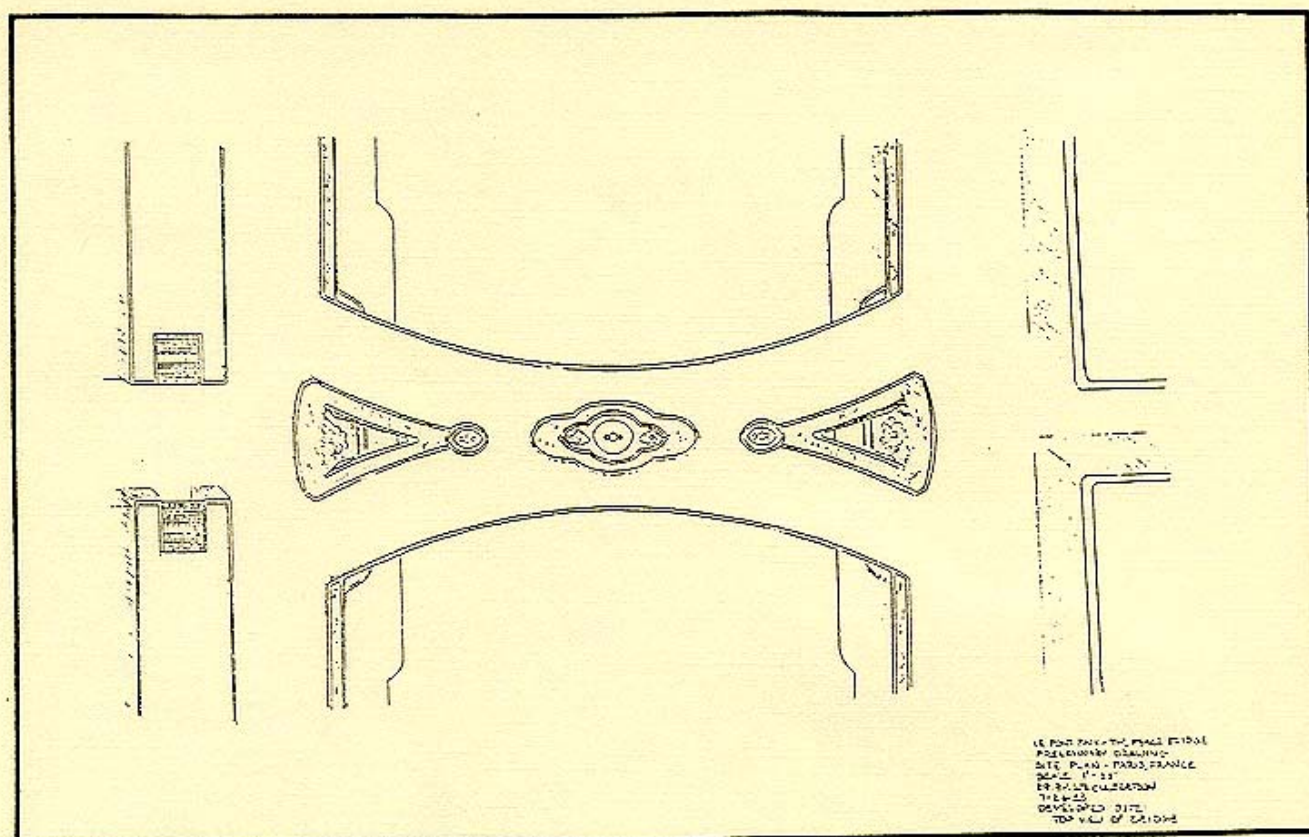


Together, the **Freedom and Peace Groups** and the central fountain rest upon a large base surrounded by a pool of water. Around this base in the direct line of sight of the viewer are six to eight large relief sculptures. These are modeled in a more stylistic manner that depict the basic rights of man. This is a symbolic association - without basic human rights, **Peace and Freedom** cannot truly exist. As one circles the fountain, one cannot help but feel the heartfelt message and the importance of the symbols in the composition. Standing atop the bridge, one senses the feeling of heightened ideals, as it truly becomes a pedestal in mid-air, lifting the composition above earthly bondage.



