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Over 40 years of experience goes into every Cedar Forest Products structure. From pre-cut cedar buildings to shelters from both wood and steel. Bridges gazebos, and kiosks, CFP can assist in making any project a success.

Shade Structures

Shady Side of Guantanamo Bay

Sun Ports recently designed and constructed nearly 50 shade structures for 24 different U.S. Naval housing playgrounds on the island of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The attractive structures, both tensioned fabric and framed units, provide plenty of shade and range in size from 11 foot by 12 foot to Super Spans as large as 35 feet by 45 feet.

Sun Ports project/construction manager Mike Laney traveled to Cuba to ensure successful installation. "We shipped a great mix of shade structure styles for the different playgrounds and locations," explains Laney.

The two main goals were to protect the playgrounds from the harmful rays of the sun and to spruce up the playgrounds.

"I really think we accomplished both. The variety of structures is aesthetically pleasing, providing ample shade for kids to play safely under the sun."

According to Sun Ports, unprotected playground equipment can get too hot to touch during the summer months, which can lead to children and adults being severely burned.

"Fabric Structures do something solid-roofed structures cannot — they breathe. Fabric is permeable so as hot air rises through it, it creates a movement of air that reduces the temperatures beneath the structures by as much as 15 degrees."

"Fabric architecture pioneered in Australia and South Africa as many as 40 years ago, creates a natural air-conditioning system for brutal climates," says Basil Haymann, chairman and C.E.O. of USA SHADE & Fabric Structures (which includes the Sun Ports, Shade Structures and FabriTec Structures brands).

An additional benefit to adding a sun safe shade structure to a facility is the aesthetic quality it provides, says Sun Ports.

"Fabric shade structures can be designed in a variety of shapes and sizes. Tensioned fabric can be twisted, overlapped and angled into a virtually limitless array of forms and color combinations. A number of overlapping sails can create an attractive accent and shaded shelter around playgrounds and parks.

"Innovative custom designs are now possible because of advances in fabric architecture. Increased style options from which to choose has led to choosier buyers. Styles are expected to become more and more distinctive as facilities, such as playground operators, try to create an image they want to project. It's about setting the facility apart while providing a sun-safe play environment."

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Shade structures at a playground at naval base housing at Guantanamo Bay, one of nearly 50 installed on base.