



Royal Melbourne Showgrounds

Melbourne, Australia

The giant new centrepiece of the \$108 million redevelopment of the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds is the Grand Pavilion – a 27-metre high big-top manufactured by Structurflex.

Dubbed the 'biggest tent in Australia' the Grand Pavillion is in fact the largest PVC structure in the Southern Hemisphere and the single biggest tension membrane ever fabricated by Structurflex.

The light diffusing properties of the tension membrane allows filtered daylight to stream through the 13,250 sq metres of fabric tensioned in billowing curves over the big top's giant supporting legs. At night-time the tension membrane structure is beautifully illuminated providing a stunning glowing effect that shows off its futuristic shape.

The Grand Pavilion creates 8,000 sq metres of indoor exhibition space and provides visitors to the Showgrounds with an enclosed venue for agricultural show days and will also be available for hire for concerts, shows and other events.

The use of tensile architecture in this case had a number of very clear benefits. Not only is it much cheaper dollar-for-dollar than other conventional building structures, it provides shelter for guests while retaining a feeling of lightness and provides a stunning and distinctive focal point for visitors to the Showgrounds.

