



BUILDING 'THE BIGGEST PAVILION IN AUSTRALIA' FOR THE ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOWGROUNDS

TITLE	Royal Melbourne Showgrounds
DESCRIPTION	Grand Pavilion
LOCATION	Melbourne, Australia
COMPLETED IN	2005
FABRIC AREA	13,250m ²
FABRIC TYPE	PVC - Mehler FR1000
ARCHITECT/CLIENT	Jackson Architecture / Tensys

ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOWGROUNDS MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The challenge – enclose a giant exhibition space cost-effectively

As part of a \$108 million redevelopment, the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds needed an enclosed venue for agricultural show days, exhibitions, concerts, and other events. But how do you enclose a 10,000m² exhibition pavilion without blowing the budget or creating a monstrous monthly lighting bill?

The answer – a big-top 27 metres high that has been dubbed 'the biggest tent in Australia'. Today this giant tensile membrane structure is the showground's centrepiece.

The solution – an elegant big top with billowing curves

Our dramatic solution tensioned 13,250m² of PVC Fabric to create billowing curves over giant supporting legs. The light diffusing properties of the material allow filtered sunlight to stream through the roof. At night-time the tension membrane structure is beautifully illuminated, providing a stunning glowing effect that shows off its futuristic shape.

The use of tensile architecture for this pavilion roof had clear benefits. Not only was it much cheaper than a conventionally-built roof, it also makes excellent use of natural light and provides a distinctive focal point for visitors to the showgrounds.

