

## **OLYMPIC CENTRE OF « FORO ITALICO »**

The Foro Italico Olympic Centre stands in one of the most characteristic areas north of Rome between the wooded hills of Monte Mario and the Farnesina. This landscape is bounded on the eastern side by the Tiber, the square of Ponte Milvio, and the Via Cassia; on the northern and western sides, by the Via della Camilluccia, and by a part of the Via Trionfale.

These are bounds determined by old thoroughfares which bring back old memories linked with the history of Rome. This area, which, ever since the classical era, has been surrounded by important traffic routes, then indulged in complete agrestic peace amid the green beauty of the woods, and was a locality in demand for the wealthy homes of the patrician families.

During the Renaissance period the area is still a centre of splendour, particularly because of the villa that Cardinal Giulio de' Medici started to build for Pope Leo X. This task was entrusted to Raphael, Giovanni Battista and Antonio Sangallo, and Giulio Romano.

This villa, called "Villa Madama", has recently been restored and is a sumptuous abode encircled in its magnificent Ionic order and crowned by a perfect trabeation.

The "Foro Italico" stands in the centre of this harmonious and open landscape. The year 1928 saw the birth of a singular

theory of modern works intended to renew devotion to sport events. Later, also in view of the Olympic Games which should have been held in Rome in 1944, the "Stadio dei Cipressi" came to life. This was projected in a way to form a squeezed ovoid shape. The outbreak of war prevented the realization of these plans, but at last in December 1950, on the ruins of the "Stadio dei Cipressi" the enormous work was started for the realization of the Olympic Stadium which, because of its particular value, today is one of the most valid and vital sport works in the world.

### OLYMPIC STADIUM

The Olympic Stadium was built to offer the greatest functional facilities. Therefore, the technical and sporting equipment, the enormous facilities available to meet the requirements of so large an international group of people, and the matchless beauty of its surroundings, make it an ideal centre for the most important sporting event.

Without doubt it is the largest stadium in Italy and one of the largest in the world: it covers an area of more than 90,000 sq. metres, and its buildings cover 33,500 sq. metres; the outer selecting ring measures 1,300 metres. The total size of the steps,

which are all provided with wooden seats, exclusive of standing room, measures approximately 30 kms. When necessary, seating and standing accommodation can be provided for 100,000 people. Under the steps there are four other floors as follows :

the basement, provided with all services, at a level of 17.71, metres ;

the ground floor at a level of 21.90 metres ;

the first floor at a level of 26.05 metres ;

the second floor at a level of 30.15 metres.

The maximum level in relation to the playing field is 20.50 m.

The entrance to the Stadium for the public is through 10 groups of outside gates marked with capitals from A to L. The entrances to the steps are 66, numbered from 1 to 66 ; of these entrances are on flat ground ; 16 go down and 33 go up. It is estimated that the Stadium can be evacuated in 11 minutes' time.

The playing field and the track are separated from the public by a 2 metre ditch, which is 1.90 metre in depth and 507 metres in length.

The grass field, the track and the other installations for track events are provided with a special drainage plant which also works with the sub-irrigation method. Therefore the grounds and tracks, during the hot season, can be kept at the desired degree of dampness. Powerful and modern equipments are available which require a very short time for watering.

The football field is of international size, i.e., m. 105 x 70 which is a 3:2 relation and considered the best in so far as concerns techniques of the game.

Installations for track games include the following :

A 400 metre track with a straight course for 100 metres and 110 metres hurdle contest.

Double platforms for high jump, long jump, pole vault, hop, step and jump.

Double platforms for javelin, discus, weight, hammer.

Twelve groups of dressing rooms which can hold 1,500 athletes contemporaneously.

A thermic power station provided with 5 boilers, for a total of 1,200,000 calories, will heat the place and provide hot water for the various services.

The electric plant for lighting and motive power has a total capacity of 375,000 watts and has a principal distribution station and 11 substations. In addition, the Stadium has its own autonomous electric plant in case of emergencies. In addition to the electric power station, there is a telephone and radio central which is installed in the body of the tribune at Monte Mario.