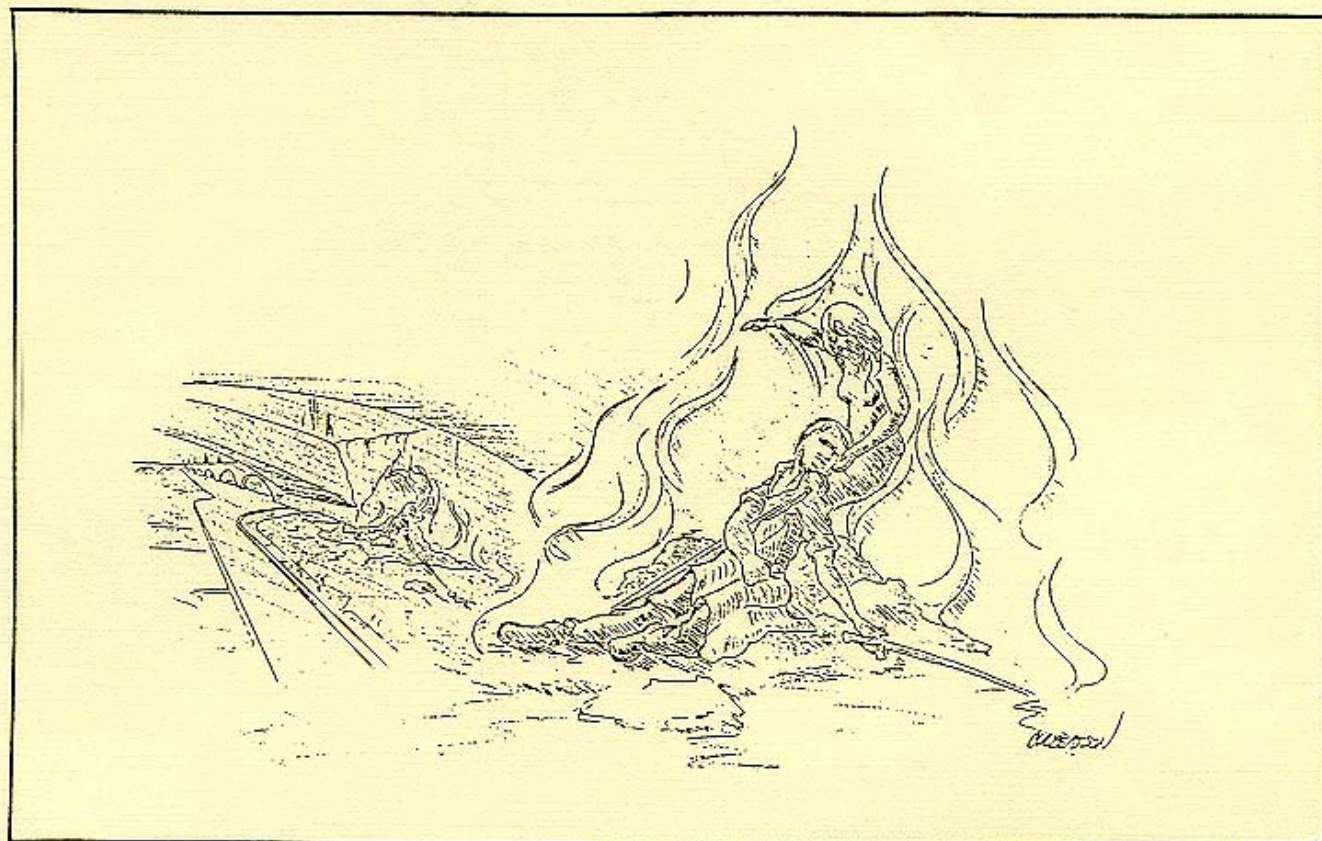
To either side of the central fountain there are two smaller fountains. They are sized proportionally to the main fountain to harmoniously unite the span. As an additional uniqueness to this design, the approaches to the central fountain from the embankments are forked. This V shape creates an overall *lighter* and more *airy* feel to the structure. Viewed from the Left Bank, the approach legs of the fork converge at the smaller fountain. Water flows from the fountain down towards the embankment along these approaches of the fork via troughs. As the water collects in a shallow pool on the embankment, it reverses direction and gently cascades over the embankment wall to a sculpture group below.

Viewed from atop the bridge or from below the lower embankment, this lower sculpture group is more somber in its celebration. Dedicated to the patriots who gave their lives to win freedom and independence 200 years ago, this sculpture composition sits into the embankment wall. The water from above cascades down the wall over stylized wave crests. The crests guide the water around and over the sculpture. A wounded, dying patriot lies at the feet of an allegorical *angel of death*. Her raised arm shields the patriot from the falling water, creating a central *dry* focus on the group. The rock formation that he lies on projects up from the quiet pool of water created from the falling water from above.



