

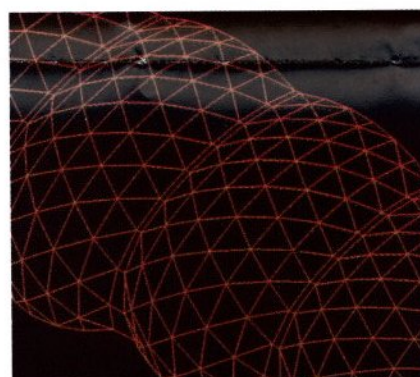
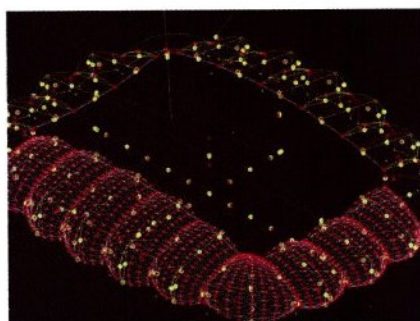
Spot Light

Melbourne's Rectangular Stadium

The Melbourne Rectangular Stadium is all set to mesmerize the world with its distinctive design and structural functionality BY RELIN H

Nearly 25 years ago, the world turned to Melbourne for the ultimate sporting event, the Olympic Games. From grand-slam tennis to cricket's oldest and greatest rivalry between Australia and England, Australia has a number of sports venues making sports a major part of Australian culture with one of the world's largest number of sports fans.

Adding to the existing sports venues in Australia is a new icon that is taking shape in the form of the rectangular stadium in Melbourne. Designed by COX architects with engineering assistance from Arup



lighting design used in this project. This lighting scheme will put the \$267.5 million rectangular stadium at par with Beijing's water cube and the 2006 World Cup stadium Allianz Arena in Munich". He further mentioned, "The Rectangular Stadium will be an amazing landmark and a shimmering new beacon in the Melbourne skyline. It won't just be the sporting events inside that will attract attention, the stadium itself will be a spectacle."

In addition, the illuminated stadium will be environment friendly with LED lights using around one tenth of the power required to floodlight the stadium and without any light spilling into the surrounding area. "Additionally, to avoid problems associated with floodlit buildings that attract insects and birds, the team of artists and lighting designers have created a programme that is a work-of-art in itself" Pallas mentioned. "The lighting will be programmed to tell the story of the stadium in an abstract way, describing the history and landscape of the site, anticipation before a game and the excitement and energy of the match".

and Norman Disney and Young, the Melbourne rectangular stadium represents a bold move for sports architecture with its unique design and strategy. This project will symbolize high quality design in addition to other world class sports venues near the city such as the Yarra and Parklands.

COX architects and planners are a progressive and diversified architectural organization working in diverse fields such as sports and recreation. Offering their valuable services in planning urban design, architecture and interior design, the firm has completed multiple sporting facilities in the world that include major stadiums to small leisure centres with major focus on parks and urban spaces.

At the heart of the stadium's design is the bio-frame, a lightweight steel design based on the inherent structural efficiencies of the Buckminster Fuller geodesic dome.

the cladding will form a highly sculptural organic entity, giving a bold new look to the stadium.

Furthermore, the stadium's innovative cutting-edge bio frame design will also feature a geodesic roof that will cover the seating area. This roof will consist of 50 percent less steel in comparison to the typical sta-

dium roof of the same size. Emphasizing on the roof structure, Mr. Tim Pallas, COX architects, Major Projects Minister said, "The roof of Melbourne's new rectangular stadium will be covered in thousands of LED lights that can bring life to any colour and be programmed into a multitude of patterns due to a new



