


RE | Vision



Bone structures

Adding angular shade structures for a University center car park solved several problems. Before and after views of the U of U Orthopedic Center shade canopies

The sunshades at the University of Utah Orthopedic Center were developed in response to concerns raised regarding the parking structure associated with the project. The Research Park in which the project is located has site development standards that include planting between parking aisles. Unfortunately, the risks associated with providing such planters (to be recessed within the deck of the parking structure) were too large a burden for the University. The sunshades were proposed as a compromise: they break up the surface of the parking for those viewing this hillside site from above, but do not include the heavy loading of earth nor the complications associated with irrigating the plantings (i.e., leakage on cars below, freeze protection, etc.). The design of the shading structures takes its cue from the building itself, which is composed of angled elements skewed one to another in an effort to reflect the broken and translated bone structures often found in orthopedic injuries.

Solar fabric was selected for its translucency, durability and lightweight nature. One challenge that was managed as part of the project was the wind loading. By working together, the design and fabrication teams were able to find solutions to the cantilevered connections that preserved the intent of the design (maximized surface area) while ensuring that the structures would be safe in proximity to cars and pedestrians. 

PROJECT DATA

Client: University of Utah

Architect: Architectural Nexus Inc.

Design (shade structures): Layton Construction

Structural engineering: Halander Engineers

Fabrication: Sugar House Awning and Canvas Products

Fabric: Awntex 120 from Astrup