

SILVER DRACHE

CASE STUDY

 **EQUESTRIAN
APPLICATIONS**



SILVER DRACHE FARM is a private equestrian facility used to train and board dressage horses in Palm City, Florida. The highly trained horses require daily exercise – which is not always possible with an outdoor arena. “The type of training that we do would require us to be in the sun for an extended period of time,” said Andrea Eppley, owner of Silver Drache Farm LLC. “In south Florida that’s just not practical.”

In addition to intense heat and sunlight, the farm also experiences torrential downpours – sometimes receiving several inches of rain in an hour. The Eppleys knew they needed a roof-only structure, which would provide shade and protection from the elements while allowing for ventilation and a more natural feel inside the arena.

BUILDING NAME

Silver Drache

LOCATION

Palm City, FL

SIZE

**100 ft x 220 ft
22,000 sq ft**

MARKET SECTOR

Equestrian

APPLICATION

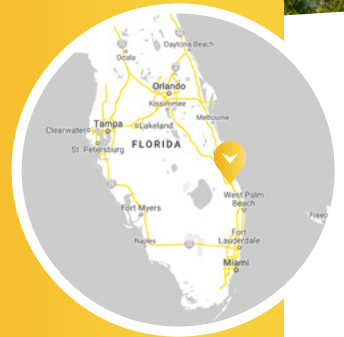
Riding arena

SPECIAL FEATURES

Roof-only shade structure

INSTALLATION

Legacy in-house crews





During the initial planning phase of the project, the Eppleys considered both steel and fabric buildings. Familiar with the hoop-style fabric buildings common in the equestrian industry, they were looking for another option. “We live on the farm, so the arena needed to match the aesthetics of the house and stabling,” said Andrea. “When I saw that Legacy buildings have a peaked roof that blends in with other buildings, I was intrigued.” In addition to the traditional look of a steel-framed building, the Eppleys were able to choose from five standard colors of ExxoTec™ PVC fabric, which gave the arena a one-of-a-kind look that blended in with other buildings on site.

With experience completing several building construction projects in multiple states, the Eppleys have learned to ask questions relating to the longevity of the company, as well as their experience with similar projects. “Legacy presented as a stable company that was able to meet our specification,” said Andrea. “Everyone met the deadlines, everything happened on budget, there were no surprises. Because the crew was dedicated and specialized, it worked brilliantly.”

Legacy crews installed the arena, which is 100 feet wide by 220 feet long. Rather than purlins or cross-bracing along the sidewalls, the team designed and installed a portal frame system, which maintains the

12-foot sidewall clearance necessary for horses and riders to enter and exit the arena through the sides.

The enclosed facility provides an ideal environment for daily training. “It’s allowed us to be open for business year-round, regardless of weather,” said Andrea. Keeping the arena under cover also protects the riding surface material, which helps keep the horses healthy. “Having the cover allows us to maintain the footing. When dealing with sport horses of this caliber, footing maintenance is a big consideration.”

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Choosing a fabric building also gave the trainers and horses at Silver Drache the opportunity to enjoy natural sunlight in a cooler, shaded environment. “It wasn’t comfortable to be out in the sun,” said Andrea. “Now we can practice and train anytime – it’s easily 10 degrees cooler inside. And we really love the fact that it’s much quieter than steel buildings, especially during rainstorms.”