

THE LONDON EYE · LONDON, UK

Fabric canopies

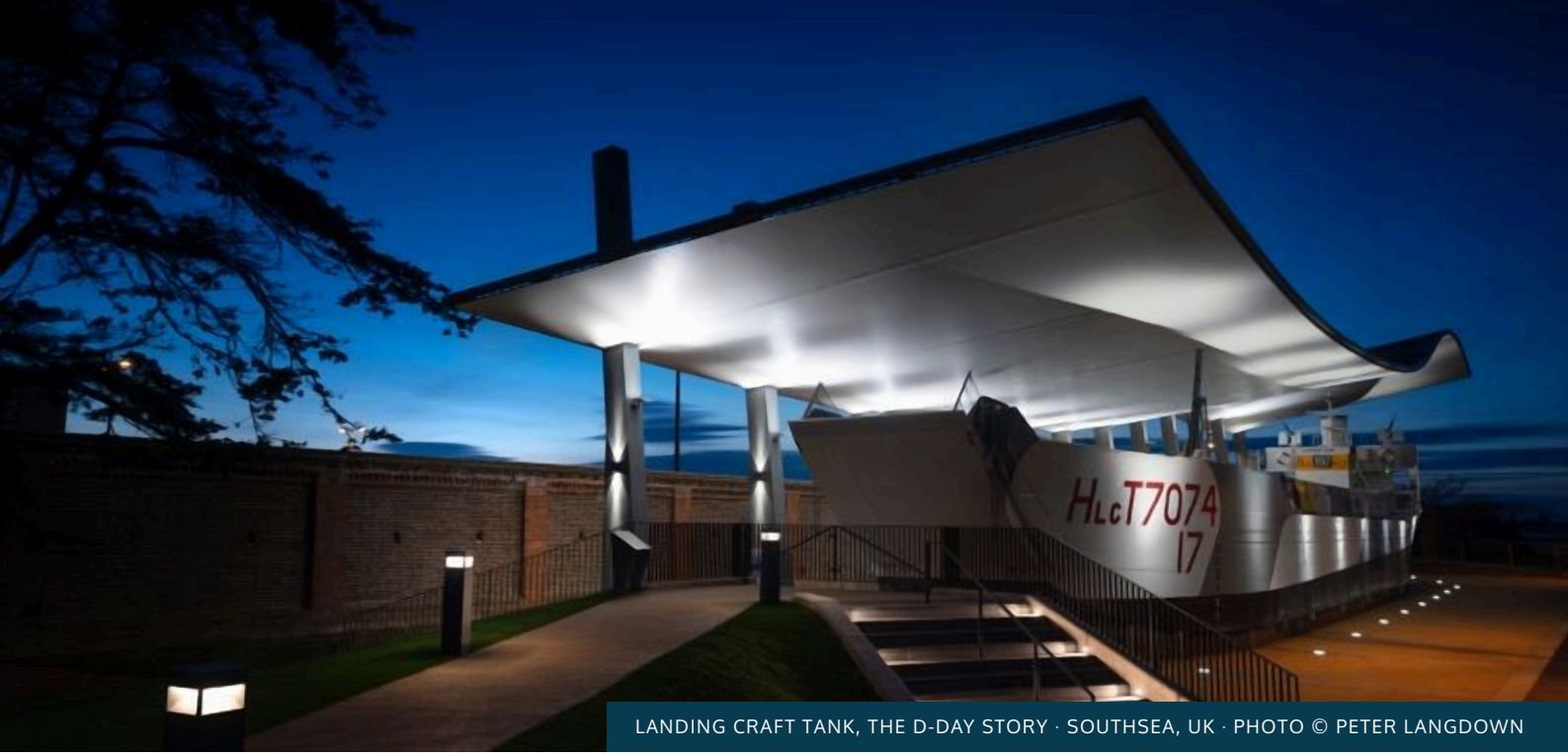
Entrance, walkway and transport canopies

Tensile fabric canopies for building entrances, covered walkways, bus and rail stations, airports and hospital drop-offs. Each one engineered for its site, then made and installed by one team, from our factory in Chepstow, UK.

architen.com · +44 (0) 1291 638 200

INSPIRE · INNOVATE · PERFORM

ARCHITEN LANDRELL



LANDING CRAFT TANK, THE D-DAY STORY · SOUTHSEA, UK · PHOTO © PETER LANGDOWN

Who we are

Tensile fabric and ETFE structures, designed and made in the UK

Architen Landrell designs, engineers, fabricates, installs and maintains tensile membrane structures. Since 1983 we have built canopies for hospitals, stations, airports, schools, shops and venues on six continents.

