

Does your home have a 51-meter steel bridge? This one does.

Overview

What do you do when the site for your dream home sits on the opposite side of a dry reservoir? Find a steel erector to add a 51-meter (168-foot) bridge to your property. OK, maybe that's not what you (or most) people would do, but that's what the owners of a property in Windsor, Colorado, did when they set out to build their new home and wanted to add vehicular access with style.

Challenge

Where to start? Not many homebuilding projects include constructing steel bridges nearly 61 meters (200 feet) long. The general contractor didn't have the needed experience, and the bridge supplier's plan was cost prohibitive. There were multiple ways the project could get done and different types of equipment that could do it but going with the wrong choice would cause costs to skyrocket.

Solution

The homeowner hired High Plains Steel Services to come up with an affordable but effective plan. They chose to assemble the bridge on the ground with camber in it. To improve cost-effectiveness, they used a [Genie® GTH™-844 telehandler](#) to move all the steel and build the floor on 6 x 6 timbers in the reservoir. The timbers were cut onsite as dunnage that was then shot into the elevation of the camber. This allowed the steel floor and truss erection to bolt up seamlessly. From there, two cranes were brought in to set the fully erected bridge into place.

Results

High Plains Steel Services' plan saved tens of thousands of dollars. The Genie GTH-844 played a big role in that thanks to its 3,629 kg (8,000-pound) lift capacity, ease of use, power, 4WD and multifunction joystick for precise placement of pieces. High Plains Steel also received honorable mention in the Project of the Year awards from the Steel Erectors Association of America.

"The Genie telehandler gave us the affordable option in lieu of a costly crane to do multiple tasks on this project — from unloading to placing steel, standing the bridge girders to the floor, and also organizing and clean-up of the job," says Mike Hurst, erection division field operations manager for High Plains Steel Services.



