

# Maisonneuve sports park, the sports complex for the Games of the XXIst Olympiad in Montreal 1976

*On 6th April, 1971, Mr. Jean DRAPEAU, Mayor of Montreal, unveiled the plaque in the stadium, which will be used for the 1976 Olympic Games. We are publishing here the main features of these installations, which will form a unique sports complex in the Maisonneuve Park.*

## LOCATION

In Maisonneuve Park, whose total area is 22 million square feet (225 hectares), are located the Sports Park with an area of close to 5 million square feet (50 hectares), the municipal golf course and the Montreal Botanical Gardens.

The Sports Park is included within the quadrilateral bounded by Sherbrooke, Pie IX, Boyce and Viau.

## Public Transportation:

The area is served by two Metro stations, one at the intersection of Pie IX Boulevard and Boyce Street and the other at the intersection of Viau and Boyce Streets. These two stations allow pedestrians to go from the Metro to the Stadium and to the other Sports Park installations, without having to set foot outside.

## Parking:

Parking areas are covered, laid out in the form of hanging

gardens, on various levels, and provide direct access to the stadium and other installations within the Sports Park, without there being any need for users to set foot outside. There is the capacity for 5,000 automobiles, and parking for 300 long-distance buses and another parking area for the buses of the Montreal Urban Community Transit Commission.

## THE STADIUM

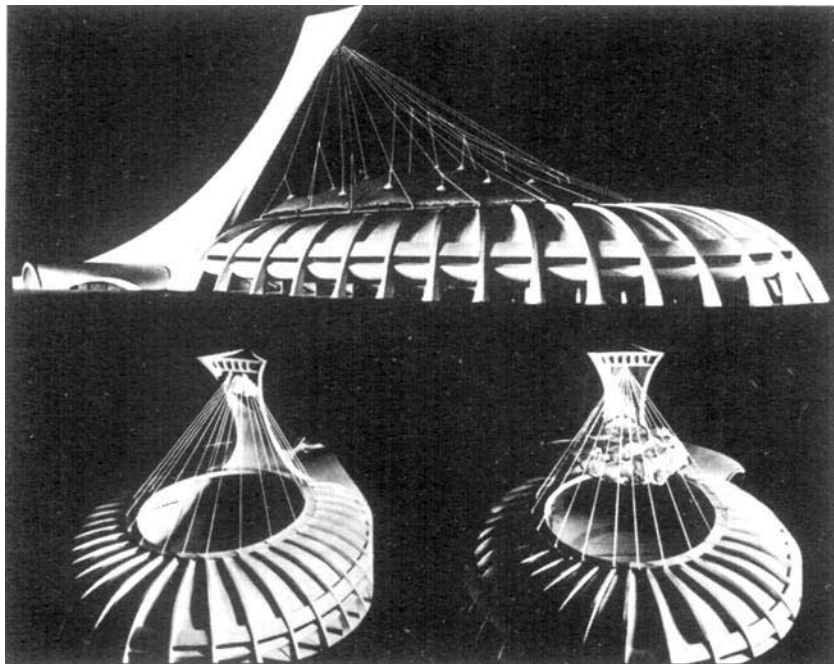
It is on this site that the 50,000 seat Stadium will be erected, designed and built in accordance with the requirements of the International Olympic Federations and also, with those of North American professional sports: baseball, football, soccer. It will also be suitable for any other events which necessitate a very large audience.

For the 1976 Olympic Games, the capacity of this Stadium will be raised to 70,000 seats through the addition of 20,000 temporary units.

## Roof:

The 50,000 seats are all permanently covered.

A movable, 200,000 square feet (20,000 square metres) membrane allows mechanical covering or uncovering of the entire playing area within twenty minutes.



*Scale model of the stadium which was unveiled by Mr. Jean DRAPEAU, Mayor of Montreal, at an international press conference held in Montreal on 6th April, 1972. This proposed stadium will be used for the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal and, afterwards, for baseball, football and soccer games as well as for other major sports events.*

Equipment:

So that the best possible use may be made of all seats, 5,000 of them can be moved quickly, as need be, in keeping with the geometric pattern required either for athletics or for a sport (baseball, football, etc.).

Lighting is recessed in the string-course around the elliptical ring of open area. Light intensity is such as to meet the basic requirements of colour T.V. networks.

The sound equipment is scientifically built into the structure itself.

Vertical access is assured by escalators around the entire perimeter of the Stadium.

Generating sets assure the Stadium total independent permanent lighting facilities.

