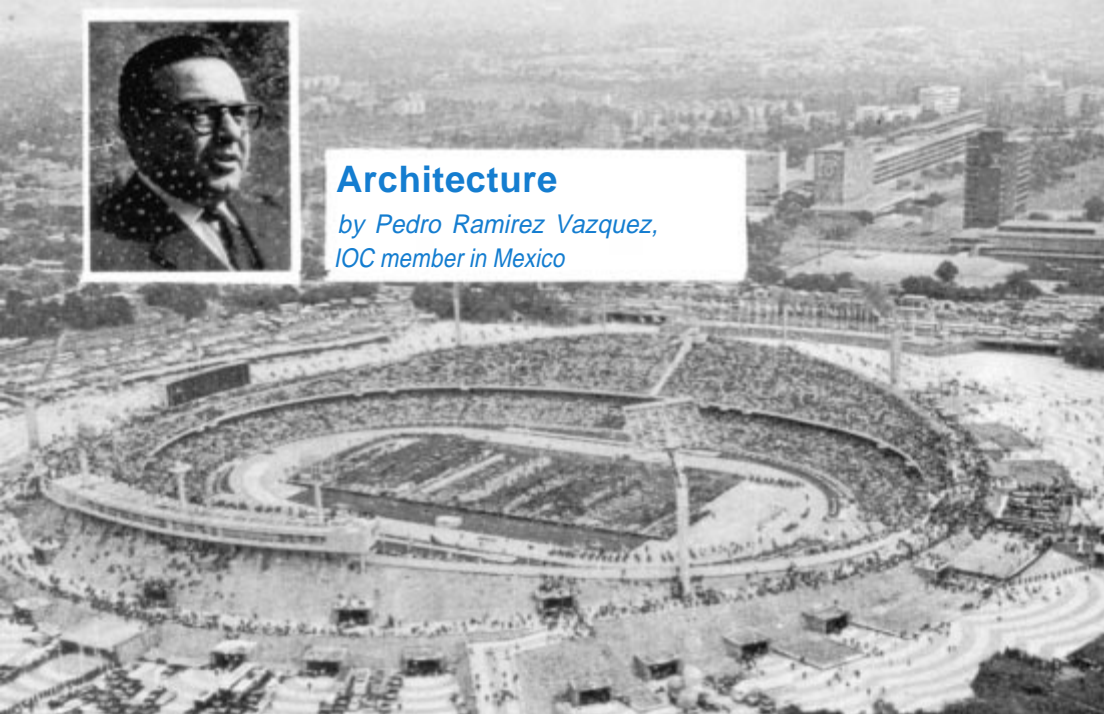




## Architecture

by Pedro Ramirez Vazquez,  
IOC member in Mexico



Mexico - 1968 Olympic Games. The Aztec stadium designed by the author.

*Pedro Ramirez Vazquez, Vice-President of the International Union of Architects, served as rapporteur general of the UIA's 13th world Congress (23rd to 27th October 1978). He addressed the following message to participants :*

*Our era, marked by an unprecedented demographic explosion, a deterioration of the environment, social injustices caused by our selfish and dehumanised way of life, marked too by a daily increasing awareness of everything to which we are entitled but which is not always ours to have, imposes new conditions on architecture which can henceforth no longer ignore the present characteristics of man and his life setting. One of the most obvious consequences undoubtedly lies in the fact that it is no longer possible to allow the space in which a man is to live to be reduced to a mere physical shelter consisting of walls, a floor a roof or any other material limitation of space. The place where life is lived has other requirements : objects, instruments, equipment, means of communication ; these are all essential complements, indispensable for defining the architectonic and urban spaces in which man lives, and architecture cannot afford to ignore them. The vast range of demands to be satisfied means that*

*architects must be more inter-disciplinary, organised and systematic than ever. This necessity for joint ventures and close co-operation calls for a full sense of responsibility and solidarity, which cannot be limited to the local or national scale, for even on the international level this joint effort and this mutual support are indispensable. While it is true that countries need to increase their technological knowledge in order to take better and more rapid advantage of their resources, it is no less true that a large number of countries considered as developed are in fact in grave danger of becoming "developing countries".*

*Scientific and technological sophistication is rapidly dehumanising them ; they forget the old and precious elementary and natural solutions that have enabled man to survive and evolve. The obvious logical, perhaps primitive but eternally valid use of man's natural creativity survives in our countries in the form of artisanal creativity and through man's daily confrontation with nature itself. In this respect the developing countries have much to teach or remind countries "in the process of under-development".*

