

# Equipment

\* The official body of the International Working Group for Construction of Sports Facilities, "I.A.K.S.", has sent us edition no. 6 of its review, "Sports Facilities and Swimming Pools", from which we are printing the contents:

- Central Sports Facilities in Munich Oberwiesefeld.
- Hanover Stadionbad.
- A new Combination with Interesting Possibilities of Exploitation.
- East Kiel Indoor Swimming Pool.
- Research Project on "Sports Ground Surfaces".
- 3rd International Seminar on "Sports Leisure Time Activities" and 10th Meeting of the UIA Working Group for "Sport Leisure".

\* The German review "Sport-Baderbauten" (Sports and Aquatic Buildings) has published several interesting articles in its edition no. 6. One study worth noting is devoted to the requirements of the public in the erection of swimming pools. It seems that when constructing an indoor pool, space must be provided for toddlers, non-swimmers and divers as well as provision for auxiliary installations (sauna). These findings are

the result of sociological research, which has shown that the considerable reduction of hours, changes in living habits and the general recognition of the value of sport have all completely changed the requirements in the field of recreation, games and sports establishments.

## Hong Kong Swimming Pool Complexes

\* Within a period of less than one year, from December, 1970 to October, 1971, three large new swimming pools of a new type have been opened in Hong Kong: at Morse Park, Kwun Tong and Lei Cheng Uk. Set amid densely populated low-rental Government housing estates in Kowloon, these pools, known as "*district complexes*", have a catchment area within easy walking distance of several hundred thousand people.

The three pools are of similar pattern and were designed by the Government's Public Works Department. The cost, altogether in the region of HK\$15 million (£1 million sterling; US\$2.6 million), has been donated by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, and the pools are

managed by the Government's Urban Services Department under the direction of the Urban Council.

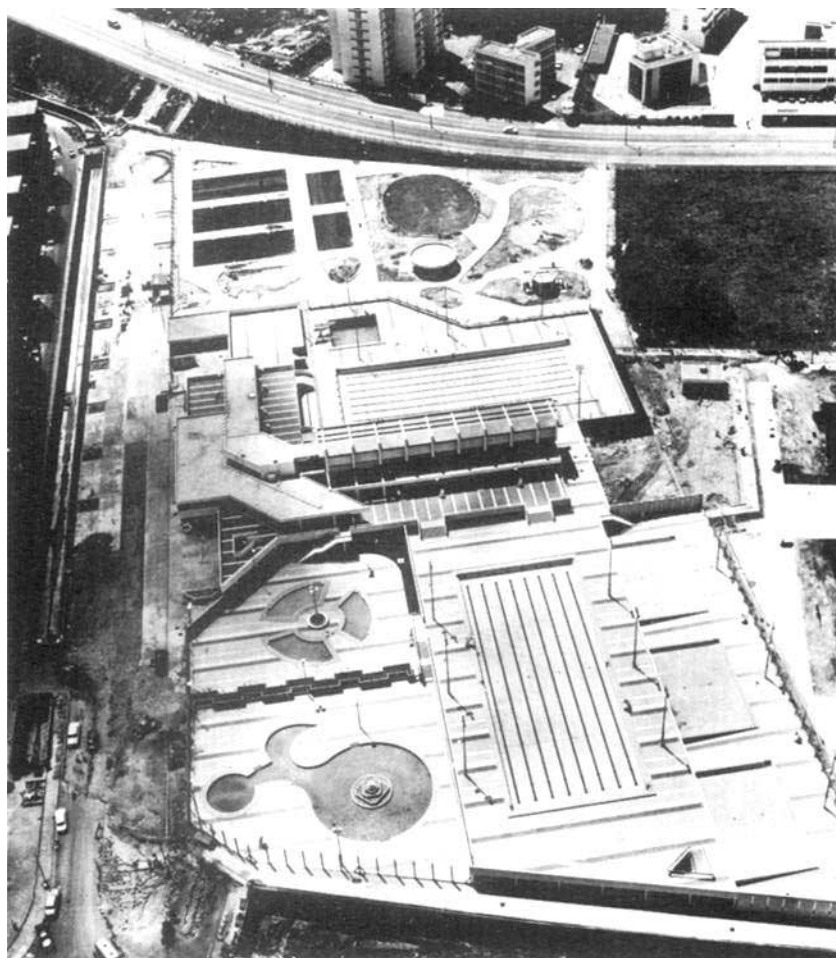
Each complex consists of an L-shaped block housing a roofed spectator stand seating about 800 people; a café serving light refreshments, with separate sections for swimmers and non-swimmers; administrative office, store-room, etc; "wet" and "dry" (before and after swimming) changing rooms capable of storing the clothes of up to 5,000 swimmers at any one time; lavatories, showers and wash-basins. The filtration plant is housed in a separate building. Surrounding the main block on three sides are the pools themselves - a main pool measuring 50 x 21 metres, with a depth ranging from 1.37 metres to 1.98 metres; a secondary pool of 50 x 20 metres with a depth ranging from 1.06 metres to 1.37 metres; a diving pool 11.27 metres by 9.75 metres and 3.60 metres deep, with boards at 1 and 3 metres; three teaching pools of 18.28 by 12.10 metres; a play area 0.15 metres deep for children over 7 years of age; and a paddling pool of the same depth for infants.

