Other Fabric Structures

Architects, engineers and building owners are turning increasingly to fabric structures because of their aesthetic appeal, relatively low initial cost, low maintenance outlays, energy efficiency and good space utilization. On these pages are examples of U.S. structures whose roof coverings are made of Teflon-coated Fiberglas fabric. Some, like the Haj Terminal, are tension structures supported by a network of cables and pylons; others are supported by air pressure within an enclosed, inflated fabric envelope.

Above is Bullock's Department Store, San Jose, California, which has an 18,000 square foot light-transmitting fabric roof covering the center third of...
the store's upper level. At center on the opposite page is Sea World's Florida Festival in Orlando, a showcase for Florida's natural and man-made products. Below it is the University of South Dakota's DakotaDome at Vermillion, a physical education and student recreation center. Above is a similar facility—called the Sun Dome—at the University of South Florida, Tampa. Perhaps the best known of all fabric structures, by virtue of its television exposure, is the Pontiac, Michigan, home of the National Football League's Detroit Lions, the Silverdome (below).