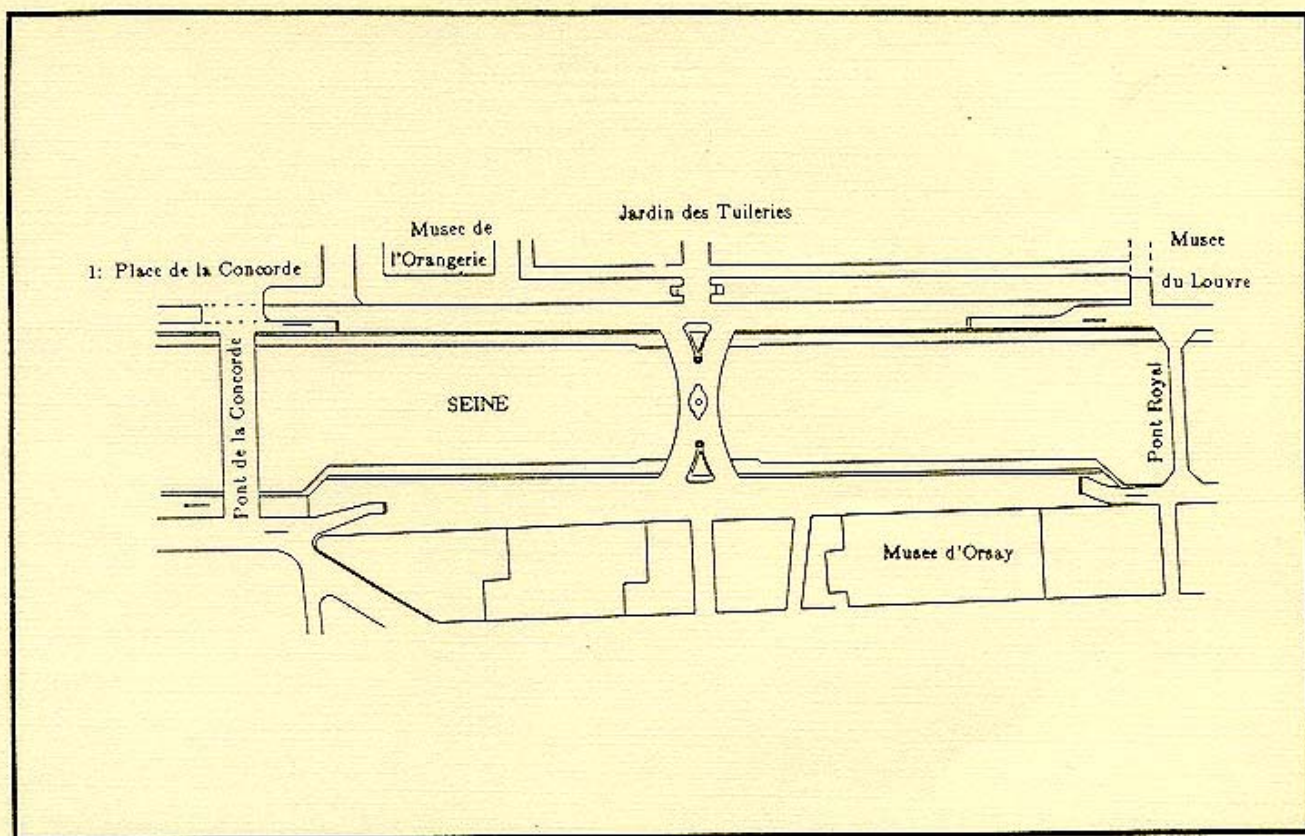
The opposite side of the bridge, toward the Right Bank, is symmetrical to the Left bank side. The difference is that the sculpture group below the bridge on the Right Bank is dedicated to the memory of those who have fought and died to maintain democracy during the past 200 years.

To complete the visual impact of the bridge composition, the embankment walls on both sides of the Seine River shall be re-designed and renovated. The design element of the arch is repeated along the embankment wall, in a span proportional to the bridge span. The arches also virtually tie in with the arched **Musee d'Orsay** architecture and the bridges to either side of **Le Pont Paix**, the **Pont de la Concorde** and the **Pont Royal**. In this area, the viewer experiences a visual unity surrounding the central fountain of the bridge. At the top and along the length of the embankment walls are shallow water troughs, that again serve to unify the area with the bridge. To complete the unification of the design, small fountain sprays grouped in clusters of three rise from the embankment wall pools above each base section of the arches below (where arch contour meets the horizontal plane).



The overall color scheme is an off white, to blend in with the surrounding architecture. Along the top length of the embankment walls, facing the Seine, are two incised lines of blue and red. These lines carry onto and over the bridge along its outside wall.

