On 17 October 1989 one the largest earthquakes since 1906 struck Northern California. What ensued over the next 25 years is the extraordinary tale to which any governing authority should pay heed. Trapenberg Frick describes the process by which the bridge was replaced as an exercise in shadowboxing which pitted the combined talents and shortcomings of the state’s leading elected officials, engineers, and architects against a collectively imagined future catastrophe of unknown proportions.

Barrie Rokeach chronicled the construction of the new eastern span via aerial photography through all phases of construction.