



## Vue Cinema, Cribbs Causeway

Client: Prudential & J T Baylis Year of Completion: 1998

Architect/Designer: Richard Hemmingway & Partners Main Contractor/Customer: HGB Higgs & Hill

A 30m laminated timber arch provides a dramatic method of supporting this 800m<sup>2</sup> entrance to a multiplex cinema. Rainwater is channelled into inverted cones that are tensioned by 36 stainless steel cables of just 8mm diameter.

Designers of the 10 million Leisure complex at Cribbs Causeway Bristol were faced with a large problem after deciding to build a cinema. The close proximity of BAE Systems' ground-running bed meant that noise minimisation was vital to attract visitors. The solution was found when Architen Landrell were commissioned to install a dense weight entrance feature, made up of a tensioned fabric canopy supported on a glulam timber arch, to absorb the sound and protect viewers from noise disturbance.

The thirteen hundred square metre tensile fabric canopy rises up to the spectacular timber and steel arch to form a shaded screen over the piazza. The arch spans thirty metres, is twenty metres high and weighs twenty one tonnes. It comprises six twin beamed and braced segments which are pinned together at the ends and stabilised with an innovative internal bracing tie rod system. The complexity of the steelwork meant that the entire arch had to be assembled on the ground and then pivoted into position.

The visually exciting lightweight structure, not only protects cinema goers from the aircraft noise around them, but also provides a signature feature to the building which, when lit from below using coloured LEDs, ensures the magic of going to the cinema is kept alive.

**Location:**

Bristol, UK

**Category:**

Exterior  
Lighting

**Market Sector:**

Retail  
Entertainment

**Scope Of Works:**

Design  
Engineering  
Manufacture  
Project Management  
Install  
Lighting

**Fabric Type:**

PVC - Fabric

**Design Style:**

Conic

**Function:**

Entrance Canopy  
Feature Lighting