



SPECTACULAR LIGHTING EFFECTS FOR WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT ARENA

TITLE	Vector Arena
DESCRIPTION	Lighting canopy texture for arena foyer
LOCATION	Auckland, New Zealand
COMPLETED IN	2006
FABRIC AREA	320m ²
FABRIC TYPE	PVC - Mehler 8964
ARCHITECT/CLIENT	Peddle Thorp / Mainzeal Construction

VECTOR ARENA AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

The challenge – develop unique lighting elements for the stadium foyer

The Vector Arena is one of New Zealand's most exciting venues. It's used for international and local sport matches, performances, exhibitions and concerts. At its heart is a space that can accommodate an audience of 12,000.

The curved main entrance area presented an opportunity to feature a dramatic one-of-a-kind lighting feature. The architect's brief to Structurflex was to create a warm, glowing lighting effect. At the same time, the lighting structure had to have a sculptural quality that would add aesthetic value to the arena.

The solution – glowing light fixtures with sculptural qualities

With the active participation of Structurflex, the architect chose a design concept with a historical/nautical form.

The actual lighting elements, eight in total, were developed as rafts which are holding two canoe-shaped bodies together. Each raft is 4m x 3m. The translucent membrane is tensioned over a lightweight support structure. The rafts were designed to incorporate fire fighting sprinkler heads and also a sophisticated hinging mechanism to provide easy access for light system maintenance.

A full-scale prototype was built and various lighting configurations were tested before the design team settled on fluorescent lighting fixtures positioned above the fabric. The result is an even light level through the structure that fades slightly towards the perimeters.

