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British-American Team Is Chosen to Light Up London's Bridges

By Christopher D. Shea



The Waterloo Bridge as imagined by the New York light artist Leo Villareal and the London architecture firm Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands. Their proposal, "Currents," transforms the river bridges into light sculptures, washed by soft colors. Credit: Malcolm Reading Consultants and Leo Villareal and Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands

LONDON — A proposal from a British-American team has been announced as the winner of a project to illuminate the 17 bridges that span the River Thames in central London.

The winning plan, submitted by Leo Villareal, a light artist in New York, and the British architecture group Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands, would cloak the bridges in soft, slowly shifting pink, orange and purple light. One critic, writing in *The Guardian*, described the undulating project as a "giant linear lava lamp."



The mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announced the winners of the project, which will cost 20 million pounds, or about \$25 million, on Wednesday evening. Six works had been shortlisted for the final prize, after 105 teams from around the world submitted projects.

The work will be installed next year, and will remain on the bridges permanently. The money will come from private and philanthropic sources.

Mr. Villareal previously created the shifting, monochromatic “Bay Lights” installation on the Bay Bridge in San Francisco. In an interview last month, Mr. Villareal said it was important to make a “simple, elegant and sophisticated” ecologically sustainable installation that would not overwhelm the architecture landmarks like Westminster Bridge.

“It’s dynamic and ever changing,” Mr. Villareal said of the project, adding that “It needs to stand the test of time.”

Roslyn Sulcas contributed reporting.

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