



NAUTICALLY-THEMED CANOPIES PROVIDE ALL-WEATHER COMFORT FOR FERRY PASSENGERS

TITLE	Matiatia Wharf
DESCRIPTION	Ferry terminal shelters
LOCATION	Waiheke Island, New Zealand
COMPLETED IN	2003 and 2011
FABRIC AREA	620m ² 2003; 120m ² 2011
FABRIC TYPE	PVC - Ferrari 1002T2
ARCHITECT/CLIENT	City Design / Auckland City Council

MATIATIA WHARF WAIHEKE ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

The challenge – turn a functional wharf into an elegant architectural statement

The Matiatia ferry terminal on Waiheke Island is the main arrival point for passenger ferries from Auckland. The terminal serves commuting residents, as well as a constant stream of tourists.

In 2003 the ferry terminal received a major upgrade to provide better facilities for passengers, including shelter from the sun, rain and wind. The upgrade also aimed to improve the appearance of the terminal, helping to lift Waiheke Island's profile as a popular holiday destination.

The solution – a series of soaring tension membranes that provide shelter and style

In close consultation with the architect, Structurex designed a series of tension membrane structures that are both highly functional and visually appealing. The nautically-themed shapes slope up on the sea side, allowing a clear view of the bay, while the other side is low to provide effective cover for pedestrians moving between the road and the ferries. Off-site pre-manufacturing ensured installation was very quick and passenger services weren't disrupted in any way.

Because the membranes are translucent, the walkways get the benefit of natural light and passengers can enjoy the feeling of being outside without having to contend with weather discomforts. The membrane's self-cleaning properties keep the canopies looking clean and crisp. In 2011, extra canopies were added along the foreshore to provide shelter for people waiting for road transport.

