

Memphis' Parasol Awnings Wins Two SWIFA Awards

Memphis awning and canopy maker Parasol Awnings recently took first place honors for “new and unusual” and “industrial applications” at the annual convention for the Southwest Industrial Fabrics Association.

The winning project for “new and unusual” is the Family Home Health Agency’s new headquarters, highly visible from Lamar Avenue and Interstate 240. The building’s plan had so many different components that each one had a different name.

The “wave” wraps around the building, sheltering walkways and creating visual interest. The “eyebrows” are three interlocking canopies that provide shelter from sun and rain to provide a breezy yet protected outdoor area for employees. The smoking area in the rear of the building is also protected by an awning.

Curved awnings over the windows use a perforated fabric that filters the sun, reducing solar heat gain and preventing glare for employees. At the top of the building is a back-lit canopy for signage so people can easily identify the building as the headquarters for the Family Home Health Agency.

In the “industrial applications” category, Parasol Awnings was recognized for developing a custom canopy to protect Ergon’s outdoor control panels from wind, rain and the afternoon sun.

Parasol erected a four-sided-box around the control panels with enough room for the operator. The side facing west has an opaque door and the other three walls are clear plastic. The all-weather structure includes a black roof with the Ergon logo above the door.

“These SWIFA Awards reaffirm that what we’re doing is creative and innovative in our industry,” owner of Parasol Awnings [Michael Folk](#) said in a statement. “We’re good at tackling challenging situations, such as a complex design or an unusual application, because of our mix of engineering and business experience.”

Parasol Awnings is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. It is the Mid-South’s largest manufacturer of canopies and awnings.

– Sarah Baker