

Project: "The Swan", Sylvania Way Bridge

Location: Clydebank, Scotland



## Project brief

The Sylvania Way Bridge spans the Forth & Clyde canal within Clydebank town centre. Although a landmark for the town, the 25 year old metal-lattice frame on the bridge was frequently criticised for being "unsightly." The Royal Incorporation of Architects Scotland (RIAS) and Clydebank Re-built, Clydebank's pathfinder urban regeneration company, launched a competition to design an iconic canopy structure for the site.



The competition was entered by more than 60 architects across the world, with the winning design judged to be a proposal from the Glasgow office of RMJM.



## Design solution

Project Architect Neil McLean's design vision was for a canopy that would mirror a swan in flight. Fabric Architecture was appointed by Clydebank Re-built, alongside contractor Gray and Dick Ltd, to realise this impressive structure. Objectives were not only to accomplish the

design's beautiful aesthetic, but also to offer a practically engineered solution to cover the 35m span.

Neil wanted the structure to be 'beautiful and sustainable' so the design team at Fabric Architecture specified a high quality FibreTop T400 PTFE fabric to provide longevity for this landmark project. The team also considered rain-water management and devised a drainage system that could be incorporated in to the design.



## Results

Practical realisation of this award-winning concept was vital to the success of the project and the design team worked hard to reflect the architect's concept.

Due to the location of the structure, the assembly of the canopy into the frame was completed off site in just one week. Once the vast canopy was tensioned, it was then lifted into place by a 120T crane.

Audrey Carlin from Clydebank re-built was full of praise for the work completed by Fabric Architecture and commented: "We have just issued practical completion with Gray & Dick Ltd and are delighted with the structure. Thanks for all your input to this project."

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