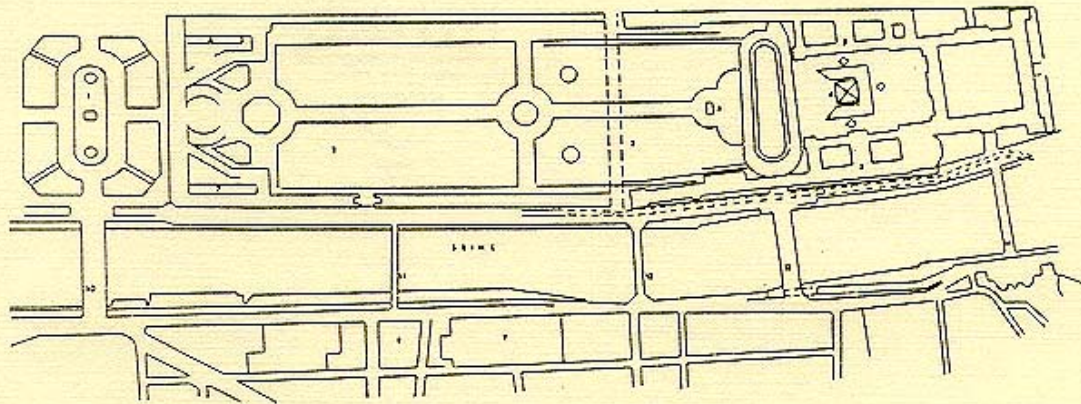
The bridge is expected to be of reinforced concrete, as are the embankment walls. If a suitable surface cannot be achieved with the concrete, some form of durable facing is to be placed over the surface, of stone-type quality. The textures involved will help add shadow accents where desired, but not detract from the overall clean, direct design.



Location

The bridge has been specifically designed so as to span the Seine River in Paris, France, at the location of the old **Pont Solferino**, destroyed in the 1950's. This key site has several important advantages and features. It is centrally located in the heart of Paris.

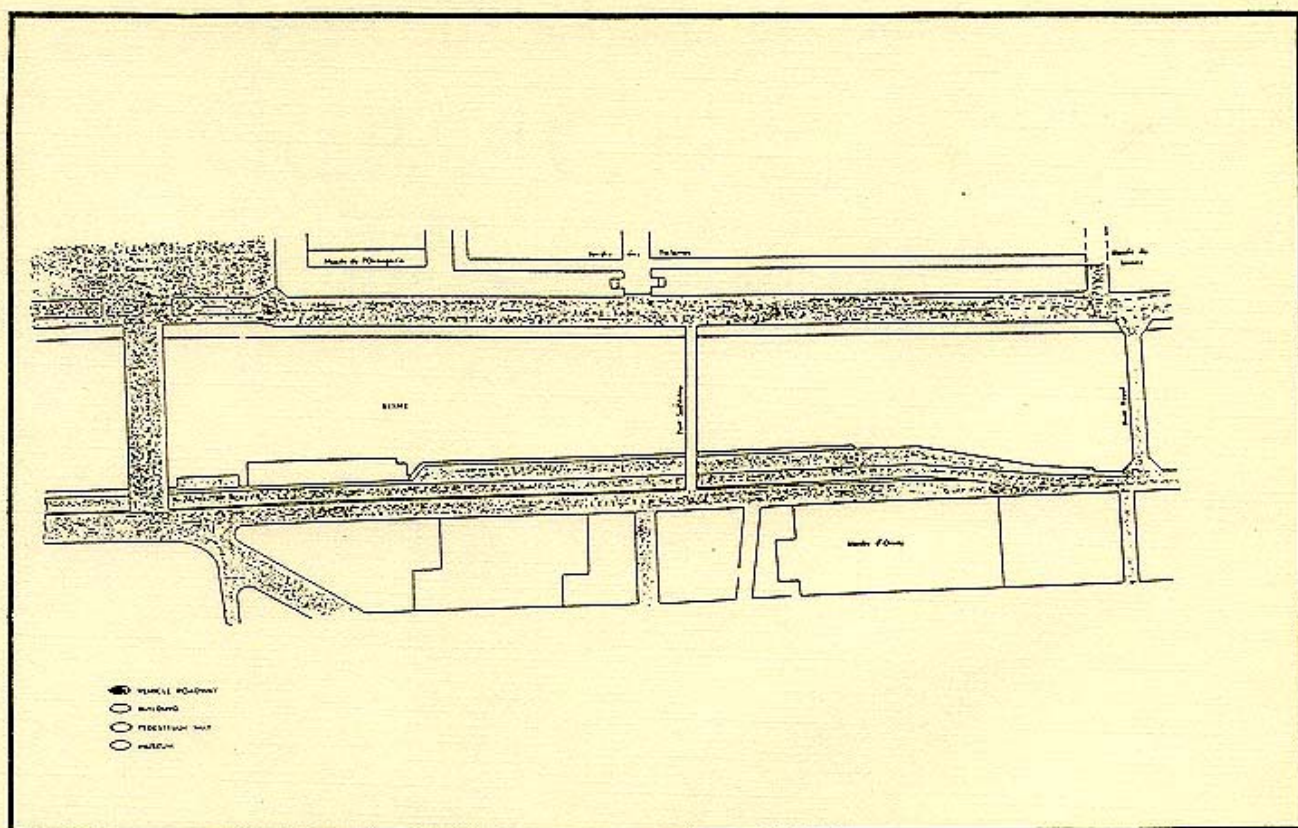
SITE LOCATION: Paris, France
1988 current site status



- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1: Place de la Concorde | 5: Musee du Louvre | 9: Musee d'Orsay | 13: Pont du Carrousel |
| 2: Jardin des Tuileries | 6: Musee Jeu de Paume | 10: Pont de la Concorde | 14: Pont des Arts |
| 3: Place du Carrousel | 7: Musee de l'Orangerie | 11: Pont Solferino | |
| 4: La Pyramide | 8: Musee de Legion d'Honneur | 12: Pont Royal | |

The site is bordered on the Right Bank by an extant entrance (now concealed by fencing) to the magnificent **Jardin des Tuileries** with its tree lined passages, pools, and gardens. At the west end of the **Tuileries** lies the art collection of **Musee de l'Orangerie**, just reopened after extensive renovations. At the opposite end to the east lies the **Musee du Louvre**, housing one of the greatest art collections now assembled. The *Grand Louvre Project* is scheduled for completion in 1988.

On the Left Bank, the bridge is bordered by the **Musee d'Orsay**. The old train station, **Gare d'Orsay**, renovated at a great expense, was reopened this past year as the new museum of 19th century art. It is quickly becoming one of Paris' greatest attractions.



At present, both banks of the Seine are lined with heavy vehicular traffic. To pass safely across these roadways can be difficult at times. As part of this project, the new embankment walls have been designed so as to remove the vehicle traffic below ground. This creates new pedestrian plazas along each bank so that the public will be able to easily and safely traverse from the *new Musee d'Orsay* to the *new Musee du Louvre*, to the *new Musee de l'Orangerie* at the **Place de la Concorde**. The bridge is not only a key link to these sites, but in itself creates a new attraction point in Paris. The pedestrian plazas along the Seine afford ample area for public gathering, temporary exhibitions and fairs. Additionally, below the underground roadway on the Left Bank, is an area designated for a much needed parking facility of 500-600 spaces that has access to the **Musee d'Orsay** and the RER-Metro station located there.

In summary, this project serves not only as an inspiration to human ideals, but is functional as well, helping to: *harmonize* the present architectural differences of the embankments; to resolve the pedestrian and vehicle conflicts that now exist; and to provide easy, safe, and visually satisfying access between the presently isolated museums and gardens.

Budgetary Proposal

Construction Costs

Based on \$100 per square foot, a conservative estimate for a single span pedestrian bridge.

| Construction Cost | Estimate |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Bridge Proper | \$6,000,000 |
| Sculpture | |
| Peace | 150,000 |
| Freedom | 150,000 |
| Human Rights Reliefs (8) | 480,000 |
| Monument to Patriots | 120,000 |
| Monument to Defenders | 120,000 |
| Fountains | |
| Fixtures, Pumps, etc. | 300,000 |
| Operating Costs | |
| Administration, etc. | 180,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 7.5 Million US |

Not included: renovation of roadway, parking garage, embankments.

Proposed Timetable

1989

- Official announcement of project
- Formation of Le Pont de la Paix Foundation
- Organize project and carry out fundraising
- Presentation of Monument of the Patriots for July 14 celebration
- Bridge design, engineering, and site preparation

1990

- Continued fundraising
- Begin bridge construction
- Presentation of Monument of Defenders for July 14 celebration

1991

- Continued fundraising
- Continued construction
- Installation of monuments (Patriot and Defender)
- Presentation of Human Rights Relief for July 14 celebration

1992

- Completion of fundraising
- Completion of construction
- Installation of all fountains and sculpture
- July 14 dedication

Related Correspondence

WILLIAM C. CULBERTSON

32 WARREN AVENUE, NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI 02895 USA

401-766-6256

August 30, 1988

Ms. Anne Walton
Program Director
American Committee on the French Revolution
1511 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Walton:

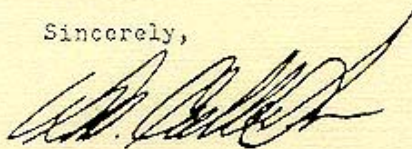
Enclosed is a project proposal that I hope you will find to be worthy of the ACFR's support. As the proposal suggests, this is a unique opportunity in time, one that should not pass unfulfilled. I feel that this proposal fills the need with a monument that could serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

While this project would be a great undertaking both financially and physically, the burdens would be far outweighed by the global benefits of its completion.

