

In the expectative of the Games of the XVIIth Olympiad in Rome 1960

E.U.R. OLYMPIC CENTRE

The modern EUR "Città-Parco", a sort of a "Garden-City", which is such a fascinating sight with its attractive white buildings of majestic appearance, will be an ideal place for a group of sport palaces. These have been purposely studied to meet requirements of the XVIIth Olympic Games and the ever increasing sporting needs of the Capital.

The idea of this monumental group started in 1935 as a result of the proposed Rome Universal Exhibition (EUR), and this important event had been named "The Olympiad of Civilization" but was more commonly known with the abbreviation "E. 42".

The plans for the "E. 42" originated from maps of Roman cities which, to this day, constitute the basic plans for all good urban maps. Preference was given to the creation of new large quarters, classic and modern in appearance, with the dual purpose of arranging this particular exhibition on the site, and later to utilize the buildings for a more suitable setting of cultural artistic and recreational institutes, i.e., after the closing down of the Exhibition. As early as 1935 energy directed to the completion of the first part of the work. The construction consisted of a solid framework of a permanent nature, utilizing both stone and marble.

Thus a very imposing group of work came to life. Wonderful buildings were erected. Among the most known are "The Congress Palace", "The Palace of Science", the "Palaces of Ancient Art", "Italian Civilization", and the "Palace of Popular Traditions". All these buildings are imposing because of their particular style and architecture and are now used as the setting for important associations, cultural institutes and museums.

The outbreak of the war put an end to the immediate necessity of making arrangements for the Exhibition: and prevented the completion of the new residential district. However, the work carried out was not totally lost and the initial programme was resumed immediately after the war. Most of this work has been executed in accordance with the plans for the new urban centre, and one of the most important reasons for this was to attract the people to the beach.

This interesting project is still underway. Buildings, villas, tree plots, stairways, porticos, terraces, exedras, parking spaces and

artistic fountains complete the modern monumental site of the EUR. It was created for the "Olympiad of Civilization" and work is now going ahead in order that this activity might be switched over to the XVII Olympic Games.

THE SPORTS PALACE

The Sports Palace will be built on the hillside which is flanked by the two roads of the Viale Cristoforo Colombo. This is an attractive building, circular in design, partially constructed of glass and surmounted by a spherical shaped dome.

This Palace has been studied by the Italian National Olympic Committee technicians not only from the point of view of its sport functions, i.e., for boxing matches, gymnastics, basketball matches, etc. It is desired that the Palace be suitable for other functions of an artistic and cultural nature. In view of this the building will be suitable for use as an auditorium, and the creators have therefore directed special attention to the sound-proof qualities of the building.

This original work will constitute the greatest attraction of the EUR Olympic Centre, particularly because the facilities will include large and airy gymnasiums, saloons and offices, and naturally all additional services for the competitors and the public.

An exceptionally large gallery, constructed in modern contemporary style, both practical and decorative, will surround the building. This gallery will be used for two purposes, i.e., to exhibit paintings, prints and drawings, etc., and also to provide a rendez-vous and amenities for the public during the intervals between the shows or sport events.

The height of the Sports Palace, from the games floor to the dome will be 32,5 metres; the external diameter 122, and the vault will have an internal diameter of 100 metres. The Palace will cover an area of 11,500 sq.m.

In addition to these fundamental technical data, the Palace have 25 large cloak-rooms complete with bathing facilities, showers and sauna baths.

There will be room for the accommodation of 16,000 people which should be sufficient for normal requirements. A modern air conditioning plan will be a further addition for the comfort of the public.

A large external Selector will facilitate the entrance and exit of the public along the road net which will branch off very near the Palace towards the "Cristoforo Colombo" principal artery, and towards the "Circonvallazione" of the EUR.

CYCLING GROUND

The cycling ground will be built at the extreme western limit of the EUR area and the beauty of the site will be enhanced by a green landscape-garden with ornamental trees.

Also for this important project, Italian National Olympic Committee has abandoned the idea of erecting temporary buildings, and will, in fact, construct buildings of permanent aspect. After the closure of the Olympiad these will serve to meet the desire of the Roman sporting world which will no longer be left without proper facilities in the cycling sphere.

These cycling grounds will be provided with the most modern technical equipment which has previously been tested for similar purposes. The wooden track will be 400 metres in length and inside this course there will be a grass field which should prove particularly useful for hockey and football matches.

