



## The Derwent Centre

Client: M and P Dunn Year of Completion: 2011

Architect/Designer: Frederick Gibberd Partnership Main Contractor/Customer: Faithful and Gould

The Derwent Centre is an existing secure mental health unit which required a refurbishment to support the patient pathway to aid recovery in preparation for community based treatment.

In late 2010, Architen Landrell was approached by architects Frederick Gibberd who wanted to incorporate a tensile fabric canopy to span a footbridge between the hospital and the landscaped area outside. In order to reduce conflict between patients and visitors using different parts of the service, this new entrance-way was created to segregate patient traffic and it was felt necessary to provide a sheltered space and design feature to identify this entrance.

Located in the grounds of a mental health unit, it was essential that the structure be designed to incorporate anti-ligature fixings and features to mitigate the chance of patient harm occurring. As a result, steel braces were as high as possible and steel tangs were welded over the structure to house anti-climb mesh.

To avoid excess steel, the columns formed part of the main bridge supports which created a critically important interface between the steel supplier and Architen Landrell. Regular communication and close co-operation was essential in order that all elements were designed to meet the structural and aesthetic requirements.

Due to the constantly changing site and restricted access to the landscaped space below, the installation was a challenging process. Discussions with the project team led to a working platform being built from which our men could work and the tensile canopy installation was carried out using lightweight equipment which had no adverse effects on the surrounding landscaped works.

The client was very happy with the overall design of the structure and professionalism of the installation team and praised our quality and workmanship well done to all involved!

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...see <http://www.architen.com> for more information.

**Location:**  
Derwent, Essex, UK

**Category:**  
Exterior

**Market Sector:**  
Health

**Scope Of Works:**  
Design  
Engineering  
Manufacture  
Project Management  
Install

**Fabric Type:**  
PVC - Fabric

**Design Style:**  
Barrel Vault

**Function:**  
Bridge Canopy