

# BIG DAY TWO YEARS OFF



*Les Saisies, where the cross-country skiing and biathlon events will take place.*

Two years before the Winter Games, which begin on 8th February 1992, both OCOG co-presidents have given a positive progress report.

**T**he cross-country, biathlon, women's Alpine skiing, men's special slalom, and the demonstration speed-skating could take place tomorrow. Indeed, not only most of the installations have been started, but four sites are finished, with the deadlines on the whole respected, explained Mr Michel

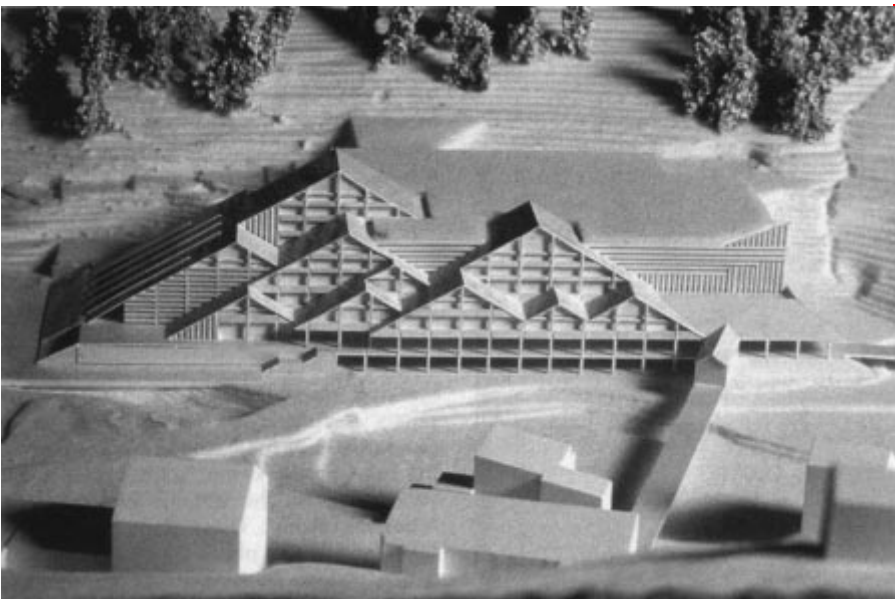
Barnier, co-president. The four last sites : the temporary skating rink which will serve for training in Albertville, the 800-bed accommodation complexes in Brides-les-Bains for the athletes and the press centre in La Léchère will be started this spring. The opening and closing ceremonies will

not take place in the stadium but again in a temporary theatre, on which building will start next year. As we noted last month, the modified budget (which has gone up from 3,176 to 3,998 thousand millions francs) has resolved the financial problems posed by certain installations like the bobsleigh track.

With the initial building phase now over, the OCOG has turned to sorting out the logistical questions : volunteers, transport, communications and lodging, the last being nearly arranged as 90 % of the 35,000 to 40,000 people accredited have accommodation. As for the volunteers, the OCOG has already received 1,600 applications for the six hundred vacant jobs. By offering them the chance of a role in the Games' success, the OCOG, it seems, has struck a chord with the people of Savoy, who are evidently carried away by the idea of being part of the great adventure. As for the matter of transport, it has been decided

to favour the public rail and road services "taking into account", specifies the OCOG all foreseeable problems, whether it's the possibility of postponed events or heavy snowfalls."

Two years before those critical seventeen days, preparations seem to have reached cruising speed and the Albertville team is flourishing, with its current concerns the welcoming of guests, tourism, the cultural programme and respect for the environment. "We are trying to think of everything. These Games, which will be high-tech, will bring together 2,000 athletes from sixty countries to compete in 55 Olympic events and 8 demonstration sports. Seven thousand journalists, a million spectators and two hundred thousand television spectators : the Games need to be impeccably organized and a great sports festival." The challenge for everyone in Albertville.



*The layout of the skating rink in Méribel.*