The photographs enclosed are of large presentation boards I have prepared. If I can answer any questions you might have, please do not hesitate calling upon me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



cc: Leith Symington, French Embassy



American Committee on the French Revolution

A non-profit corporation

H.E. IMMANUEL de MARGERIE
Ambassador of France
Honorary

CHARLES McC. MATTHEWS, JR., Chairman
ARTHUR A. HARTMAN, Secretary
LEONARD L. SILVERSTEIN, Treasurer

ROBERT McC. ADAMS
LEONORE ANNEBERG
WALTER H. ANNEBERG
WILLIAM ARCELAUX
KEITH M. BAKER
SERGE BELLANGER
MICHEL BESSON
JAMES W. BILKINGTON
THOMAS BISHOP
WILLIAM McC. BLAIR, JR.
WILLIAM LEE LYONS BROWN
EVANGELINE BRUCE
WARREN E. BURGER
JOAN E. CHALLINOR
CHRISTIAN CHAPMAN
LYNNE CHENEY
ANNE COX-CHAMBERS
KENNETH W. DAM
ROBERT DARTON
RALPH P. DAVIDSON
GEORGES DE MENIL
GERARD DEBIEU
C. DOUGLAS DILLON
CHRISTIAN B. DOOLIN
EIT FORSTLE

JULIUS FROST
RICHARD M. FURLAUD
EVAN G. GALBRAITH
JAMES M. GAVIN
VARSAN GREGORIAN
ROLAND J. HAYMONS
TIMOTHY S. HEALY
ANDREW HEISKELL
LOUIS HENKIN
THEODORE M. HESBURGH
STANLEY HOFFMANN
BENJAMIN L. HODGES
JOHN N. IRWIN II
ANNA MARIA KELLEN
STEPHEN M. KELLEN
LAWRENCE M. KELLY
JOSEPH LANE KIRKLAND
SARAH MITCHELL LEBEDOFF
KATHLEEN TATLOTT MIZE
DAVID A. MOISE
ANDREW W. G. NEWSBURY
JESSE NORMAN
RAYMOND J. PICARD
JESSE R. PITS
GILBERT PORTAL
JOHN E. RIELLY
DAVID ROCKEFELLER
JOE M. RODGERS
KENNETH RUSH
JONAS E. SACK
RICHARD SCHIFTER
JEAN P. SEBIRE
CATHERINE FLENE SHOUSE
E. SARGENT SHRIVER, JR.
ROBERT B. SILVER
PETER WETHERILL SIROH
ANNE W. STAMINGTON
MARVIN S. TRAU
EDWARD HALLAM TUCK
MICHAEL W. WALKER
E. WIESEL
LEONARD WOOD PRINCE
JOHN E. YOUNG

EILEEN ISMAN, Executive Director
ANNE WALTON, Program Director

1511 K Street, N.W., 11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 783-1989
Fax: (202) 347-4819

August 31, 1988

Mr. William C. Culbertson
32 Warren Avenue
North Smithfield, Rhode Island 02895

Dear Mr. Culbertson:

Thank you for your recently received application. I am delighted to learn that you wish the project Le Pont Paix to form part of the official United States Celebration of the French Bicentennial.

As the sole body authorized by France's Bicentennial commission to approve official programs in the United States and to grant the non-commercial rights to the use of the bicentennial logo, the American Committee on the French Revolution (ACFR) is now receiving applications for official project designation in America only. As your project is to take place on a French site, I would suggest that you apply to the French Bicentennial Mission at the following address:

Mission du Bicentenaire
de la Revolution
Francaise et
de la Declaration des
Droits de
l'Homme et du Citoyen
7, avenue Franco-Russe
75007 Paris,
France

On behalf of France's Mission for the Bicentennial of the French Revolution and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, and the members of the American

Committee on the French Revolution, I thank you for your interest in our 1989 program.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (202) 783-1989.

