



## Lighting Elevates Bridge to Icon Status Design Firm Chose Plexineon for Reliability

Measuring a half mile long and towering 13 stories above the Des Moines River Valley in Central Iowa, the High Trestle Trail Bridge is one of the largest footbridges in the world. It also is one of the most visually stunning, thanks to iLight's linear LED technology.

Part of a project to link the 25-mile High Trestle Trail with other trail systems running throughout the state, the bridge artfully pays homage to Iowa's rich railroad and coal mining history.

RDG Planning & Design was engaged to develop the artistic elements, conceptual design and lighting design related to the 41 steel frames over the bridge representing support cribs commonly seen in coal mines. Within the 18 frames located directly over the water, specially constructed channels house Plexineon Blue Series fixtures. Placed at strategic angles, the illuminated frames create the illusion of descending into a coal mine — or perhaps traveling through a time tunnel—while the lights emit a blue aura that suggests the water below.

David Raver, Lighting Studio Director at RDG Planning & Design, chose iLight's product because it uses a minimal amount of energy, while still creating a dramatic effect.

Reliability and durability were also important. Having incorporated iLight products into other exterior applications, Raver knew Plexineon would, again, be the right choice.

**"We've used iLight products on several other projects," he says, "so we have confidence in their reliability."**

From the start, iLight worked with the firm to ensure smooth installation, including supplying detailed, custom drawings. Raver appreciated that the product—a total of 976 linear feet—arrived in palletized, clearly labeled boxes.

"It was a smooth process," he says. "We were able to put all of the cribs up in a week's time."

The final result is a new state icon that's quickly become a destination for families, hikers and cyclists alike. The "wow" factor can be appreciated both while crossing the bridge and when viewing the bridge from a distance, especially after darkness falls.

"It really pops out because it's hanging there," Raver says, "and it's a color you don't see much at nighttime."

**iLight LED products can add drama to your next interior or exterior project, while providing the reliability and durability you demand. Whether you're looking for inspiration or already have a vision, learn more at [www.ilight-tech.com](http://www.ilight-tech.com).**

## Project Information

- Project: High Trestle Bridge
- Site: Madrid, IA
- Product: Plexineon Blue Series
- Product use: Direct view
- Location: Exterior application
- Team Leader: Snyder & Associates
- Lighting Design: RDG Planning & Design
- Artistic Consultant: RDG Dahlquist Art Studio
- Photographs: Kelly Green Photography

