



AEC collaborated on the canopies with engineering legend, Horst Berger, and DeNardis Engineering. Horst is a pioneer in the design of tensile structures, with many laudable credits that recently include the exuberant roof of Denver International Airport.



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LOCATION Clear Lake, Texas
 AREA 6,120 sf
 COST \$450,000
 ARCHITECT Sunland Group

space

NASA Johnson Space Center
 Security Gate Canopies

Four tensile-fabric canopy structures, at the entrances to the NASA Johnson Space Center campus, shield security personnel from the intense Texas sun and frequent coastal rain and lightning. Fittingly, the high-strength, Teflon-coated synthetic fabrics commonly used in modern fabric architecture were originally developed by NASA engineers for use in Apollo Program space suits, during the late 1960's and early '70's. Here, space-race technology is returned to its birthplace to meet utilitarian, terrestrial needs for shade and shelter with a graceful form that reflects natural light during the day and is up-lit at night to glow like a lantern. The beautiful fabric shape is a welcoming image to all those visiting the center.

