

Project: Orwell Quay

Location: Orwell Quay Terminal, Helena Road, Ipswich



Project brief

In 2007, Persimmon Homes - one of the largest housebuilders in the UK - was tasked with creating a landmark housing development overlooking the popular Orwell Quay in Ipswich. However, in order to obtain planning permission for this iconic development, Persimmon Homes needed to include a proposal for a tensile fabric structure.



Design solution

RMA Architects worked with the design team at Fabric Architecture to develop this proposal into a dramatic asymmetric Double Conic structure. The translucent tensile fabric canopy is

mounted on a two-storey flat roof building, complementing the modern glass-fronted apartments. The structure then reinforces the contemporary architecture with angled masts of different lengths and caps of differing sizes, creating a pleasingly asymmetric design.

The complex canopy form was created using Mehler Valmex white PVC and white powder coated steel. To facilitate the irregular form of the design, anchor points were installed in the roof and around the building for the steel framework. Tie rods then reinforced the structure with connections to first floor balconies and the ground level.



Results

It took a team of four just under five days to install the 358m² structure. The quayside location and tight install space demanded careful planning in the sequence of installation and the experienced tensile engineers at Fabric Architecture ensured a professional and successful install process.