We work hand in hand with architects, engineers and contractors, from the first sketch to maintenance. Every fabric panel is cut and welded in our own factory, and our group company, Metafab Structures, makes the steelwork that holds it up.

Inspire

We draw on our experience, other industries and the natural world to create inspiring designs.

Innovate

We challenge existing ways of doing things to push boundaries, improve structural and environmental performance, and make the seemingly impossible possible.

Perform

We deliver high-quality products that meet the design and performance requirements of every project.

1983
founded in Chepstow, South Wales

6 continents
where our structures stand

2,000 m²
of production space in our Chepstow factory

In-house
design, engineering, manufacture, installation and maintenance

Company information

The Architen Landrell Group

Four specialist companies, one integrated offer: from bespoke landmark roofs to modular structures, steelwork, coatings and the keder that holds it all together.

Bringing these capabilities together under one group means clients, architects and contractors can come to a single partner for the membrane, the structure that supports it and the components that fix it.

Architen Landrell

ARCHITECTURAL TENSILE FABRIC AND ETFE

Tensile fabric and ETFE architectural structures. Complex and bespoke projects around the world.

architen.com

Metafab Structures

STEELWORK AND COATINGS

Advanced architectural and structural steelwork fabrication for strong modular buildings, tensile structures and rapid construction. Advanced coatings with Metacoatings.

metafabs.com

Fabric Architecture

MODULAR AND SMALL-SCALE STRUCTURES

A standard range of tensile fabric canopies and shade structures, popular with schools and colleges. Full turnkey solution including groundworks.

fabricarchitecture.com

UK Keder

KEDER PRODUCTS

Supply of high-quality keder products for a wide range of applications, from tensile structures to caravans.

uk-keder.com

Our services

From concept all the way through to handover, then maintained

We design, engineer, make, install and maintain every canopy ourselves, so one accountable team carries the design intent from the first sketch to the finished canopy and beyond.

Runs through every stage — **Project management** — One dedicated project manager and a single point of contact, from design to maintenance

Design
Beautiful, buildable concepts

Engineering
For wind, snow and extreme weather

Manufacturing
2,000 m² in-house production

Support structures
Steel, aluminium or timber

Installation
Safe, skilled site teams worldwide

Maintenance
Inspection, cleaning and repair



NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE · LONDON, UK

Overview

What is a tensile fabric canopy?

A tensile fabric canopy is a lightweight roof of architectural fabric, pre-stressed into a curved shape between masts, arches, cables or a building. It keeps people dry and shaded where they arrive, wait and walk, and its shape keeps it taut, so it can span a doorway, a route or a bus bay with very few supports.

A canopy is often the first part of a building people see. It marks the way in, gives a busy place an identity and, lit at night, becomes a landmark of its own. Almost every canopy is built from a few basic shapes, or a mix of them.

30+ years
design life of PTFE glass, which rain washes clean

15–30
years' life for PVC polyester, which comes in colours

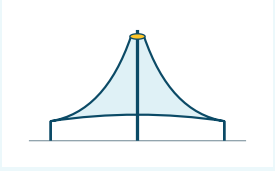
Up to 42%
of daylight through white silicone glass

Any RAL
colour for the steel columns, arches and arms

Nights
and phased working keep stations, hospitals and shops open

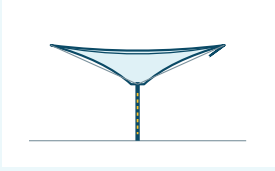
Yearly
inspection keeps a canopy clean, taut and dry

How fabric canopies work · four canopy forms, used alone or joined together



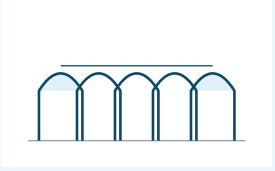
Cone

Fabric pulled up to a ring at the top of a mast. A strong landmark over an entrance, as at the Royal Armouries and Ford Direct, Stevenage.



