

Project: Cranfield University

Location: Bedfordshire

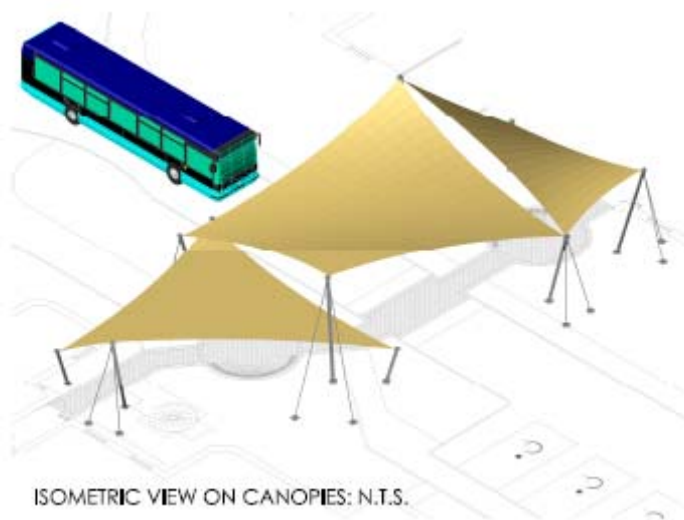


Project brief

Architect Gotch Saunders & Surridge (GSS), working with main contractor Borrás Construction, were commissioned to create a new entrance and walkway at internationally renowned Cranfield University. Two of the university's buildings needed to be joined by a walkway of 6.5m high, which would allow both pedestrian and vehicle access on the road beneath.



GSS wanted to create a walkway which would meet functional needs at the same time as creating a focal point. To create a striking design, the architect was keen to use lighting in the design to emphasise the shape and size of the structure.



Design solution

The design team at Fabric Architecture specified three hyper canopies which would be installed as a walkway. Based on The Mistral, a product from Fabric Architecture's range of Signature Structures, the design was modified to allow the length and height which was required for the site.

Once the 150m² canopy was installed, lighting was then integrated to create a striking finishing touch.

Results

A three-strong install team took 10 days to complete the project. As the build demanded plant equipment have unrestricted access to the site, a set time frame was important so that other vehicles were denied access for as little time as possible.



The install took place in February and when the team arrived on site to start the project they faced the challenge of heavy snow. Although these weather conditions weren't ideal for the install process, the project was still delivered on time and normal access was resumed as quickly as possible.