



AN EXHIBITION HALL THAT ENHANCES THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

TITLE	Bartle Hall Convention Centre
DESCRIPTION	Convention centre loading dock
LOCATION	Kansas City, Missouri, USA
COMPLETED IN	2008
FABRIC AREA	24,000ft ²
FABRIC TYPE	PVC Mesh – Ferrari Soltis 92
ARCHITECT/CLIENT	Crawford Architects / Kansas City Convention and Entertainment Facilities

BARTLE HALL CONVENTION CENTRE KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI USA

The challenge – disguise an unattractive uncovered loading dock

Improving the appearance of a highly-visible-but-seriously-unsightly loading dock at the rear of a downtown convention centre isn't an easy task for any architect. The loading dock was visible from both the street and from overhead viewpoints, including surrounding hotels, condominiums and offices. As described by nearby residents, office workers and visitors, this site was "an eyesore".

The solution – a gridded lightweight structure and shade sails

Rather than simply box in the loading dock, the architect chose to employ a modern industrial aesthetic to create a stylish back end for the convention centre. A gridded structural configuration is highlighted with an 'egg crate' effect that's defined by 43 shade sails made from Ferrari Soltis outdoor fabric.

The sails, which have a surface area of 24,000 square feet, disguise the loading dock, provide shade and contribute a reflective surface that illuminates the space after dark. The gridded structure and sails are complemented by a sculpted abstract sheet metal façade – the finishing touch to a highly dramatic and unique structure.

