

IAN FIRTH*BSc, MSc, DIC, CEng, FREng, FICE, FStructE, HonFRIBA***Bridges and Structural Engineering****Contact:**

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**Employment:**

2018 – present Ian Firth Structural Engineering
 2017 – 2018 Technical Director, COWI (UK) Ltd
 2008 – 2016 Director, Flint & Neill Ltd (a COWI Company)
 1990 – 2008 Partner, Flint & Neill Partnership
 1979 – 1990 Engineer, Flint & Neill Partnership

Short Biography:

Ian Firth is one of the world's leading bridge designers and a well-known advocate of elegance in bridge design. He has 39 years of experience in the design, assessment and structural investigation of a wide variety of bridges and other structures. These include some highly complex and challenging projects, and range from very long suspension and cable stayed bridges, such as the Messina and Stonecutters Bridges, to much smaller but unique and unusual structures, such as the Bridge of Aspiration, Lockmeadow Footbridge and Taplow Bridge for example.

Ian obtained most of his professional experience with Flint & Neill, the world famous engineering consultancy, becoming a Partner in 1990 at the age of 34. He helped to develop the practice's bridge design capability, leading to success in hard-fought international design competitions like the Poole Harbour Crossing (1997) and Stonecutters Bridge (2001). He was jointly responsible for steering the firm towards joining COWI in 2008, whereupon he became Chief Operating Officer of the new entity. Flint & Neill rebranded as COWI in January 2017. Ian has been an independent structural engineering consultant since January 2018.

He was the 2017 President of The Institution of Structural Engineers, is Chairman of the British Group of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering and Trustee of US-based bridge-building charity Bridges to Prosperity. He is also Visiting Professor in conceptual and creative structural design at the University of Warwick.

He is well known for his pioneering work on bridge design, often working alongside leading bridge architects to deliver innovative and elegant design solutions, and is a frequent speaker on the importance of contextual and elegant design in bridges, including in his 2018 TED Talk.

In addition to his work on bridges, Ian also has considerable experience in the design of complex, lightweight and long span building structures. Such projects include the refurbishment and extension of London's National Theatre, the independent check of the designs for the O2 Millennium Dome and the London Olympic Stadium.