Sincerely,

Anne Walton
Program Director

Le Pont de la Paix

CLAIBORNE PELL, RHODE ISLAND, CHAIRMAN
 JOSEPH A. BORDEN, JR., DELAWARE
 PAUL A. BURELLE, MARYLAND
 ALAN CHAMBERLAIN, CALIFORNIA
 CHRISTOPHER J. COONS, CONNECTICUT
 JOHN F. EDWARDS, MASSACHUSETTS
 PAUL SIMON, ILLINOIS
 THOMAS S. BAKER, NORTH CAROLINA
 BRUCE ALDRIDGE, WASHINGTON
 DAVID P. MOYNIHAN, NEW YORK
 JESSE HELMS, NORTH CAROLINA
 RICHARD G. LUGAR, INDIANA
 HARRY E. HART, KANSAS
 RUDY BOSCHWITZ, MINNESOTA
 LARRY PRESSLER, SOUTH DAKOTA
 PHILIP H. MURKOWSKI, ALASKA
 PAUL S. TROTT, JR., VIRGINIA
 HARVEY J. STANLEY, WASHINGTON
 MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY
 GERVILIO A. CHRISTIANSON, STAFF DIRECTOR
 JAMES F. LUCAS, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

October 5, 1988

Mr. Jean-Noël Jeanneney
 President
 Mission du Bicentenaire de la
 Revolution Francaise et de la
 Declaration des Droits de l'Homme
 et du Citoyen
 7, avenue Franco-Russe
 75007 Paris,
 France

Dear Mr. Jeanneney:

I am writing to introduce an artist from my home state of Rhode Island, Mr. William C. Culbertson.

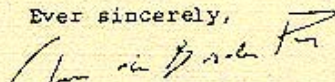
Mr. Culbertson has assembled a proposal for a project in celebration of the bicentennial of the French Revolution. This proposed project is a bridge which would serve as a pedestal displaying the ideals of peace, freedom and human rights. Just as France once gave the United States the Statue of Liberty in celebration of our revolution, this bridge would be a celebration of the highest values of the French Revolution.

I expect that Mr. Culbertson will be submitting his proposal to you shortly and I request that it receive all due consideration.

In closing, I would like to wish you all the best in your preparations for the bicentennial celebration.

With every good wish.

Ever sincerely,


 Claiborne deBorda Pell

cc.: The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias
 Mr. Elie Schulman
 Mr. William C. Culbertson



Commission on the Bicentennial of The United States Constitution

808 17th Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
202/USA-1787

Warren E. Burger
Chairman

Frederick K. Biesel

Lindy Boggs

Herbert Brownell

Lynne V. Cheney

Philip M. Crane

Dennis DeConcini

William J. Green

Edward Victor Hill

Cornelia G. Kennedy

Edward M. Kennedy

Harry McKinley Lightsey, Jr.

William Lucas

Betty Southard Murphy

Thomas H. O'Connor

Phyllis Schlafly

Bernard H. Sogon

Ted Stevens

Obert C. Tanner

Strom Thurmond

Ronald H. Walker

Charles E. Wiggins

Charles Alan Wright

Mark W. Cannon
Staff Director

October 17, 1988

William C. Culbertson
32 Warren Avenue
North Smithfield, RI 02895

Dear Mr. Culbertson:

Chief Justice Burger has read with interest your proposed project for The Peace Bridge in Paris. The Chief Justice is out of the city, and he asked that I reply to your letter of September 28, 1988 to avoid any delay in submitting your project to the French authorities.

While the project is grand in scale, it is certainly well conceived and would be a permanent reminder of the values we have in common with France.

The Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution has a mandate to commemorate our Constitution and to encourage projects that enlighten the America public about the history and values inherent in our system of government. Although we cooperate with foreign organizations that wish to honor our Bicentennial, our role with them is limited to expressions of encouragement of projects that have educational and informational value.

The Peace Bridge would be an enduring contribution to the French Bicentennial and one that would honor the values of human dignity that we share.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Trowbridge
Staff Director, Acting

*Mission Permanente de la France
auprès des Nations Unies
L'Ambassadeur Représentant Permanent*

*C/o Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
245 East 47th Street, 8th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017*

JB/TL
N°

New York le 12 Octobre 1988

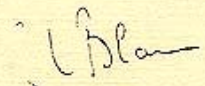
Monsieur,

Votre courrier du 28 septembre, ainsi que les documents qui l'accompagnent, ont retenu toute mon attention.

Je ne doute pas que votre projet de pont de la paix, original et ambitieux, intéressera les autorités de mon pays chargées de préparer et de coordonner les cérémonies du bicentenaire de la Révolution française.

Je leur transmets donc votre proposition et vous suggère d'entrer en contact avec les services culturels de notre Ambassade aux Etats-Unis - 972 Fifth Avenue New York, N.Y. 10021 - qui vous donneront toutes informations sur la suite qui aura pu lui être réservée.