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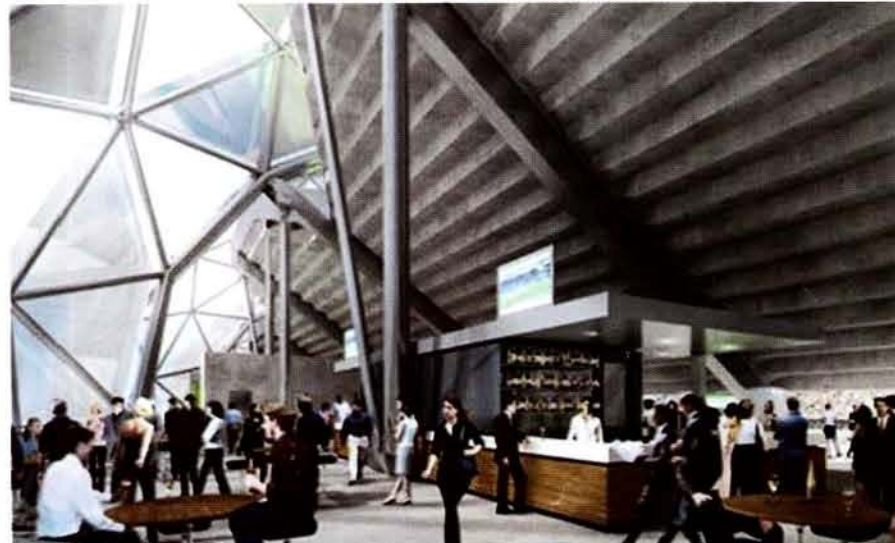
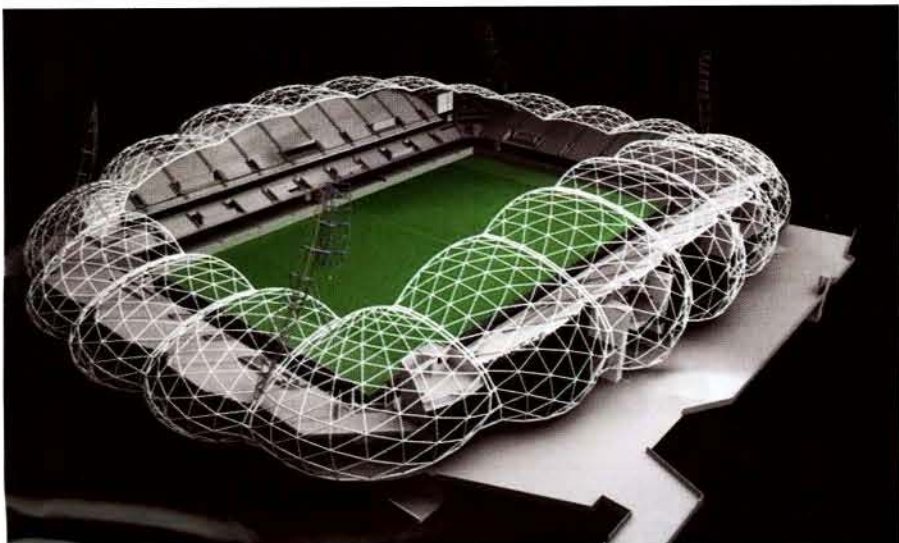
undertaken that led to the development of the final geometric and structural design." He further added, "Generative components were then used to create a centre line wire frame model of the stadium roof. This model was then passed on to Cox Architects for coordination and approval and used by the structural engineers for analysis".

Designed with a unique and dynamic form that is innovative and memorable, a one of its kind for Melbourne, this world-class event and sports administration complex

will include a sports campus, a 136 x 82m rectangular pitch, a four lane 25m lap pool with additional player recovery facilities, office space for elite sporting teams, medical facilities including radiology and sports medicine and an elite training centre with a capacity of 31,000-seats. Other facilities of the project include 24 corporate suites with exclusive internal and external seating, a dining room with a capacity for 1,000 merchandising facilities, 14 food and beverage outlets and 14 bars and a public café/bar and merchandise

outlets. Currently under construction at the Edwin Flack Field in the Olympic Park Precinct, the stadium will provide Melbourne with a purpose-built, medium-sized rectangular pitch stadium with a world-class playing surface. The project being developed on behalf of the state government and the Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

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