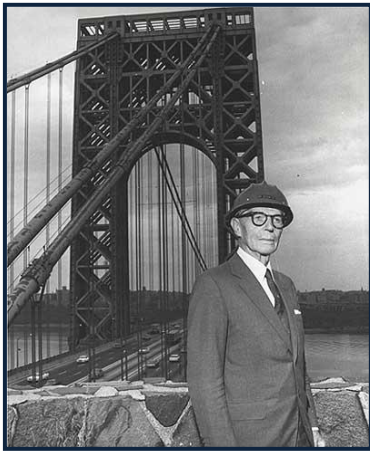


# Bridging the Narrows



Othmar Ammann was a structural engineer who worked on projects across the country from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Lincoln Tunnel.

He enjoyed a long and successful career with New York's Port Authority and is best known for his suspension bridge designs, including the George Washington Bridge and several others connecting the boroughs of New York City.

At age 67, when many would think of retiring, Ammann's career took on another dimension. With the partnership of a colleague, Ammann co-founded an engineering firm and continued doing the work he loved.

During this second phase of his career, Ammann designed an engineering masterpiece. His final project, completed in 1964, the year before his death, was the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge – a double-deck suspension bridge that for more than 20 years was the longest of its kind.

It connects the boroughs of Staten Island and Brooklyn at the Narrows, the reach connecting the relatively protected upper bay with the larger lower bay. The bridge is named for both the Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazano, the first known European navigator in the service of the French crown to enter New York Harbor and the Hudson River, and for the body of water it spans, the Narrows.



So the next time you find yourself thinking you are too old to chase your dreams, think of Othmar Ammann.

– Beecher Hunter