i2o LTD
Creating covers for all

# FABRIC ARCHITECTURE

## FABRIC ARCHITECTURE — WHY CHOOSE A FABRIC ROOF?

Fabric is one of the oldest materials humans have used for shelter; it remains an important material with diverse applications in design and construction even today.

For decades the choice of awning and canopy fabric was limited to cotton canvas. While cotton offers a great look and feel, it has performance limitations outdoors. Although traditional cotton duck, or canvas, is still used occasionally, especially when customers desire a traditional look, however synthetics now dominate the market for residential and commercial awnings and canopies.

Thanks to technological breakthroughs in synthetic fabrics and in top coatings to protect those fabrics, progress continued with increasing acceleration. During the 1980s, it was not uncommon to answer the question of awning fabric performance with a question mark, or at least a disclaimer. Warranties, guarantees, colorfastness, ultraviolet stability and even tensile strength were in their infancy then.

Most fabric structures use fabrics rather than meshes or films. The fabrics typically are coated and laminated with synthetic materials for greater strength and/or environmental resistance. Among the most widely used materials are polyester laminated or coated with polyvinyl chloride (PVC), woven fiberglass coated with polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or silicone.

These days fabric is the material of choice for several architects and designers all over the world, simply because of the benefits. You can find examples of fabric architecture in several countries including Germany, Australia, United Arab Emirates and even right here at home in the UK at the 02 Arena in London, just to name a few.

Some of the many benefits include:

- **Chemical resistance**
- **Heat resistance**
- **Stain resistance**
- **Ultraviolet stabilization**
- **Mildew resistance**
- **Waterproofing**
- **Shading properties**
- **Design versatility**

At i2o Ltd we manufacture our canopies using fabrics chosen for their superior strength, flexibility, translucency and an impressive design life of 25 years. UV resistant, chemically inert, easy to maintain and versatile; tensile membranes are ideal for long-term use in demanding environments.

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