



CREATING AN ENTICING SHOPPING ENVIRONMENT IN PORIRUA

TITLE	Porirua Mall
DESCRIPTION	Shopping centre canopies
LOCATION	Wellington, New Zealand
COMPLETED IN	1995
FABRIC AREA	8,100m ²
FABRIC TYPE	PVC - Seaman 8028 Tedlar
ARCHITECT/CLIENT	Architecture Workshop / Porirua City Council

PORIRUA MALL WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

The challenge – upgrade the look and feel of a disconnected retail precinct

Like many shopping districts that grow gradually over the years, the centre of Porirua was a disparate mixture of buildings from different times. It also had an exposed position – shoppers frequently had to battle rain and strong winds while moving from shop to shop. Consequently, Porirua's retailers were losing out to covered shopping malls.

To address these problems, the Porirua City Council sought the assistance of a notable Wellington architectural firm. One of the key features of their proposal to the Council was a 'covered street' – a 300-metre stretch of white tensile membrane fabric canopies. The council loved the concept and gave approval for construction.

The solution – a unifying continuum of white tensile membrane canopies

Structurflex was chosen to design, fabricate and install the canopy structure, which is one of the largest of its kind in New Zealand. Not only did our design have to stay true to the architect's vision, it also had to meet exacting engineering requirements – Porirua is on a fault line and regularly experiences seismic events.

The resulting continuum of canopies creates a light-filled open-air feeling during the day; at night the shapes are softly illuminated, which gives the town centre a welcome touch of glamour. Since installation, the centre of Porirua has become a buzzing shopping hub and a vibrant showcase of local artwork.

