



Specialty Contracting For Tensile Architecture

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La Plata Stadium – La Plata, Argentina

## Birdair Constructs South America's First Stadium Roof Made with PTFE Fiberglass Membrane

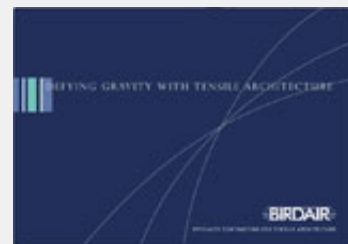
Birdair, Inc. has nearly completed the tensile roofing system for La Plata Stadium in La Plata, Argentina, bringing functional benefits and visual appeal to the South American stadium. A frequent host to football and cultural events, the 53,000-seat capacity stadium is the first stadium in South America to feature a roof made from PTFE fiberglass membrane.

Birdair engineered, fabricated and is overseeing the installation of 312,545 square feet of tensile roof utilizing Birdair's steel cable systems and PTFE, a Teflon®-coated woven fiberglass membrane. The fabric is capable of withstanding temperatures from -100 to 450 degrees Fahrenheit. It is also immune to UV rays, waterproof, and flame resistant.

To accommodate the unconventional geometry of the stadium, the main roof structure was formed using tensioned steel cable hoops at three different levels, along with vertical columns, diagonal cables, and ridge cables.

The stability of La Plata Stadium's roof cable structure does not

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A 1-credit hour AIA HSW/SD learning unit is available from Birdair with its continuing education course entitled, "Defying Gravity With Tensile Architecture" on The Continuing Architect. Learn about the benefits of tensile architecture, the different types of membrane materials, including Tenotherm, and the design-build process for creating a tensile structure.

depend on the PTFE panels covering it. Instead, La Plata's prestressed tensegrity design features a figure-eight-shaped central opening that resists global distortion using tension. Consequently, the roof deck is extremely stiff, similar to the way a drum skin is stiffened by tensioning.

La Plata Stadium, which originally opened in 2003, was designed by architect Roberto Ferreira in conjunction with [Weidlinger Associates](#) and is one of the premier venues for football in South America.

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## Birdair Honored for Exceptional Work on South African Stadium



Birdair received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI) for its work on [Moses Mabhida Stadium](#) in the Fabric Structures category for tensile structures larger than 2,322 square meters.

### Meet With Us at Stadia



Birdair will be exhibiting at [Stadia Design and Technology](#), April 12-14, 2010 at the Los Angeles Convention Center in Los Angeles, CA. Visit us at Booth #1844.

## About Birdair

Birdair, Inc. is the leading specialty contractor of lightweight long-span roofing systems and tensile structures throughout the world, providing design-build solutions for architects and clients in all aspects of project design, engineering, installation and maintenance. Lightweight long-span roofing systems and cable structures can be attached to any building envelope and offer aesthetic and functional options to complement any exterior design. Birdair, based in Buffalo, NY, is a member of the Taiyo Kogyo Group, with operations serving North and South America and other international locations.

For more information about Birdair, call 1-800-622-2246 or visit [www.birdair.com](http://www.birdair.com).