The sector under the steps, in the area of the two curves, is day-lit so offers a

convenient shelter for the public and its easy movement. In the area toward Monte Mario, under the steps of the principal tribune, press services are organized in large saloons ; there are 54 telephone boxes for long distance calls within Italy and abroad, teletypewriters and telephotographic apparatus. Five hundred and seventy-two seats have been reserved for press representatives, 294 of which are under the projecting roof. However it is expected that it will be possible to seat all accredited pressmen who will arrive on the occasion of the Olympic Games.

At the top of the tribune there is a group of 42 boxes built in light alloy and glass where the Executives will be accommodated to watch the athletic games. Loudspeaker controls, photochronometric apparatus, will be located here and direct broadcasts will also be made here.

Special loud speakers installed in the safety ditch around the track ring, will keep the public informed and give the results of the games by broadcasting from the ground upwards. There will also be other very modern installations for keeping the public and the press informed of what is going on (large posters, radiotelephones, etc.)

#### MARBLE STADIUM

The "Stadio dei Marmi" has a decidedly severe perspective and is shaped like a Greek stadium. Perhaps the superb garland of the 60 statues which, at the top, encircles the glaxis of the stadium, has a classic Roman touch. More than the value of the individual statues, it was indeed an excellent idea to have these enormous white statues standing out in the sun against the dark green of the Monte Mario cypress trees.

The flight of stairs, composed of 10 large steps, are continuous, except for two breaks. They cover a total of 5,000 sq. metres and can hold about 20,000 spectators.

The blocks of Lunense marble, shaped into a huge point, form the entire structure of the steps, give the construction a noble effect, and justify the appellation of "Stadio dei Marmi". The 60 statues, which are four metres in height, are of the same marble. They are placed on cylindrical plinths of a 2 metre diameter and a 1.20 metre height.

Services, dressing-rooms, and warehouses are in the two buildings at the sides of the entrance.

The agonistic field, which has a grass field covering 14,000 sq. metres, according to the two principal axes, measures 203 metres and 83 metres respectively.

The foot track, the platforms for competitions, and the grass field itself will be completely renewed and will have the same technical and other characteristics of the Olympic Stadium installations.

The track will be 400 metres in length and will have 6 regular courses. The large field inside the track will be utilized for performance of part of the hockey tournament matches.

At the "Stadio dei Marmi" athletes will have a chance to "warm up" before their turn comes and they will be able to reach the "Olympic" track through an easy and large subway.

In the immediate vicinity of the "Stadio dei Marmi" and of the Olympic Stadium, a special sector will be built which will be reserved for hammer throwers during the training period.

#### SWIMMING STADIUM

The swimming stadium will be erected at the Foro Italicò Olympic Centre, near the covered swimming pool to which it will be connected by means of a large underground tunnel. The project for the new stadium includes a series of adjoining pools of different size and depth. The Olympic swimming pools will be very effective: the swimming pool will measure 25 x 50 metres, and its depth will be 1.80 to 2.0 metres. The diving pool will measure 18 x 18 metres and have a depth of 5 metres, with two platforms of 5 and 10 metres and springboards of 1 metre and 3 metres.

Two other pools will be built for the "Swimming School", one of which will be 25 x 12.50 metres with a depth of 1.20 to 1.40, and the other 4 x 12.50 metres, with a depth of 0.90 to 1.00 metre which will be reserved for beginners.

The Olympic pools and those of the Swimming School will be able to be observed perimeter-wise; they will be furnished with underwater lighting and there will be crystal openings for observation of the swimmer's underwater movements. By means of special technical devices the temperature of the water will be maintained between 23 and 24 degrees centigrade.

A suitable arrangement of steps will provide normal accommodation for 8,000 people, but during the XVIIth Olympic Games meeting, the swimming stadium will easily accommodate 20,000 people as temporary steps can be added.

