



NEWS RELEASE

Construction of a Massive Tensile Membrane Project Nears Completion for FabriTec Structures at Shopping Center in Summerlin Nevada

*253 Tons of Steel is Made Necessary to Support Whopping 59,000+ Sq. Ft. of
Tensioned ETFE and PTFE Architectural Fabrics*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DALLAS, TX – (July 3, 2014) – FabriTec Structures, LLC, North America's leading design/build contractor specializing in tension fabric structures, today announced construction of multiple tensile membranes nears completion for The Shops at Summerlin, in Summerlin, NV.



The Shops at Summerlin Centre is an outdoor business, entertainment, fashion and retail

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district, part of a mixed-use development project initiated by the Howard Hughes Corporation in Summerlin, NV in 2007. Featuring 1,800,000 sq. ft. of retail space, construction on 'The Shops' broke ground in the summer of 2012.

'The Shops' will feature a massive fabric surface area of approximately 59,775 square feet of both PTFE and ETFE materials in two of the four "districts" that make up the mixed-use retail center. But the project is especially impressive because of the complex steel fabrication required to distribute the load.

506,591 lbs of steel (*or 253tons*) support the fabric structures in the main retail area, District 2, and District 4. This equates to roughly 8.47lbs /sf which is reasonably light for the amount of covered area. In many instances tension structures are a contributor to the LEED evaluation through the use of effective design and reduction in the carbon footprint. All the steel is finished off site at our facilities in Dallas and shipped in components ready for assembly on site.

At the heart of the design is a uniquely large compression ring making up the main canopy. Most compression rings are round, but the conical shape of the Summerlin Shops main canopy called for an oval shape creating extremely large trusses, which created many laydown challenges at the manufacturing facility and a complicated fit-up on site.

In District 4, the compound curvature of the steel that makes up several freestanding fabric structures resembling graceful tail-less flying bat rays in the sky, required extensive rolling and fit-up, because every steel section had a different shape. It's interesting to note that when viewing these particular structures from below, the grid like steel was more for aesthetics than required to support the membrane. This was a requirement from the design team.

Twelve cantilevered tensile structures cover the four main walkways leading to the mast-supported main cone over the center of the shopping center's courtyard. The tip of the main cone is ETFE. The transparent properties of this material were chosen to allow maximum light exposure to shine down on the shops below, as well as provide for an interesting uplighting effect for visual impact at night. The main conical structure had to attach to four different buildings while inducing minimal loads. Using the ring configuration helps reduce the load, as a ring is "self resolving" in the horizontal direction and putting minimal loading onto the buildings.

The freestanding structures, 16 in all, are fabricated out of PTFE membrane.

Owner: Howard Hughes Corporation,
Fabric: FabriTec Structures, LLC
General Contractor: VCC, LCC
Architect: Altoon Partners
Structural Engineer: John Martin and Associates

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About FabriTec Structures:

FabriTec Structures, a design/build specialty contractor, has grown to be recognized as a leading brand in the tensile membrane structure industry. The company offers custom architectural fabric structures for a wide variety of markets including: Airports & Transportation, Retail, Hospitality, Stadiums & Athletic Arenas, Amphitheaters and much more. FabriTec provides imagination and innovation in fabric architecture. Visit <http://www.fabritecstructures.com> for more information.

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