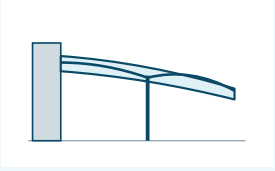
Inverted umbrella

Fabric dips to a single column, so the canopy needs no other supports and rain runs down inside the column, as at North Road, Preston.



Barrel vault

Fabric stretched over a row of arches that repeats along the route. The natural choice for covered walkways, as at Edinburgh Airport.



Cantilever and wing

Fabric on steel arms that reach out from the building or a line of columns, leaving the ground clear, as at Edmonton Green bus station.



ORCHARD SQUARE · SHEFFIELD, UK

Where the rain goes

Designed with a route for the rain

Down the column

Inverted cones collect rain at the centre and take it down inside the column to a drain, as at North Road, Preston. At West Bromwich bus station, rain runs down the steel spars and inside the columns.

Off the edge

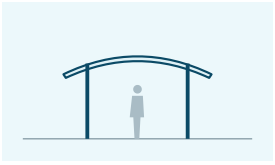
Most canopies shed rain to their low edges and corners. A gutter or diverter can carry it away from doors and paths.

Into a gutter

The canopy slopes to a gutter beam along its low edge, as at Sainsbury's High Wycombe, or leans to send water away from people walking below, as at Downe Hospital.

Ready-designed walkways

Designed and engineered in advance: ten bays go up in under 5 days



3 m, 4.5 m or 6 m bays

Archframe

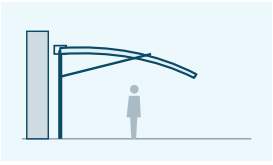
Arched bays that follow curving routes and changes in ground level.



Central column

Branchframe

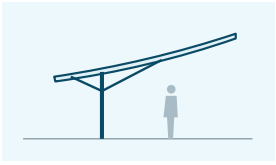
Branching arms on a single central column. Modular, so it can be shaped to fit the space.



Downward arch

Cantilever

A downward arch cantilevered from each column, along a building wall. Drainage can be included.



Rising arch

Wingframe

A rising arch cantilevered from each column. Also used as an amphitheatre canopy or bicycle shelter.

Each comes in PVC polyester, PTFE glass or silicone glass, on steel columns painted in any RAL colour, with lighting from our specialist lighting partners, graphics available and foundations by others. Ready-designed entrance and drop-off canopies, such as double conics, inverted conics and umbrellas, are part of our shade and shelter range.

Materials

Choosing a fabric for your canopy

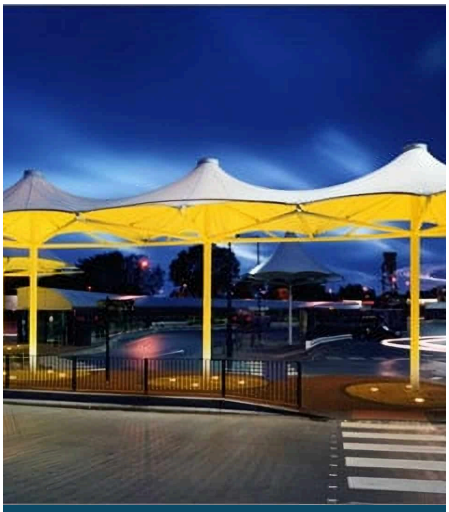
The fabric sets the canopy's life, light, look and cost. Our engineers will recommend one for your site and budget.

Fabric	Design life	Light and look	Best for
PTFE glass	30+ years	White or coloured; rain washes it clean	Transport hubs, hospitals, landmark entrances
PVC polyester	15–30 years, by grade	Many colours; can carry a logo or print; lacquer or nano top coats help it shed dirt	Walkways, schools, shops and showrooms, demountable canopies
Silicone glass	20–25 years	Bright white and available in colours; up to 42% light in white	Bright canopies and walkways
ETFE	30+ years	Clear or printed; about 1% of the weight of glass	Bus and rail canopies that need lots of daylight

Source: Architen Landrell materials pages.