Near the Olympic pools comfortable dressing-rooms will be built, with normal services and also a few resting-rooms which will be reserved for the athletes.

In the terminal area of the Olympic pools there will be large rooms for the press, for telephone and telegraphic services, proper facilities will be installed for radio reporters, for transmission of telephotos, for TV work, and proper offices will be organized for chronometric timers, directors and judges of the contests and for the jury.

In a building to be erected between the Olympic pools and the pools of the Swimming School, two large luncheonette bars will be built where hot meals will be served. One of these will have a large open space which will be reserved for swimmers and the other which will be completely separate from the former, will be reserved for the public which will also be allowed to use a large terrace with a panoramic view. At the sides of the above there will be the dressing-rooms for Swimming School people, the engine-room and a large warehouse. This plant, which will have a large solarium, with 150 dressing-rooms in rotation, will be open to the public (except on days during which there are sport events) and there will be room for about 3,000 bathers.

The covered pool already in existence, during the Olympic Games will be reserved for athletes who may wish to utilize it for training purposes, and above all for competitors who wish to "warm up" immediately before their turn arrives. This pool, which is in a large room, 62 x 36 metres, with a flat ceiling, is lit through a glass wall which goes from the floor to the ceiling. On the opposite side, in a six-order arrangement, there are large steps for the public who can also utilize a nice balcony communicating directly with a lone saloon, which can be used for a meeting place. The bath, which measures 50 x 18 metres, with a depth which varies from 1.40 to 5 metres, is covered with marble slabs of the Lunense quality and with white and blue marble. The free space, around the bath has a mosaic floor of black and white marble decorated with aquatic figures. The wall is also covered with marble mosaic and decorated at the top by mythological scenes in coloured mosaic.

From the city it is possible to reach the Foro Italicò Olympic Centre through the three important thoroughfares from Via Flaminia up to Ponte Milvio, from Lungotevere Flaminio up to Ponte Duca d'Aoste and from Viale Angelico.

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In a few other areas, near the Foro Italicò Olympic Centre, the following will be erected: the Palazzetto dello Sport, the construction of which is well underway and which is an original piece of work; the "Stadio Tiziano", the shooting range, the grounds for clay pigeon shooting, pools, gymns, and playing grounds.

At the EUR Olympic Centre, south-west of Rome, the "Palazzo dello Sport", the "Velodromo (cycling ground) and also other minor plants will be built. In fact, while work is being done in preparing projects, and in building large constructions, Italian National Olympic Committee's programme to complete the buildings which exist and to perfect minor plants, which are considered essential in relation to the "Olympic idea" and for the formation and

preparation of the athletes, is no less important. During the period of the Games of the XVII Olympiad these subsidiary plants, which will be near the large plants to be used for the contests, will be available to the athletes for daily training.

#### TIZIANO SPORTING AREA

Quite near to the Olympic Centre at the "Foro Italico", lies the new and most up-to-date sporting area called "Tiziano".

The north-west large area in the Flaminio district is known by the name of "Parioli Grounds". They stretch as far as the foot of the same small and historical upland and, are bounded on three sides by the "Acqua Acetosa", "Tiziano", and "Pilsudski" Avenues.

The "Palazzetto dello Sport" is located here. It is the most recent building in concrete-cement made of original and bold architectural designs. On the same way about half way down the Avenue is situated the "Tiziano Stadium" which has always been destined for soccer games, not only for the Olympic occasion but, particularly for the pressing needs of the City itself. Close to it are the tennisgrounds belonging to the "Club Tennis Parioli", known for her long-lived bright sport-activity.

#### SMALL SPORTS PALACE

On October 1, 1957 last, the Italian Prime Minister accompanied by the chief Government and Sport Authorities attended the opening of the "Palazzetto dello Sport" in a real impressive ceremony.

The Italian National Olympic Committee has personally seen to the construction of this sporting facility.

It has been a general project first by the Italian architect Annibale Vitelozzi, though the concrete-cement scheme was made out by Engineer Mr. P.L.Nervi and by Eng. Annibale Vitelozzi.

