



U2 World Tour - Fabric Stage System

Client: U2 Year of Completion: 2009

Architect/Designer: Mark Fisher Studio Main Contractor/Customer: Live Nation

A tensile fabric structure forms the major element of the eye catching stage set for the 2009 U2 360 Degree World Tour. Architen Landrell was asked to provide the tensioned fabric cladding system for the futuristic structure due to their extensive experience in both tensile fabric and fast track staging work.

The primary purpose of the fabric membrane is to cover the main steel trussing and to provide shelter from the rain and sun for the band below. The band members, who were very involved in the initial stages of set design, were keen to cover up all steel which may be on show and entirely remove it from sight. Fabric cladding proved an economical and effective solution to achieve this.

However, the structure required far more than traditional cladding. Groups of multi-conic fabric structures cover an octagonal PA truss system supported by four giant arched legs. The design is diagonally symmetrical but incredibly complex so no two areas look the same!

The structure is visually enhanced by the gigantic steel structure supporting it and the dramatic stage lighting. At the top point of every conic is an orange disc lit internally with a cluster of lights giving the impression of a glowing pulse point. In addition to the dramatic fabric membrane, the centre of the structure also houses a vertical LED pylon and an elliptical, retractable video screen, both designed as interactive staging elements during the live show.

Outside the practicalities, the scheme is undoubtedly one of the most dramatic staging structures created; designed for impact and drama and to impress those watching the show below.

The project incorporated a specific colour run of fabric to meet the design requirements. The PVC coated polyester blackout fabric was manufactured by Serge Ferrari to a specific RAL colour chosen by the band. PVC coated polyester fabrics are an industry standard for this type of use, however, in this instance the flexibility of the fabric also helped to achieve the architects vision and the complex geometry of the forms. The membrane plates were sprayed to be the same colour as the fabric and therefore remain as concealed as possible and not detract from the ...see <http://www.architen.com> for more information.

Location:
Touring Worldwide

Category:
Exterior
Rock and Pop
Special Projects

Market Sector:
Entertainment

Scope Of Works:
Design
Engineering
Research and Development
Manufacture
Project Management
Install

Fabric Type:
PVC - Fabric

Design Style:
Conic
Cladding

Function:
Weather Protection
Sculptural/Decorative
Screening