



2017 TFG  
Conference

## A Walking Bridge

*Richard La Trobe-Bateman*  
*Batcombe, Somerset, UK*

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Richard La Trobe-Bateman has an international reputation for designing and building structures from chairs and tables to bridges of various sizes, and will be lending his talents to this year's Timber Framers Guild 2017 Conference. Working hand-in-hand with the University of Wisconsin, the Guild will be raising this 90ft long piece of functioning art at the historic Edgewater Hotel.

This whimsical foot bridge, with all parts pre-made, will be raised using only traditional hand methods of gin-poles, scaffolding, and old school determination. Once completed this La Trobe-Bateman bridge will be dismantled and installed at a private location.

During his presentation, Mr. La Trobe-Bateman will show the results of personal development, with concern first to the appearance of designed objects; second, to the structure of objects; and third, to the building of objects. Viewed from the perspective of shape determining systems both technical and cerebral. All of these points are illustrated by the bridge being developed and raised at the conference.

### **About the Speaker**

#### **Richard La Trobe-Bateman**

Richard La Trobe-Bateman has an international reputation for designing and building structures – from chairs and tables to bridges – using home-grown timbers, steel, and wire rope. “Richard demonstrates that ‘craft’ is a fluid, technological activity that cannot be easily categorized into one set of attitudes or lifestyles. In one sense the existence of a ‘salon de refuse’ suits La Trobe-Bateman: it provides him with a home,” says Peter Dormer in *The Culture of Craft*.

Mr. La Trobe-Bateman was educated at the St Martins School of Art (Sculpture) and the Royal College of Art (Furniture Design). His collections include Victoria & Albert Museum, Crafts Council, Crafts Study Centre UCA Farnham, Leeds City Art Collection, Royal Society of the Arts.