This sporting-facility specially built for all the events which take place inside can be regarded as a prototype of the real middle-sized and economical "Palazzo dello Sport". Though it has been planned together with all the other sport facilities for the XVII Olympiad, it has mainly been conceived as to rouse more excitement and popularity among the amateur sports.

The seating capacity is of 5000 people during boxing and wrestling events and of 4000 spectators at the time of basket-ball fencing gymnastics and tennis competitions.

In pursuance of this object and in order to manage it properly so as to make a better and more ample use of the "Palazzetto" for the publicity events, facilities and accessories

are strictly limited to a minimum and, all the inner and outer finishings though rational they are of an economical kind still.

The whole sporting-facility extends over a surface of 4,776 square metres having a cubic space of 40,200.

It is of a round-shaped diameter of 78 metres and, is covered by a spherical dome as a vaulted roof consisting of 1,620 concrete-cement prefabricated sections.

1,300 quintals of iron of which 500 quintals for the groined-vaulted roof only, and 9,600 quintals of cement for the execution of the structures in concrete-cement were needed.

The inner hall diameter is of 58.50 metres and is 21 metres high from the playing-ground as far as the summit of the roofing.

The grand-stand staircase seats are arranged in a "crescent" way so that the playing-ground appear as oval-like being its level 3 metres below the field-surface.

In the perimeter-circle besides the spectators' conveniences i.e. bars, hygienic installations, a first-aid station etc., 4 groups of cloak-rooms or cabins for undressing, suitable for 100 athletes having a separate entrance a cosy dressing-hall for referees and umpires, one cloak-room for doctors, a manager's office and a small press-hall for the news-reporters equipped with telephones are found.

Along the same perimeter-circle are located the lodging of the keeper, two depots, and the power-cabin for the lighting installation.

On the basement are situated the central heating and the cooling of air-conditioning installations.

The lighting system of the main hall has been fitted on by means of incandescent gas lamps aligned over 18 metallic arched roofs supported by tight wire-ropes in steel. On the contrary the lighting of the playing-ground is arranged by search-lights fixed high up on the top, in the middle of the spherical dome, which can be regulated according to the scheduled sport-event.

Under the same dome are fitted a smoke-remover contrivance and the loud-speakers which are operated through a sounding installation right from the summit., while other smaller loud-speakers for calling the athletes are fitted in their own undressing-rooms.

Outside the building the spaces between the supporting pilasters of the roofing are arranged as bed-flowers like a garden, and round the whole building is a road belt of 18 metres diameter as to ensure an easy and comfortable way in and out to the visitors.

The Commune of Rome, whose ground this building has been erected on, has besides personally attended as to the roads, gardens, lighting installation outside the building including the mains and the laying under the ground of the electricity cables.

Panels for signalling electrically together with synchronizing chronometers connected with the ones of the game-judges have been specially installed for basket-ball matches. The very same panels can, by replacing distinct contrivances, be used for the tennis sets and other sport. events.

During the boxing matches, a particular chronometer placed above the ring and therefore visible to all spectators, signals and checks the time of each single round.

A similar time-keeper for the wrestling-matches has been installed as well.

Careful examination has been devoted as to the seats arrangements on the ground-floor in the stalls or nit when boxing, basket-ball, tennis, fencing; and wrestling matches take place.

The construction of this sport-facility was begun on 26th July 1956 and was completed by the 15th September 1957, thus bringing to 28,750 the full number of working-days.

The total amount of sums spent has been of 236 million Lire that is including the technological installations, loud-speakers, signaling panels, electrically operated chronometers furniture, bars, various outfits, dressing rooms, offices, ring-seats and a number of sporting-equipment etc.

#### TIZIANO STADIUM

This new-built Stadium, whose works are still under way, is going to be erected exactly in the same area of the former "Torino Stadium".

This old but still glorious Stadium, once remarkable for her severe architectural shape and for her Hellenic art lines, has now been entirely pulled down.

