

interact



Illuminated River, London from One Blackfriars © James Newton

Case Study

Illuminated River – The World's Longest Public Art Commission

A public artwork, unique in its vision and scale, unites nine of London's iconic bridges with dynamic, connected lighting.



Blackfriars Bridge Illuminated River © James Newton

Project overview

Illuminated River is a public artwork, unique in its vision and scale, that unites London's iconic bridges with dynamic, connected lighting. Nine bridges have been lit, reinvigorating London's famous River Thames bridges and further differentiating the city as one of the world's leading creative capital cities.

Phase one, completed in July 2019, saw the first four bridges lit: London Bridge, Canon Street Railway Bridge, Southwark Bridge and Millennium Bridge. Five more bridges – Blackfriars Road, Waterloo, Golden Jubilee, Westminster and Lambeth Bridges – were switched on in April 2021, completing the installation that now spans 3.2 miles from London Bridge in the East to Lambeth Bridge in the west. Color Kinetics LED luminaires have been used to light up the bridges with a sympathetic palette of gently moving hues and pastel colours. In addition, the connected bridge lighting is remotely monitored via Interact Landmark.

Customer challenge

The aim was to create a holistic strategy to light up nine of central London's bridges, giving a multi-level visual experience viewed by pedestrians on the bridges, from London's riverbanks, from the air, from tall buildings and by boat.



Canon Street Railway Bridge Illuminated River © James Newton

“London's bridges are world-famous but had become overlooked in terms of their potential to transform our capital city at night. What we are doing now, in partnership with Signify, to transform the bridges and riverfront, is groundbreaking. We are using dynamic, energy-efficient LED lighting for the first time on nine London Bridges with Signify's Interact Landmark system to create public art on the largest scale ever seen.”

Sarah Gaventa,
Director, The Illuminated River Foundation

Solution

Conceived by internationally-acclaimed artist Leo Villareal and British architectural practice Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands, technically realised by lighting design and consultancy company Atelier Ten and delivered by the Illuminated River Foundation, the artwork has been sensitively developed, paying attention to heritage, wildlife and the built environment to create something exceptional – a transformation that celebrates the role that the Thames bridges play in the enduring global identity of London, and encourages people to enjoy the river and riverside at night.

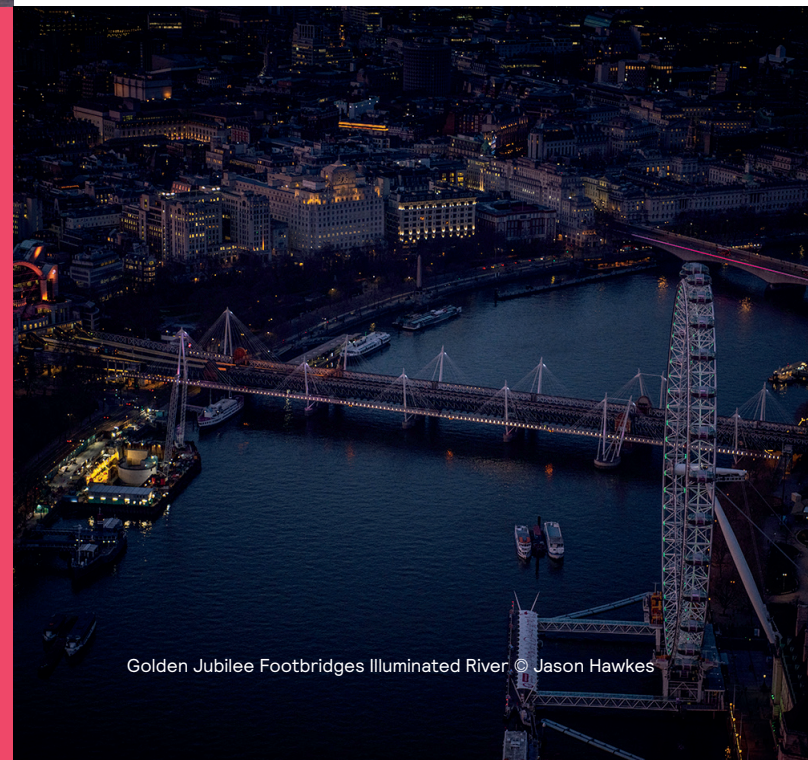
Color Kinetics LED luminaires have been used to light up the bridges with dynamic, artistic lighting effects. In addition, the connected bridge lighting is remotely monitored and managed via Interact Landmark. The software will detect and manage faults and perform remote diagnostics and maintenance, improving asset management and thereby reducing costs.



Southwark Bridge Illuminated River © James Newton



London Bridge Illuminated River © James Newton



Golden Jubilee Footbridges Illuminated River © Jason Hawkes

“As the main artery driving the historic success of the UK's capital, the Thames deserves to be seen, understood, and celebrated. I am immensely proud that Signify is part of a project of this scale and vision. Here, light is both functional and beautiful, transforming the night-time appeal of the riverside, while highlighting and reinterpreting nine of the city's great accomplishments of architecture and engineering.”

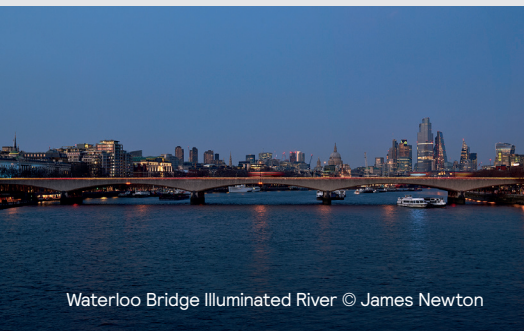
Stephen Rouatt,
Chief Executive Officer, Signify UK & Ireland

Top Facts

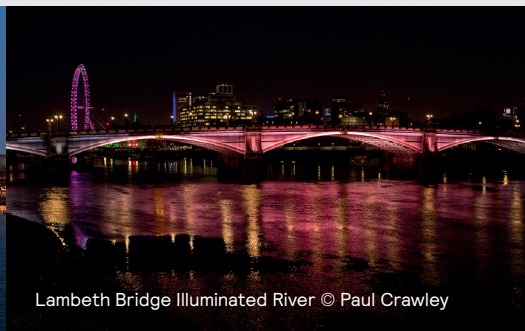
- The Illuminated River project is the world's longest public art commission at 3.2 miles in length.
- Westminster and Lambeth bridges are designed with colours of green and red respectively, reflecting their political importance and proximity to the upper and lower houses of parliament.
- London Bridge: there's been a bridge on or near this site since medieval times.
- Millennium Bridge is London's first new pedestrian bridge for over a century and was envisioned as a "blade of light" across the Thames.

About Interact Landmark

Create an appealing city identity, build civic pride and attract tourists by illuminating your buildings, monuments and bridges. Monitor, manage and programme dynamic architectural lighting using Interact Landmark software and system architecture. We make it easy to create and trigger light shows from anywhere, while simplifying maintenance to protect your investment. Our best-in-class energy efficient LED lighting also ensures maximum energy efficiency.



Waterloo Bridge Illuminated River © James Newton



Lambeth Bridge Illuminated River © Paul Crawley



Westminster Bridge Illuminated River © James Newton



Millennium Bridge Illuminated River © James Newton

➤ **Light up the spirit of your city**
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