



## HADDAD RIVERFRONT PARK

CHARLESTON, WV

**SCOPE**  
Performance Stage  
Retractable Canopy  
Pavilion  
New Construction

**COST**  
\$2.9 million

**STATUS**  
Completed in 2009

Haddad Riverfront Park was built in 1993 as a 36,000 square foot concrete amphitheater on the banks of the Kanawha River in downtown Charleston, WV. It is a regional gathering place for people to celebrate holidays and city festivals, listen to music and enjoy watching the river traffic. In 2008, the team at Silling was hired by the City of Charleston to address five separate projects: a shade structure (canopy) for the center section of seating, a permanent performance stage, a pavilion, streetscape and boat docks.

The primary design objectives of the canopy were to create a unique and iconic structure celebrating Charleston's "front porch", to provide shade for people and amphitheater surface keeping the concrete cool, and the canopy was required to allow unobstructed views of the sky for viewing fireworks during city festivals and holidays. A tensile fabric and steel structure was designed for its ability for long spans with a single large fabric panel to retract toward and away from the stage.

The performance stage provides an intimate connection between audience and performers—both on land and in the water, to honor the long history of this place as a river port going back to the mid-nineteenth century, to be easily maintained after occasional floods, and accommodate the Charleston Symphony Orchestra.

The Court Street Pavilion provide a primary visual connection of the park to downtown, to create a community pavilion for recreation, lunches, gathering space and informal street level performances. Court Street is the main north/south street running from the western edge of the park through Charleston's downtown. The technology offers a great deal of form making freedom and expression, and the Pavilion is as sculptural as it is functional.

**AWARDS:**  
AIA WV Honor Award for Excellence in Architecture

