

For Immediate Release

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Parkade Solution from Cambridge Architectural Provides Beautiful, Functional and Economical Cladding Method for Parking Structures

CAMBRIDGE, MD... Cambridge Architectural, the world's most experienced – and only full-service provider – of functional and visually intriguing metal fabric solutions, offers innovative product combinations of engineered tension attachment hardware and metal fabric, for the design and specification of parking structures.

Parkade applications serve as a beautiful, functional, affordable and sustainable method of exterior cladding for parking garage facades. Cambridge's unique ability to partner with the project team from the design phase through to completion ensures that Parkade solutions can be easily realized.

"Parkade metal fabric solutions lend elegance and sophistication to any parking structure that they adorn, turning an ordinary garage into a stunning work of art," explains Heather Collins, director of marketing for Cambridge Architectural. "Panels of woven metal mesh gracefully wrap a parking structure to create a dramatic, beautiful look unlike any other. A glistening, luminous effect is created when metal fabric interacts with sunlight during the day and exterior lighting at night."

"After researching different mesh suppliers, we found that Cambridge Architectural offered a wider selection of metal fabric options than its competitors," explains Nathaniel Finley, Spagnolo Gisness & Associates, Inc., AIA/project architect. "The metal fabric was a cost-effective solution for the draped aesthetic that we were looking for."

Cambridge Parkade mesh solutions also allow parking facilities to maintain the look and feel of an open parking structure, but provide all of the functional benefits of a closed structure. For example, Cambridge's large-scale flexible open metal fabric patterns allow daylight and fresh air to pass through parking structures, reducing the need for costly HVAC and exhaust systems. Metal fabrics are fabricated in lengths up to 200 feet, which allows for more efficient installation.

Depending on the installation, Cambridge Parkade metal fabric applications can also meet fall protection requirements and, when used with crash barriers, eliminate the added cost of handrails. Parkade metal fabric solutions also shade vehicles and pedestrians by day while permitting security personnel a view into all levels of the structure at night.

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“Cambridge’s solution is cost-effective because the mesh provides a human fall-restraint, eliminating the need for extra handrails,” comments Blake Hodge, principal, Carl Walker Inc. parking consultants, Dallas, TX. “The open area of the mesh meets the requirements to classify a garage as open – allowing for a less costly fire suppression system than one required for an enclosed garage.”

As an added bonus, Cambridge has also completed headlight testing for its exterior tensioned mounted metal fabric applications, with results showing significant light pollution reduction for metal fabric clad parking facilities – a growing concern for parking structures situated in urban areas.

As an active member of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), Cambridge remains committed to providing product and manufacturing solutions that are environmentally responsible. Parkade solutions fall into this category, since the metal fabric and corresponding attachment hardware are readily recyclable and can be manufactured from recycled materials. Cambridge stainless steel metal fabric products are also virtually maintenance-free.

Cambridge’s innovative Eclipse attachment hardware is most commonly used to attach panels of woven metal mesh in tension. Eclipse hardware provides tailored edges for expanses of flexible metal fabric in tension. The metal fabric fits into custom cut apertures in tubing that integrates into brackets and structural supports. Eclipse is appropriate for lengths of metal fabric held in tension up to 100 feet. Eclipse attachment system additionally reduces the need for embedded structural supports. This innovative design keeps an aesthetic focus on the metal fabric and requires far fewer structurally embedded supports than its heavier, panelized alternatives. The lack of embedded structural supports also minimizes project costs.

A variety of Cambridge metal fabric patterns are designed to work in conjunction with Eclipse attachment hardware to create a truly unique Parkade application. These include Scale, Mid-Balance, Stripe, Shade and dozens of other patterns. Each mesh pattern features a different design and varying degree of open area, flexibility and rigidity. Custom patterns are also available.

Cambridge offers various visual effects known as MeshFX to enhance Parkade metal fabric applications. For example, edge lighting may be used to illuminate a metal fabric clad parking structure at night, with light bouncing off the woven metal fabric to create a dramatic effect. Other options include the ability to wash a parking structure in spectrums of vibrant color, display animated graphics or even use the facade of a parking structure as an HDTV for broadcasting video or television commercials. Metal mesh panels also serve as a perfect backdrop for displaying corporate identity. Company logos or messages can be affixed to the

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metal mesh or even laser-etched directly into the surface. The possibilities for visually enhancing a Parkade metal fabric application are truly endless.

Cambridge maintains a fully staffed engineering department to assist with Parkade installation details, framing design and load characteristics. Experts are also always available to supervise an installation on site.

Dozens of Cambridge metal fabric clad parking structures throughout the United States and Canada exemplify the aesthetics and practicality of Cambridge's diverse Parkade product line. Visit www.cambridgeparkade.com to learn more.

Cambridge Architectural, the world's most experienced – and only full-service provider – of functional and visually intriguing metal fabric solutions for interior and exterior building applications welcomes highly challenging building projects, environments and budgets. Cambridge is the only building product manufacturer to offer full system design, engineering and collaboration from concept through installation. Cambridge metal fabric solutions are categorized by the primary application the solution serves. These include: Parkade, Facade, Solarscape, Space Sculpting, Landscape Interiors, MeshFX and Meshellaneous. For more information about Cambridge Architectural call 1-866-806-2385 or visit www.CambridgeArchitectural.com.

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