The stands, with a seating capacity for 20,000 persons, will be placed along the large ring of steps which are to surround the track, and the central part of the grand stand will be sheltered by a bold projecting roof.

Just under the stands will be built the administration offices, press, telephone, radio-broadcasting rooms, etc. Modern electrical plants will provide daylight illumination for field matches.

South of the track and immediately beyond the cycling grounds, a building will be erected for the various services, and will occupy an area of 1,600 sq.m. It will be equipped with dressing rooms for athletes and competition judges, a gymnasium, workshops, warehouses and parking grounds for the Stayers' motor-cycles.

The track will be accessible from the athletes' service rooms through an underground and if desired it will be possible to cycle over this passage. Road racers will be able to reach the track through a special road network.

The cycling grounds will also be equipped with ample parking ground and they will be served by an efficient road network.

THE CONGRESS PALACE

The Olympic Fencing Tournament will be held at EUR in the Congress Palace, where

the 1955 world championship matches took place. This marble palace boasts many large halls and can offer the finest accommodation for fencing tournaments. Rest and writing rooms, comfortable dressing rooms, numerous showers, postal, telegraphic and banking services, will be available for competitors.

The availability of 9 to 12 platforms will enable fencing matches to be played simultaneously in the Reception Saloons, in the Aula Magna, (Assembly Hall) and in the Halls, etc.

Another group of platforms will be used for pentathlon fencing practice and for the training of competitors.

This white building which is divided into two parts, covers an area of more than 32,000 sq.m. The first part consists principally of a large square saloon 40 metres wide and 40 metres high, and perhaps its size can be conveyed more easily by saying that the Roman Pantheon would fit exactly into this large saloon.

The front of the building consists of a large colonnade of 14 granite columns about 12 metres high, with entrance halls and vestibules.

The second part of the building contains a hall with seating accommodation for 1,000 people, and five boxes for simultaneous transmission and one projection box. There are also two other halls each capable of accommodating 500 people, as well as several minor halls. The impressive height of the saloon with a colonnade about 80 metres high gives a tone of solemnity to the building. On the terrace an open-air theatre has been built, which will hold 1,400 people, from which it will be possible to view the whole area of the EUR site with the breath-taking panorama of the City enveloped by the surrounding Latium hills and the Thyrrhenian coast.

ROUTE OF THE MARATHON RACE

The route of the Marathon race — which also Mr. D. T. P. Pain, Hon. Secretary of I.A.A.F., during his recent visit to Rome, stated as excellent and very suggestive — will be the following : via Fori Imperiali - via dei Trionfi - viale delle Terme di Caracalla - viale Cristoforo Colombo up to km. 2,5 beyond the road ring network - return to the Road ring network - the road ring network - via Appia Antica - Piazzale Numa Pompilio - Viale delle Terme di Caracalla - Via dei Trionfi - Arco di Costantino (finishing line) ; kms. 42,195 altogether.

The competitors will assemble at the Piazzale del Campidoglio, dominated by the statue of the Emperor Marc' Aurelio. From there they will descend the imposing Campidoglio steps, from where the race will start.

A «VILLAGE» ON THE VIA AURELIA
FOR ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS

With a view to facilitating to the utmost the work of accredited journalists, and providing a most efficient information service, the Organizing Committee has decided to utilize a large and modern building, situated on the Via Aurelia, for those journalists who should desire to make it their residence.

The building which will be named "Press Village" has more or less the same distance from all the principal Olympic Centres. In fact, it is 6 km. away from the centre of the City, 9 km. from EUR (Olympic Centre south of Rome), 7 km. from the "Foro Italico" (Olympic Centre north of Rome) and approximately 27 km. from the basin of Lake Albano.

The Press Village will provide all services for accommodation and meals, and all necessary equipment so as to create the best working conditions for journalists. The Organizing Committee has deemed it essential to centralize all press services (telephone boxes, teleprinters plants, photographic services, cable room, PO boxes, posters, TV, typewriter pool, etc.). The decision was taken after the favourable view expressed by most of the national and international press to the questionnaire they had received relating to this problem.

However, it is emphasized that in every sport facilities where contests will take place during the Olympic events, there will be a press centre, where journalists will be able to receive informations and results pertaining to simultaneous outside events, and to telephone them to their appropriate editorial offices.