Either fresh or salt water can be used, and the filtration plant can treat some 195,000 gallons of water per hour. The water is maintained in accordance with the standards recommended by the British Ministry of Health. Testing of the chlorine content and pH value

is carried out on the spot twice daily. While water samples are sent for chemical and bacteriological analysis once a month.

This diversity of pools permits a wide range of functions to be carried out simultaneously without interference with each other. For example, if the main pool has been the subject of an exclusive booking by a school or sports organisation for a swimming gala, then the secondary pool is available for swimming by members of the general public. Likewise, the existence of separate teaching and diving pools means that these pursuits can be carried out without hampering whatever activities are going on in the main and secondary pools. The paddling pool is served by a separate entrance, and admission for young children and accompanying adults is free.

The pools are unheated and the normal swimming season in Hong Kong is from 1st March to 30th November. However, at least one of the complexes remains open during the winter to cater for the hardier swimmers. Morse Park pool, the only one of the trio to have been in operation for a full season, attracted some 637,338 persons during the 1971 season, an average of 2,076 a day. Of this total, 25,113 were children and their teachers using the teaching pools, which were booked for 2,053 hours during the season.



*Kwun Tong Swimming Pool Complex and part of adjoining recreation ground.*

Each complex covers about 4 acres and two of the three are set in sizeable recreation grounds, so that it is possible within a small compass to combine swimming with other forms of active recreation. The complexes each have a staff of 78, divided into two shifts, of whom 42 are permanent and 36 part-time. 24 of these are lifeguards who are supplemented at peak periods of the season by additional volunteer lifeguards.

The opening of these complexes has had a considerable impact on the local swimming scene. Plentifully supplied with easily reached beaches (there are 37 officially-maintained beaches on Hong Kong Island and in the New Territories), the Colony has for many years been woefully short of public swimming pools although there are a number of private clubs with their own pools not available for public use. Before the end of 1970, there was only one public pool of Olympic dimensions on Hong Kong Island, with a capacity of 1,500 and one in Kowloon, able to accommodate about 2,000 persons. Within a year, the three complexes (24 pools of various sizes) have added a capacity of another 15,000. Within another year, it is expected that a further two pool complexes will be completed on Hong Kong Island; because of the scarcity of available land they will be smaller than the three now in use, but there will be a heated pool, the first one in their sub-tropical climate. Beyond this, there are

plans for another three pools in Kowloon (one of them heated), one in Hong Kong, and three in the New Territories, making another seven in all. Some of these will be of the full complex design while others, because of relatively small catchment areas or sites available, will be smaller in number of pools. The years 1970-1972 will be memorable ones for Hong Kong swimmers because, side by side with the construction of such pools, there is a programme for the improvement of amenities at the existing public beaches, such as the provision of changing-rooms, showers, refreshment kiosks, barbecue pits, etc., and the development of new beaches in outlying areas.

### Resolution passed by the Working Commission "Sports and Leisure" of the International Architects' Union

\* During its Xth Session, the Working Group, "Sports and Leisure" of the International Architects' Union, following the suggestion of one of its members, Mr. Dagoberto

ORTENSI, unanimously decided to adopt the resolution of the I.A.K.S.; taken on 4th September in Helsinki.

Here is the text:

1. It is urgently needed for all national and international organisations interested in sports, to use their influence so as to ensure positive and economically reasonable progress in the construction of sports facilities.

2. All kinds and categories of sports federations, as well as their technical committees, are urgently asked to make any dimensional changes involving the modification of surfaces or buildings, only if these are really imperative and only after a thorough study of the question.

The Working Group is ready to offer its help in a consultative capacity to all the interested responsible organisations.