Lighting and branding

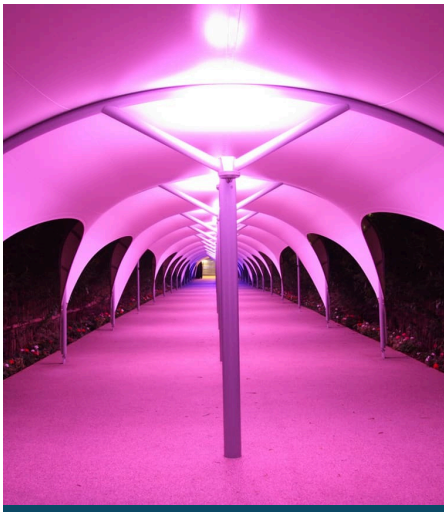
A canopy can glow at night or carry a brand by day



Uplighting

WEST BROMWICH BUS STATION

Spotlights below the fabric turn a canopy into a lantern after dark, as on the conical canopies over the passenger building at West Bromwich.



Colour-changing LEDs

THE O2 RIVERWALK, LONDON

Programmed washes of colour across the fabric, as along the 150 m covered VIP walkway from the Thames pier to The O2.



Logos and prints

QATARGAS, RAS LAFFAN, QATAR

PVC fabric can carry a logo or a printed design. This free-standing sail, printed with the client's branding, covered over 272 m² of exhibition space.



SOUTH WEST ACUTE HOSPITAL · ENNISKILLEN, UK

Featured project

Award-winning ambulance drop-off canopy

Outside A&E at the South West Acute Hospital in Enniskillen, a free-standing tensile canopy shelters ambulance crews, patients and visitors from wind, rain, snow and solar glare across a 200 m² drop-off.

The brief asked for a structure that would be a piece of art in its own right, suit the new hospital buildings and need little maintenance over a life of at least 20 to 30 years. We chose PTFE-coated glass cloth: rain washes it clean, and its design life of more than 30 years goes beyond the requirement.

The fabric rises to a central mast, and a circular ETFE rooflight around the mast brings daylight down to the drop-off below. The canopy won an International Achievement Awards (IAA) Award of Excellence in 2012, in the Freestanding Structures category.



200 m²
covered ambulance drop-off outside A&E

30+ years
design life of the PTFE glass fabric

Fabric	PTFE-coated glass cloth
Rooflight	Circular ETFE, around the central mast
Structure	Free-standing, on a central mast
Award	IAA Award of Excellence 2012

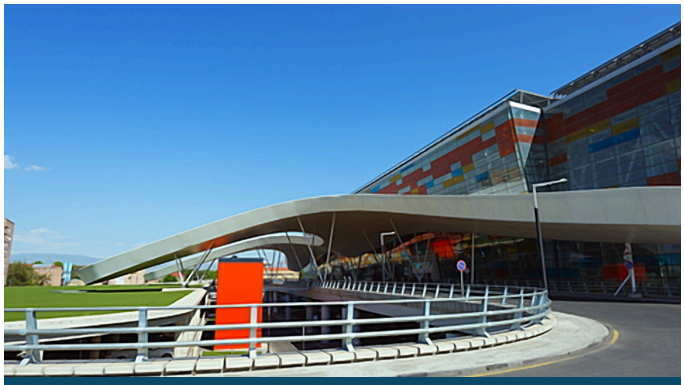
Shelter for passengers, a landmark for the city



Edmonton Green bus station

LONDON, UK · PTFE GLASS

A wing-shaped canopy over the stands of one of London's busiest bus interchanges, with Lyons Sleeman Hoare Architects for Enfield Council.



Zvartnots International Airport

YEREVAN, ARMENIA · PTFE GLASS

A PTFE glass canopy at the terminal, made in our UK factory and taken across Europe by road.



Stratford bus station

LONDON, UK · PTFE GLASS

Uplit PTFE cones channel rain into drains at their base and stay bright after years of traffic fumes.