Je vous prie, Monsieur, d'agréer l'expression de ma parfaite considération.


Pierre-Louis BLANC

Monsieur William C. CULBERTSON .
62 Warren Avenue, North Smithfield
RI 02895 USA

Ambassade de France

OW/
SERVICES
DU CONSEILLER
CULTUREL

972 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
(212) 439-1400
TELEX: 82843 CULT NY
TELECOPIEUR: (212) 439-1455

No 1589 AR

December 5, 1988

Dear Sir;

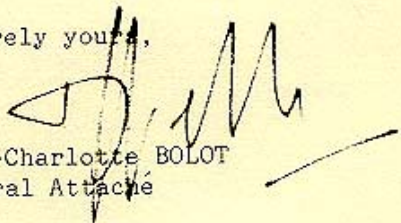
Your letter of September 28, along with the file which was included, have been forwarded to me by Mr. Pierre-Louis BLANC, the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the United-Nations.

Your project of the Pont de la Paix seems very interesting to me and I can only recommend you to present it to the persons in charge at the Mission for the Bicentennial of the French Revolution in Paris.

Indeed, this institution is solely responsible for making decisions about the projects to take place in France.

I wish you good luck and remain,

Sincerely yours,


Marie-Charlotte BOLOT
Cultural Attaché

Mr. William C. CULBERTSON
32 Warren Avenue
NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI 02895

ASSOCIATION FRANCE - AMÉRIQUE

INSTITUT DES ÉTUDES AMÉRICAINES - MAISON DES NATIONS AMÉRICAINES

8, AVENUE FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT
PARIS VIII^e

TÉLÉPHONE : 43 50 45 10
43 59 51 00

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur William C. CULBERTSON
32 Warren Avenue
North Smithfield
RI 02895 USA

Paris, le 5 décembre 1988

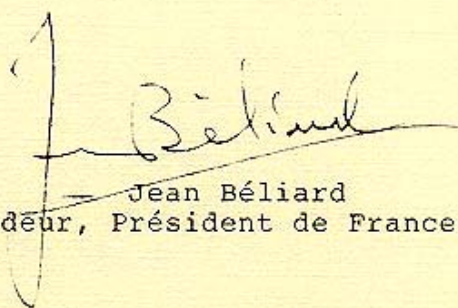
Monsieur,

Je vous remercie de m'avoir informé de votre projet de Pont de la Paix qui pourrait être une contribution majeure aux échanges prévus entre nos deux pays à l'occasion du Bicentenaire de la Révolution Française.

Le groupe symbolisant la paix que vous situez dans la grande tradition de Rodin, donnerait à cet ensemble architectural une signification particulièrement forte et originale.

Il est à souhaiter que votre ambitieux projet soit pris en considération par les autorités françaises chargées de coordonner les cérémonies du Bicentenaire.

Je vous prie, Monsieur, d'agréer l'expression de ma considération très distinguée.



Jean Béliard
Ambassadeur, Président de France-Amérique

**United States
Information
Service**

Embassy of the United States of America
2, rue Saint-Florentin
75042 Paris Cedex 01

Tél : 42.96.12.02
42.61.80.75



USIS

October 11, 1988

Mr. William C. Culbertson
32, Watern Avenue
North Smithfield, RI 02895

Dear Mr. Culbertson:

On behalf of Ambassador Rodgers, I am responding to your letter of September 28, concerning The Peace Bridge project.

While we congratulate you on this visionary undertaking, the decision to move forward with the project will rest entirely with the French Government.

You should address your proposal to

La Mission du Bicentenaire de la Révolution
Française et de la Déclaration des Droits de
l'Homme et du Citoyen
7, avenue Franco Russe
75007 Paris
FRANCE

With best wishes for success in your project,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Henze", is written above the typed name.

Christopher M. Henze
Attaché Culturel

PRÉSIDENCE
DE LA
RÉPUBLIQUE

Paris, le 17 Janvier 1989

Le Chargé de Mission

Monsieur,

Le Président de la République a bien reçu votre courrier concernant la proposition que vous faites à la France à l'occasion de la commémoration du Bicentenaire de la Révolution française.

Le Chef de l'Etat m'a chargée de vous remercier de votre initiative dont il a pris connaissance avec intérêt.

Je transmets votre courrier au Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre de la Culture, de la Communication, des Grands Travaux et du Bicentenaire qui a compétence pour traiter du patrimoine de la France.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.



Françoise FUGIER

Monsieur William C. CULBERTSON
32 Warren Avenue
NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI 02895
(U.S.A.)