A closed-circuit television network is provided, with large-screen projection in the Stadium and in the lobbies.

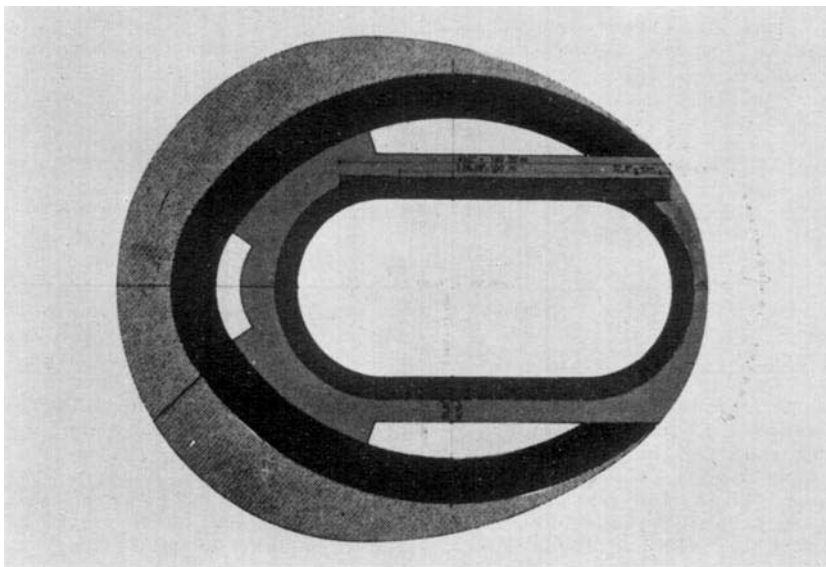
#### SWIMMING CENTRE

The main building, of which the Stadium is the major element, also includes:

- a swimming pool divided into two pools;
- a warm-up and training pool also divided into two pools;
- a diving pool for international competitions, 45 feet deep to allow for underwater training purposes;
- a wading pool for small children.

Permanent stands with a 1,500 seat capacity to be raised to 7,000 for the Olympic Games through the addition of 5,500 temporary units.

Also included are cloak-rooms, snack-bars, restaurants, washrooms, rooms for adminis-



*Plan of the Olympic Stadium*

trative and technical services, massage and sauna rooms, a day nursery and press rooms (written and audio-visual).

#### VELODROME

The standard 285.714 metre track is linked to the Stadium. Its design provides for it being completely covered after the 1976 Olympic Games. Within the track, it will be possible to install various facilities in accordance with decisions taken following the 1976 Games: tennis, skating rink, hockey, track, indoor athletics, etc.

The capacity is 7,000 permanent units, of which 1,500 are standing-room. Cloakrooms, restaurants, snack-bars, wash-rooms, press rooms and rooms to be used for administrative and technical services are also included.

#### OUTSIDE LAYOUT

The following are also planned: 12 outdoor tennis courts, areas for throwing games (discus, javelin, hammer, shotput) and for jumping, a 400 metre athletic track, a football field provided within the track.

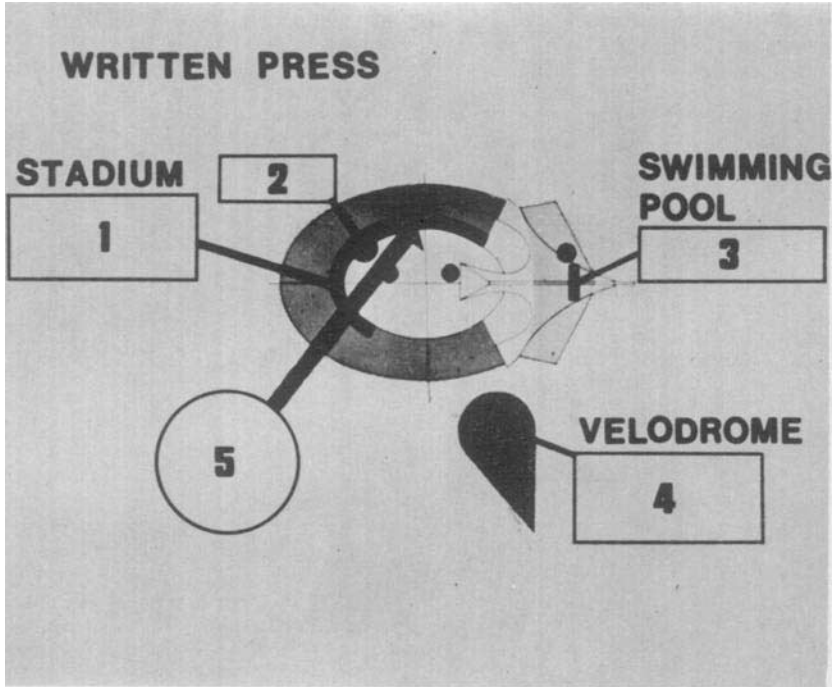
#### FREE SPACE

In the Stadium, there are no less than 40 snack-bars, 30 washrooms, some ten souvenir shops and large lobbies.