Connolly Station

DUBLIN, IRELAND

Four arrow-shaped panels point the way for the trams, designed with Buro Happold and installed around a live station.



Birmingham Airport

BIRMINGHAM, UK · PVC POLYESTER

An aerofoil-shaped canopy over the bus interchange, inspired by the aircraft next door.



Edinburgh Airport

EDINBURGH, UK · PVC POLYESTER

Barrel-vault walkways link the terminal to the new railway station, with a stand-alone kiosk canopy.



Piarco Airport

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO · PTFE GLASS

14 PTFE inverted umbrellas, first made for the Millennium Dome, given a new life shading a roadside food court.

A dry, clear way in



Queen Elizabeth Hospital

WOOLWICH, LONDON, UK · PTFE GLASS

Lit PTFE canopies over every entrance of the hospital, reaching out over the ambulance drop-off. The PTFE glass inverted cones at the main entrance have a life comfortably longer than the hospital's 25-year lease, and need little maintenance.

Fabric	PTFE glass
Form	Inverted cones
Covers	Every entrance and the ambulance drop-off



Downe Hospital

DOWNPATRICK, UK · PVC POLYESTER

One canopy leans out over the road so high vehicles can pull up close, and a second shelters the walkway.



Evelina Children's Hospital

LONDON, UK

A fabric walkway links a Victorian St Thomas' building to the new children's hospital by Hopkins Architects.



Ford Direct

STEVENAGE, UK · PVC POLYESTER

A silver fabric cone 24 m across and 14 m tall, on a stainless steel mast, covers the glazed showroom where the cars are displayed.



North Road

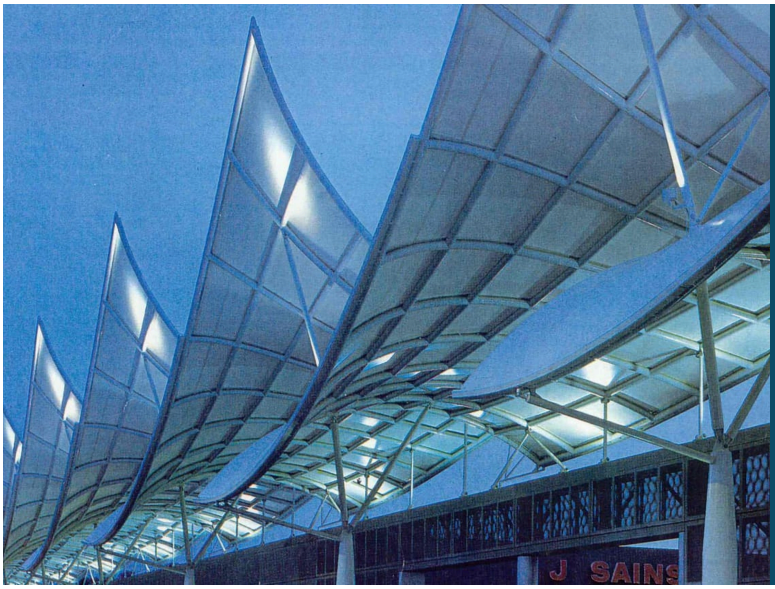
PRESTON, UK · PVC POLYESTER

Four inverted umbrellas join into one canopy at the roadside entrance and carry rainwater down their columns.

Retail, leisure and showroom frontages

A landmark for passing traffic

Canopies that shelter shoppers and visitors and give a building a face, lit at night and shaped to suit the brand.



Sainsbury's Plymouth

PLYMOUTH, UK · PVC POLYESTER

Eleven sails of identical shape, a nod to the city's naval history, overlap to form one continuous canopy along the store front. They also turn the sea wind away from shoppers below.

175 m
of continuous canopy

11 sails
each about 20 m × 10 m



Vue cinema, Cribbs Causeway

BRISTOL, UK

800 m² of fabric on a 30 m timber arch, which also screens out aircraft noise from the site next door.



