

press release

New CF Toronto Eaton Centre Bridge with unique façade expertise by specialist seele

Leading façade construction specialist seele, with offices in Toronto and New York, has supplied Cadillac Fairview with a new steel-and-glass footbridge in the centre of Toronto, Canada, at very short notice.

Toronto, 10 July 2017. The CF Toronto Eaton Centre Bridge, a roughly 35m long footbridge weighing approx. 200t, was lifted into its final position on 7 July 2017. Located at third-floor level, it spans over Queen Street West between the Hudson's Bay building and CF Toronto Eaton Centre (CF TEC). The new CF TEC Bridge replaces an older footbridge and fits in with the bridges system of the city centre.

Visually, its design creates a smooth transition between the two buildings. The initially twisted brass portal frames on the historic Hudson's Bay building side resolve into a stricter glass design language that blends in with the modern architecture of the CF TEC building. The scope of seele's work covered the design, fabrication and erection of various panes of laminated glass, bronze-coloured brass plates, handrails, stainless steel open-grid flooring and structural steelwork. Owing to the challenging shape of the steel-and-glass design, every brass plate is a one-off in terms of its geometry and the milling work required. The design by Wilkinson Eyre Architects called for circular ornamentation to be milled into the brass plates during the fabrication work in Germany and subsequently treated in an acid bath in order to achieve the bronze-coloured patina. The plates were attached to the steel portal frame on site in Toronto.

Spectacular erection concept in Toronto

One particular challenge of this project was the demanding erection procedure on Toronto's most important shopping street. The old bridge between the two buildings had to be removed and the new bridge installed within an exactly defined time-slot. The new CF TEC Bridge was completely pre-assembled just around the corner in James Street. That entailed delivering the primary and secondary steel structure, glass, brass plates and all further components to James Street for assembly there on temporary staging. Afterwards, the bridge was raised hydraulically with the help of a modular vehicle and transported to its final position on Queen Street West ready for lifting into position. And that involved closing this busy street on two weekends. Installation work on the bridge in its final position above the street is ongoing and will continue until the Autumn of 2017.

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Toronto-based seele canada Inc. was responsible for managing the project. During the work, the office was tightly integrated into the global network of the seele group of companies and thus able to call on all the group's resources in design, production, testing, etc. This is already the third project that seele has completed in Canada; another was the modernisation of the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa. Further projects will follow. Andreas Hafner, managing director of seele canada Inc., sums up the situation thus: "With our offices in Toronto and New York, seele is excellently positioned to serve the North American market. Being close to clients is an advantage, enabling unique building envelopes to be built exactly according to the designs of ambitious architects."

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seele group

The seele group of companies, with headquarters in Gersthofen near Munich, is one of the world's top addresses for the design and construction of façades and complex building envelopes made from glass, steel, aluminium, membranes and other high-tech materials. The technology leader in façade construction was founded in 1984 by master glazier Gerhard Seele and steelwork engineer Siegfried Gossner.

Based on a profound understanding of design and materials, seele provides everything necessary for ambitious one-off designs true to the original ideas of engineers and architects. The seele group offers its building sector and industrial customers a complete package of services, ranging from R&D, individual advice and joint conceptual design right up to the planning, detailed design and construction of their projects. seele's own production plants for technologically challenging designs and the group's own erection crews on site provide a guarantee of the very highest quality "made by seele".

About 1,000 employees work at the seele group's 12 locations around the world, together generating an annual turnover of more than €200 million.

seele canada Inc.

The branch in Toronto is responsible for providing consulting, project management, logistics and construction services for seele projects in Canada. The Toronto office is tightly integrated into the seele group's global network and can therefore take advantage of all the design, production, testing and other resources.

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Visual material



Architect's rendering of the new CF TEC Bridge. ©Wilkinson Eyre Architects

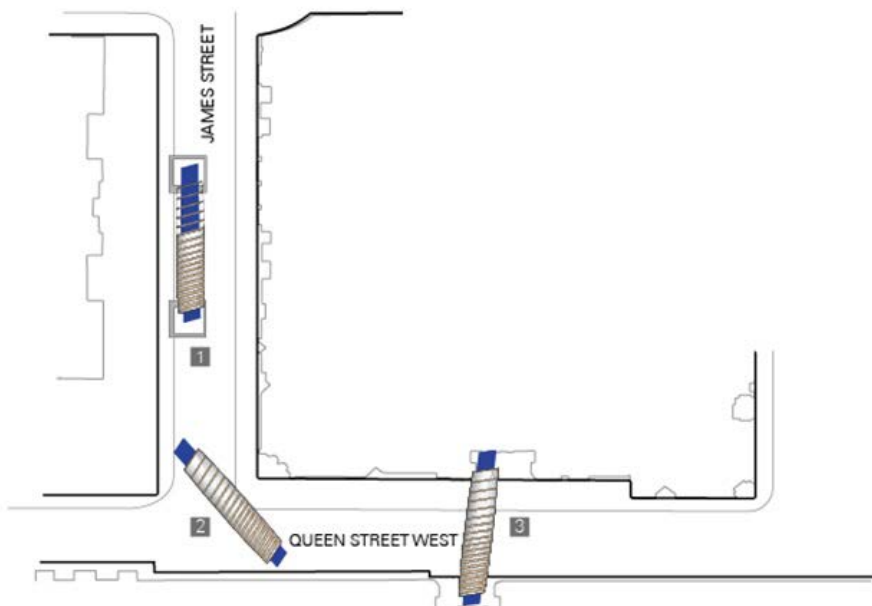


Milling of ornamentals at seele's production in Gersthofen/Germany © seele/Bernd Müller

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The mockup construction at the seele test site in Gersthofen presents a vertically halved section of the CF TEC Bridge of 3m in length. ©seele



The enclosed bridge will be completely pre-assembled in James Street (1). A module transport vehicle will then bring the CF TEC Bridge in one piece from James Street (2) to its final position in Queen Street (3). ©seele

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Production of the steel portal frames at seele pilsen. ©seele



Transport of the new CF TEC Bridge to its final position. ©seele

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The lifted CF TEC Bridge between Hudson's Bay Shopping Mall and Toronto Eaton Centre (TEC) in Queen Street West in Toronto. ©seele