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Ever wonder what makes specific bridges so unique? Let’s take this time to compare two famous bridges and their construction. The first famous bridge to be analyzed is The Brooklyn Bridge. The Brooklyn Bridge is made up of Limestone, Granite, and Rosendale concrete. The second famous bridge to be compared is The Golden Gate Bridge. The materials used to make The Golden Gate Bridge are steel along with concrete at the very base of it. Looking at the bridges design, The Golden Gate Bridge is a suspension bridge while the The Brooklyn Bridge is a hybrid of a suspension and cable-stay. Even though the bridges designs have slight variations, one thing they have in common is both bridges were built in the month of May. Not in the same year, just a cool little fact to point out.

Taking a look at the bridges architectural design I think there is a lot it reveals. For example the Neo-Gothic design of the Brooklyn Bridge was indicative of the more ornate and decorative style of the Romantic movement that America was transitioning out of during the time. The Brooklyn Bridge has more English influences. It came out of the industrial revolution were advancements in technology and engineering made it possible. On the other hand The Gold Gate Bridge is Art Deco style and has French influences. The Golden Gate Bridge was built after the 1906 earthquake and Fire in San Francisco. Suspension was considered the most logical at the time.

Design aside, the structure of these bridges are amazing in how they actually function. To understand how they work, you’ll need to understand what a suspension bridge is. One of the most important parts of a suspension bridge is not the towers but the anchors. The towers are the ones everyone sees but the anchors are the unsung heros that cause tension in the cables. The best explanation to understand the importance of anchors and cables and how they work as a team. Looking at the picture below, you see how the tension begins and ends with the anchors, without that the towers would cave into the center.

In comparison The Brooklyn Bridge has taken this a design a step further. The Brooklyn Bridge has a suspension system and a cable-stay. A cable-stay system is where the towers have netting like cable system as a secondary suspension.

The innovative design of these bridges has made them historically relevant used as iconic symbols. Most of all in the comparison, they are photographed in many ways all with very similar features of the bridge as the focus points. When scouring the internet for photos I noticed a trend. That trend being the Brooklyn Bridge commonly is shot showing its towers and cable structure whereas the Golden Gate Bridge is shot as a whole. The reason I think this may be is the Brooklyn Bridge at the time was unique and had a very beautiful neo-gothic design resulting in the cables being laid out in an exponential fashion. In the case of the Golden Gate Bridge it has the suspension cables running perfectly vertical from the bridge. With its massive size and vertical cable design shots need to be take from afar in order to get the full affect.

Both bridges are icons for the cities in which they are located. The Brooklyn Bridge is on historic reservation lists which protects the design from being changed other than to restore or retrofit. I think The Golden Gate Bridge also follows suit.