ABBA Arena

LONDON, UK

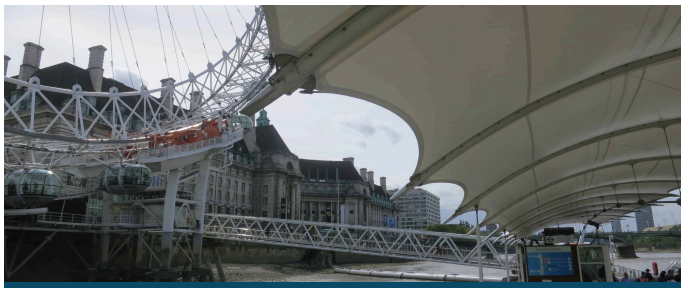
Modular fabric canopies around the 3,000-seat arena, with an acoustic lining and colour-wash lighting.



Eat Street, Westfield London

LONDON, UK

160 m of highly translucent fabric over the restaurant street, cantilevered three storeys up and installed at night.



The London Eye

LONDON, UK · PVC POLYESTER

We made 18 new panels for the entrance canopy and fitted them to the existing steel at night, with no disruption to visitors.

For architects and clients

Planning and specifying a canopy

The earlier we are involved, the simpler the canopy and its foundations. These are the questions our engineers will ask, so it helps to have a view on them.

01
What does the canopy cover?
A doorway, a route between buildings, a bus or ambulance bay, or a whole forecourt.

02
What passes underneath?
People only, or buses, ambulances and delivery vans that need clear height.

03
Fixed to the building, or on its own?
Whether the building can take the loads, or the canopy needs its own masts and foundations.

04
Where should the rain go?
Down the columns, into a gutter, or off the edges away from doors and paths.

05
Foundations and planning
We supply engineering information for your groundworks contractor, and drawings for planning.

06
A live site?
Night and phased working keep stations, hospitals and shops open, as at Connolly Station.

07
Lighting and branding
Uplights, LED colour washes, a logo or a printed design.

Specification

Architen External Tensile Fabric System
PTFE glass, PVC polyester or silicone glass, sized to the architect's drawings. H90 clause available.

Frequently asked questions

PTFE or PVC: which fabric is best for a canopy?
PTFE glass has a design life of more than 30 years and rain washes it clean, so it suits transport hubs, hospitals and landmark entrances. PVC polyester costs less, comes in colours, can carry a logo and lasts 15 to 30 years, depending on the grade.

How long does a fabric canopy last?
PTFE glass has a design life of more than 30 years. PVC polyester lasts 15 to 30 years, depending on the grade, and regular cleaning and inspection help both last longer.

Do I need planning permission for a canopy?
Not every canopy needs it, so check with your local planning authority before you order. We can provide drawings and information to support a planning application.

Who designs the foundations?
We supply the engineering information to your groundworks contractor, so they can design and build the foundations. Our price usually covers the structure above ground.

Can you replace the fabric on an existing canopy?
Yes. We survey the existing steel and fixings, make new fabric panels to fit them in our factory, and fit them with as little disruption as possible, at night if needed.

How often should a canopy be maintained?
We recommend an inspection every year, with cleaning as needed. A visit covers cleaning, repairs, a check of every fixing and fitting, and an inspection report.

Where does the rainwater go?
Down inside the columns to a drain, into a gutter beam along a low edge, or off the edges away from doors and paths, with a gutter or diverter where needed.

How much does a fabric canopy cost?
It depends on the material, the design and how long it takes to make, so we don't publish a budget price per m²: a single figure could be misleading. Send us drawings or a sketch and we will price your project.



EDMONTON GREEN BUS STATION · LONDON, UK

Let's talk about your canopy

Working hand in hand with design and engineering teams to find solutions

Maintenance and repairs

Already have a fabric canopy?

We inspect, clean, repair and re-skin fabric canopies, including canopies built by other companies, with a 24-hour emergency response. Our rope access team maintains the 800 m² canopy at the Vue cinema in Bristol: cleaning, repairs, a check of every fixing and an inspection report.

- Yearly inspections and condition surveys
- Professional cleaning, including by rope access
- Repairs on site, or new panels from our factory
- New fabric fitted to the existing steelwork
- Night and out-of-hours working on busy sites

Maintenance team: maintenance@architen.com

Contact

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