



Marshal Józef Piłsudski Bridge Poland

Kraków is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Central Europe. Since the early Middle Ages, then the capital of Poland, it was one of the most important economic, scientific, and political centres in the region, alongside Prague, Vienna and Wrocław. Its heyday though, came at the dawn of the industrial age, at the beginning of the 20th century. It was then that the Marshal Józef Piłsudski Bridge was built. The oldest existing, still functioning road bridge in Kraków, it bears witness to the craftsmanship of its engineers and builders and featured in the movie *Schindler's List*. The landmark bridge has recently been given a new lighting scheme by Polish lighting designers QLab Laboratory of Light. The primary task of illumination for the bridge was to highlight its historic value, sophisticated proportions, and original riveted steel structure. Instead of high-powered projectors, the designers opted for more small and medium-sized luminaires from Platek, optimally positioned to not be visible from average height level and precisely directed at the elements to be illuminated. The main superstructure is the most important and recognisable element of the bridge. Proper illumination of this element was crucial for the perception of the entire project. Impressive structural arches connected by a series of transverse trusses and ties are the most

interesting elements of the bridge, making it stand out from other bridges in the city. Subdued and precisely directed lighting allowed the natural beauty of the structure to be emphasised with light, while the cool colour of the light complements the blue colour of the structure. The lower part of the bridge – the flooring and the edge of the pavement – saw QLab connect the two banks with a single line of light using fixtures from Doellken. This can function as an independent light scene where the road line is visible, while the unlit arches fade into darkness. The masonry pillars made of massive stone blocks have also been illuminated. However, due to their slightly different nature, a warmer colour of light was used to illuminate them, RGB spotlights from Schreder have been designed to enable the illumination of the pillars with different colours and create attractive light scenes that can occasionally be activated. In line with the original design, the bridge will be lit on a day-to-day basis with white light. With the new illumination, an interesting visual effect has been achieved. The bridge's unique silhouette as a vital element of Kraków has been attractively exposed, placing the bridge as a permanent fixture in the city's nocturnal panorama.

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