

Conceptual Designs: Fabric Enclosures

Physical modelling is an essential part of conceptual design. Boundary configurations play a vital role in determining the shape of a fabric enclosure.

***Nature** provides a good guide to efficient design. However, it is **the art of engineering** that turns naturally inspired concepts into functional structures.*



Portable fabric enclosure



'Kite' canopy with 4 support points



'Flower' canopy. The fabric model has to be bound by rigid edges to achieve the intended shape.

'Maple Leaf' canopy. Careful selection of low and high points on the boundary is required to ensure adequate surface curvatures and stiffness.