It was constructed in 1911 and though re-built in 1927 it was already at that time regarded as out of date and unfit since it had evidently been worn out through the time and chiefly by the numerous chacks so severe as to compel the authorities to restrict its use for safety reasons.

Now this old Stadium, being her long age over, has given way to the present and extremely modern sport-facility.

The memory of this old Stadium will always be vivid in the minds of all those people who still remember and recollect the most sensational sport events which were held within her high and stern wall boundary.

She was then the official seat of the Italian National Olympic Committee.

The remembrances of the most-outstanding star-cyclists racing for the world track championships, the great excitement of the mob rejoicing for their Country-team in the

Final victory at the end of a Cup Football World Championship will long be lived.

The latest "Tiziano Stadium" will be able through her most modern innovations, her conveniences for the visitors and for the press to provide all the needs by offering therefore an agreeable environment expected to be found in a building where fittings and comforts with every kind of functioning services are required.

On the 1st of July 1957 the demolition of the old Stadium and the reconstruction work of this new sporting-facility was started.

The new building planned and constructed by both architects Siggri Pier Luigi e Antonio Nervi will, owing to Town-Planning reasons, cover the same area previously used by the old Stadium.

Within the limits therefore of the cleared available area it has been able thanks to a 6 metres high erection to build an almost double seat-capacity grand-stand in comparison with the preceding one.

This new Stadium will in this way be in a position to seat over 55,000 people, of whom 8,000 people indoors.

Appropriate outer entrances and exits will regulate the flow of visitors. Every single space reserved to the spectators is to provide with bar or cafeteria facilities including all the other necessary conveniences.

Vast dressing or cloak-rooms for the football teams, equipped with showers, baths, massages rooms, a medical inspection and consulting rooms etc., are all going to be situated just below the grand-stand. The players can, in this way, reach the field-sports through an underground passage.

Though the Stadium is mainly intended for the football matches, several are the training-facilities for physical exercises arranged below the grand-stand with single separate entrances as to prevent their interfering by the crowding of spectators particularly at soccer-games.

Said facilities include : a covered heated indoor swimming-pool measuring 25 metres in length and 10 metres in breadth ; a gymnasium: a large spacious fencing-hall with two close-small schooling and training rooms ; a group of two gymnasium destined for the athletics (wrestling and weight-lifting) and a gymnasium for boxing.

Modern hygienic services such as baths, showers and saunas etc., are provided for all these sporting-facilities.

#### SPORT-FACILITIES PLANNED AT NAPLES FOR THE YACHTING EVENTS

The regattas set forth in the programme for the Games of the XVII Olympiad will take place, as already known, in the near waters of Naples gulf, and namely in the area facing Santa Lucia.

In order to offer a secure anchorage and protection both to the racing-boats taking part at the Olympiads and to the visitors ones, which will, as in the previous Olympiads, flock to the city where the Olympic Games are to the Ministry of Public Works, in agreement with Italian National Olympic Committee and through these are of a technical and economical aspect they are all intended to improve the space capacity of the little basins round Naples.

Lately the Ministry of Public Works, with funds contributed by Italian National Olympic Committee has decided to enlarge and to render more efficient and secure the four little harbours : Molosiglio, Santa Lucia, Mergellina and Posillipo.

As to Molosiglio, the appropriate scheme has recently had its approval by the Superior Council of the Public Works Department.

The same project includes the forward shifting of the existing group of slab rocks, the building of the quay ending in a rockwall manner as to reduce the overflowing force of waves. This would be arranged in two arms. measuring in the whole 225 metres in length.; the erection of a smaller quay for breaking the ebb movement below the wave measuring 45 metres.

This would be constructed in a parallel line to the group of rocks of S. Vincenzo quay. Lastly closely to the breakwater a pier measuring 175 metres with ample archways below is being built as to enable a perfect and save berthing to the Olympic boats which will gather at Molosiglio.

Their respective crews will besides find a complete and well-known hospitality by the *Naples Canoeing Club*, an outside building close by.