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For Immediate Release

Birdair Modular Structures Create Open, Airy Event Space at South Bend Convention Center

Form Meets Function to Transform Island Park

The site of a former power plant located at Century Center Convention Center in South Bend, IN is now home to four linked modular fabric structures by Birdair, Inc.

As part of Birdair's standard product lines, the Quasar modular structures provide shade and protection for outdoor events such as lunches, receptions and wedding ceremonies. The tensile membrane pavilion resides on the 11-acre Island Park and utilizes approximately 7,900 square feet of PTFE fiberglass membrane. The Quasar structures specified for the project feature a center column and a hyperbolic paraboloid profile that resembles a saddle.

PTFE, a Teflon®-coated woven fiberglass membrane, is capable of withstanding temperatures from minus 100 F to 500 F. It is also unaffected by UV rays, waterproof, and non-combustible. long-lasting, durable and requires minimal maintenance to retain its pristine appearance.

“Our firm was commissioned by the city of South Bend to design a unique, permanent outdoor pavilion that would embody the many aspects of future downtown riverfront development, and compliment the architecture of the landmark Century Center,” explains William Lamie, AIA, principal at Architecture Design Group, Inc., the project’s architect. “Our design from the beginning emphasized form, and we chose to consider a tensile membrane roof to achieve the functional aesthetic we wanted. Impressed with Birdair’s vast experience and genuine eagerness to work with us, we chose early on to work together on the design.”

Island Park is situated on the St. Joseph River, which provided some unique accessibility challenges for Birdair to overcome. Birdair staged from a parking lot and accessed the job site via an eight-foot wide pedestrian bridge with loading constraints.

“The Pavilion has truly transformed the riverfront, and complements two of our community’s great urban amenities, Island Park and the St. Joseph River. It has quickly become one of the most popular locations for hosting formal events and ceremonies,” says Lamie. “Many have commented that the Pavilion has been a great investment for the community, and it will encourage new development in the area.”

The Century Center Convention Center project was completed in May 2012. In addition to Birdair, the project team included owner Century Center, South Bend, IN, architect Architecture Design Group, Inc., South Bend, IN and general contractor Casteel Construction.

As a full-service specialty contractor, Birdair offers complete design build assistance and solutions throughout the design-build process and has completed more than 1,300 tensile architecture installations worldwide. Learn more at www.birdair.com.

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About Birdair

Birdair, Inc. is the leading specialty contractor of custom tensile structures throughout the world. In addition to pre-construction services such as design assistance, budgeting, construction methodologies and project scheduling, Birdair provides design-build solutions in all aspects of project design, fabrication, installation and maintenance. The company offers a selection of architectural fabric membranes, including PTFE fiberglass, ETFE film, PVC and Tensotherm™, an insulated tensioned membrane system. 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, [like us on Facebook](#), call 1-800-622-2246 or visit www.birdair.com.

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