

The Raleigh Durham Airport Authority

Background

When the Raleigh Durham Airport was constructing their parking facilities, the design included state-of-the-art fabric canopies at multiple locations throughout the airport, including the entrance and exit gates at both the main parking deck and several remote lots, as well as a massive canopy covering the light well in the main parking deck and canopies covering the helical ramps to the various parking levels. However, the original design and installation of the canopies had been left up to the general contractor who built the deck and when it came time for service, the manufacturer of the canopies themselves could not be identified.

Solution

The airport authority understood that it was imperative that the canopies be inspected and maintained properly to ensure their longevity and the safety of thousands of airport patrons who walk and drive under them every day. Also, any extended period of operation without inspection could allow a small problem, (connections coming loose, small fabric tears, mildew development, etc.) to become a much more serious one. They sought out companies that could provide these services and after a thorough review of their experience and capabilities, chose Signature Structures to perform this important work.

Details

Over a four-day period, Signature's expert technicians worked with airport personnel on a thorough inspection of every canopy. The technician visually inspected the entire fabric envelope for proper tensioning, unusual discoloration, unusual debris or contamination from bird droppings or jet fuel residue. They also checked all connection points, cables, rope beads, extrusions, and clamping plates for damage or loss of tension. Several small tears were patched. During the inspection, Signature's technicians discovered a potentially serious problem involving a panel whose tensioning had come loose, causing rainwater to pond in the panel, a situation that could have caused serious issues if it had not been discovered. Signature worked with the airport authority on a solution to prevent further damage to the canopies and to restore the effected panel to full strength and tension.

Customer Appreciation

The Airport Authority was so pleased with Signature's performance that they have asked Signature to enter into a five (5) year maintenance agreement to return to the airport every year and ensure the ongoing endurance and safety of their canopies. If you would like a reference, do not hesitate and please call or email us if you have any questions, 610.882.9030 or info@signaturestructures.net