In addition, a floor area covering 360,000 square feet (3,600 square metres) is suitable for use as a sports museum, offices, gymnasiums, arenas, play and training rooms, high-quality restaurants and, because of the extensive space involved, for conventions or other meetings.

Inside the supporting column from which the covering membrane hangs, a floor area covering some 100,000 square feet (10,000 square metres) is available, distributed over 16 levels, providing 2 million cubic feet of interior volume. The 100,000 square feet (10,000 square metres) surface is divided in areas of various sizes running from 1,800 square feet (180 square metres) to 18,000 square feet (1,800 square metres), with heights varying between 9 and 30 feet (3 and 10 metres).

All these interior spaces and volumes can be used for the installation of the equipment needed for all indoor sports and exercises, specifically: athletics, gymnastics, badminton, basketball, boxing, fencing, handball, judo, wrestling, indoor tennis, weightlifting, karate, European handball, squash, body-building, etc.



*Installations anticipated for the press in the Olympic Stadium.*

1. 4,000 journalists. 1,000 with desks. 3,000 without desks of which 1,200 at the Opening of the Games.
2. Photographers: suspended platform.
3. 800 journalists. 400 with desks, 400 without desks. Interview room.
4. 300 journalists. 50 with desks, 250 without desks. 30 photographers at finishing line. Interview room.
5. Typing pool. Interview room. Telex - Telephone. Liaison centre. Stadium.

The elevators, along the outside surface of the supporting column and having the capacity to carry 500 people per hour, take visitors to a panoramic terrace and restaurant some 500 feet (170 metres) above ground level.

The main building also includes a 1,000 metre sheltered training track, and an indoor 250 metre track, with the removal of the temporary swimming pool and stadium stands, as well as a layout for a football or soccer field within the track and areas for throwing and jumping competitions together with all the needed equipment.

All alterations or changes provided for in the final layout can be carried out, after 1976, within a period of two months at the most.

#### PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION

As can be seen from the illustrated material, the greatest care has been taken to assure excellent working conditions for the 5,000 representatives of the press, radio and television media and for all sports photographers.

To the spaces reserved for them within the Stadium, swimming pool area and velodrome

are added all the facilities to be used, after 1976, by the 125 baseball and 100 football sportswriters.

In all cases, for the 1976 Olympic Games and for the permanent occupancy after, the layout of the premises will always remain flexible because of the very character of the Stadium structure.

The compact disposition of these premises greatly contributes towards improving the conditions under which newsmen covering various competitions will be working.

#### CRITICAL PATH

The critical path has been established and provides for work on the grounds themselves to begin by the Fall of 1972 for completion by the Summer of 1975.

#### FEATURES

Some of the most remarkable features of this complex can be described as follows:

Unity of site and of volume. All four main enclosures (including the area housed within the supporting column) are linked together to such an extent that they actually form a single unit, the land coverage of which represents only 1/7th of the total Sports Park area.

Multiple use potential, i.e., the same premises with the same equipment meet the requirements of the various Stadium Olympic disciplines and those of North American professional sports, throughout the year and regardless of weather conditions. In the case of baseball, close to 30,000 seats will be available in the Stadium along the first-base and third-base lines. For football, more than 33,000 seats will be available between the goalposts.

High degree of technical know-how, in that the most modern materials have been used, for maximum efficiency and a full use of all their spatial dimensions, so that the supporting column actually plays a two-fold role: it holds up the roof membrane and provides the space needed for all indoor sports activities.

Thus, such unity of size and volume, multiple use potential and high degree of technical know-how make it possible to bring building expenditures down considerably and to reduce operating costs to a minimum.

Maisonneuve Park, because of its very large size, constitutes a true natural agora in which the Sports Park will provide for the fulfillment, throughout the year, of the social and educational aspirations of a large population anxious to have the benefit of sports and athletic facilities located within the very heart of the great city.