

Architecture & Design Club

The Queensferry Crossing

10th November, 2016

The Architecture & Design Club has a wide range of interests, from domestic to the largest scale, and we were definitely at the industrial end of that spectrum for our first talk of the 2016/17 session when we welcomed Sarah Breen, a senior engineer with the Forth Replacement Crossing team, to tell us about the new bridge being erected across the Firth of Forth.

And what a talk! Within the space of an hour Sarah managed to cover every aspect of the new crossing, from the rusting support cables on the old road bridge, the remedial work undertaken, and how that had extended its lifespan; how the old bridge now could also be adapted for new transport systems such as trams; how those developments had substantially changed the design parameters of the new bridge, with consequent savings in construction and materials; through the challenges faced in planning, site clearance and construction; right up to the current phase and an explanation of the principles of balanced cantilever construction (basically, never have more sections of deck on one side of a supporting tower than the other). The talk illustrated throughout (sometimes in all too graphic, vertiginous, detail!) by photos and film clips.

For the listeners it was certainly a most interesting – and thought-provoking – insight into the myriad complexities which a major construction such as the Queensferry Crossing entails. A veritable *tour de force* and an outstanding start to the Club's 2016/17 lecture programme.

