



ETFE COVER FOR RENO'S NEW ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

TITLE	Freight House District
DESCRIPTION	Roof for outdoor entertainment area
LOCATION	Reno, Nevada, USA
COMPLETED IN	2010
FABRIC AREA	8,500ft ²
FABRIC TYPE	ETFE – Single layer
ARCHITECT/CLIENT	Beyer Blinder Belle / Reno Freight House District



FREIGHT HOUSE DISTRICT RENO, NEVADA USA

The challenge – make a membrane that does the job of glass for a fraction of the cost

The Freight House District is a year-round entertainment complex attached to the Aces Ballpark in east downtown Reno. It hosts concerts, festivals and other attractions throughout the year. The project's architect had envisaged a glass canopy for the all-weather entertainment area, however the project managers quickly identified that glass would be too costly. Aside from the high material costs, glass is heavy and requires more structural steel for support.

Structurflex embraced the task of adapting the canopy concept to ETFE film, which is significantly less expensive and provides the required shelter without limiting natural light. Our experience with KC Live, a project that had involved the same architect, gave everyone confidence that our team would deliver an excellent outcome.

The solution – a ground-breaking membrane structure that's true to the original vision

We were determined to ensure the decision to use ETFE wouldn't be seen as a cost-cutting compromise, so project-specific detailing was developed to enable a virtually-flat membrane that would resemble glass. Our team used cables that clip onto purlins in the transverse direction – an innovation new to the tensile membrane world.

Structurflex maintained control of the complete process – design and engineering, coordination with other trades, supervision of the steel erection process, as well as supply and installation of the membrane system.

The resulting roof provides sun and rain protection, while also defining the outdoor entertainment space. It has been highly praised by performers, patrons and tenants.

IAA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – 2009