



NAPKIN SKETCHES TRANSFORMED INTO STYLISH SUN SHADE

TITLE	Indian Wells Tennis Garden Pavilion
DESCRIPTION	Shade canopy for stadium
LOCATION	Palm Springs, California, USA
COMPLETED IN	2012
FABRIC AREA	20,000f ²
FABRIC TYPE	PVC – Ferrari 1202 T2
ARCHITECT/CLIENT	Blumotif / Indian Wells Tennis Garden

INDIAN WELLS PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA USA

The challenge – transform hand-drawn concepts into affordable reality

Indian Wells Tennis Garden is a full-service tennis club with the third-largest tennis stadium in the world. Every year it hosts the BNP Paribas Open, the world's fifth-largest professional tournament. The club's desert position near Palm Springs means that shade is a valuable resource – the sun shines more than 350 days a year here.

The most significant challenge for Structurflex was to transform three conceptual sketches into a shade structure that was true to the architect's vision and the owner's requirements. We produced preliminary engineering and pricing for all three; we also developed another three concepts of our own. All concepts were presented as photo-realistic renderings within two weeks of the initial brief.

Other challenges included the owner's desire for a light structure that would have little impact on the site, plus the need to complete installation in time for the annual tennis tournament.

The solution – elegant structure, clean span tensile membrane that enhances the whole environment

Structurflex was engaged to produce final engineering documents for the agreed design, coordinate with the general contractor and sub-trades, supply all structural steel, and fabricate and install the membrane.

To avoid complex trusses that would detract from the clean simplicity of the long spans, we opted to use single tube sections for support. We also employed ETFE caps that were slightly raised above the rings, to allow heat to rise and escape. The membrane was patterned to be aesthetically pleasing.

The resulting shade canopy was completed on time and has received rave reviews from the owner, the architect, the public and the media.

