



# NEW OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT VENUE REJUVENATES THE DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT AREA

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| <b>TITLE</b>            | McGrath Amphitheatre                     |
| <b>DESCRIPTION</b>      | Open air amphitheatre / stage covering   |
| <b>LOCATION</b>         | Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA                  |
| <b>COMPLETED IN</b>     | 2013                                     |
| <b>FABRIC AREA</b>      | 604m <sup>2</sup> / 6,500ft <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>FABRIC TYPE</b>      | PTFE Coated Fibreglass (Sheerfill II)    |
| <b>ARCHITECT/CLIENT</b> | Sasaki Architects / City of Cedar Rapids |

## MCGRATH AMPHITHEATRE CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, USA

### The challenge – staying true to the design concept without blowing the budget

This project was close to the hearts of the Cedar Rapids community, because it occupies a site that was severely flooded in 2008. Creation of a beautiful amphitheatre for outdoor entertainment was part of the healing process for the city, however the project had a tight budget for construction.

The bid process was protracted, because initial quotations came in way over budget. This was due to the structural framing system first specified. Structurflex bid for the work on the initial specifications, but also offered a less expensive alternative approach. The project owner appreciated this new input and Structurflex was ultimately awarded the project.

### The solution – a modified design and full responsibility for engineering

The Structurflex design team worked from the architect's original concept to develop an affordable structure that met the original design intent. Structurflex also assumed the role of Engineer of Record for the project, taking on responsibility for the steel framing, membrane and cable systems. Clean, attractive and smart connection details allowed a seamless erection process in the field, while adjustable tensioning and clamping systems simplified the challenging process of installing PTFE fibreglass during cold weather.

The 'jewel in the crown' of the Cedar Rapids riverfront redevelopment plan, McGrath Amphitheatre opened in August 2013 and has already become a favourite entertainment venue for the city.

