

2008 INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

TENSILE STRUCTURES

6,000 - 25,000 SQ. FT.

SHADE TO ORDER PTY LTD.

GATESHEAD, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

Brigidine College

Fabric: Precontraint PVC 702 by Ferrari S.A. from Innova International Pty Ltd.

The client requested a radical and visually stunning structure: a freestanding structure overlapping the existing two-story buildings to give excellent shade and waterproofing to the area. Inverted umbrellas stand 12 meters high. An inverted conical structure using one continuous fabric skin meant installation involved careful integration of the steel and fabric installation. Fabric was laid out first, then the six vertical uprights installed through the fabric. The remainder of the steelwork was installed, then the fabric was pulled up and over the buildings. Water runoff is controlled through the six columns and goes into a storm-water system. The columns also house power and lights so special design factors were needed to ensure a successful result. The fact that this multiple inverted conical structure uses one continuous skin instead of more commonly seen individual skins with flashings is what sets it apart. The difficulty of designing, manufacturing and installing a structure this way is far greater, but so is the success of the final result