



SHADE CANOPIES HELP OUTLET MALL SHOPPERS KEEP THEIR COOL

TITLE	Shoppes at Oklahoma City
DESCRIPTION	Shade canopies
LOCATION	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
COMPLETED IN	2011
FABRIC AREA	50,000ft ²
FABRIC TYPE	PVC – Ferrari 1002 T2
ARCHITECT/CLIENT	Adams & Associates Architecture / Horizon Group

SHOPPES AT OKLAHOMA CITY OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA USA

The challenge – fabricate and install attractive shade areas at the tail end of a time-sensitive project

The deadline of opening day was breathing down our necks for this project. Not only was the overall project schedule immensely tight, but the shade canopies couldn't be installed until after the buildings were fully closed in and paving completed – right at the end of the project.

Added to this challenge was the problem of site access. Space between the buildings was too tight for large crane access; the site also had 'mechanical bridges' in two areas, which required the membranes to be installed 15 feet above ground.

The solution – elegant PVC membrane canopies that provide a visual beacon for approaching shoppers

The architect's original vision called for four identical structures, however building construction differences and design changes made it necessary to develop three unique geometries. Our membrane recommendation was PVC – Ferrari 1002 T2 – to provide shade and reduce solar gain without limiting natural light.

Installation was complex, involving the development of unique hoisting details and tools. For the above-ground structures, scaffolding and safety nets were required.

On opening day, temperatures soared to 108°F and shoppers took refuge beneath the canopies, where it was more than 15° cooler. The canopies make the mall instantly recognisable from the adjacent freeway – a 'visual beacon' to attract customers.

