At the heart of each Soccer Tribe lies its great temple, the stadium. So strong is its magic, that for a tribesman to approach it, even on a day when no match is being played, creates a strange feeling of mounting excitement and anticipation. Although it is deserted he can sense the buzz of the crowd and hear again the roar of the fans as the ball hits the back of the enemy net. To a devoted tribesman it is a holy place, with significance that it is hard for an outsider to appreciate.

Soaring into the sky at the four corners of the stadium are the huge tribal totem poles, the floodlight pylons. Sometimes these are gracefully tapering concrete pillars, but more often they are open metalwork towers, looking like oil field derricks surmounted by batteries of powerful lamps. Rising high above the surrounding buildings, they are visible for great distances, a constant reminder of the hallowed ground that lies between them.

Desmond Morris
A world class sports complex will impact on the neighboring communities by providing grounds for interaction. The idea of an economic lift through international exposure and athletic competitions such as soccer, swimming, gymnastics, volleyball, tennis, basketball, golf, track and possibly the Summer Olympic Games, as the Peace Games is enticing to a nation which is just now starting to rebuild its cities and is facing a stagnate economy.

Many of the sports facilities in Sarajevo and other parts of old Yugoslavia have been destroyed. The opportunity exists, to create a complex where the most basic characteristics of sport are showcased - camaraderie, healthy competition, sportsmanship and above all, human interaction. All key factors in the conflict resolution arena.

Children are the most viable direction to follow. They do not know about war and ethic cleansing. By creating facilities which are designed for interaction, children who latter become adults, realize that ethnicity is irrelevant in a persons character.

The other group to be targeted is that comprised of people who are asking themselves the question: what have we done? to our families, neighborhoods, cities and country? The ideas of the self serving leader who uses ethnicity as a means to power are becoming less and less appealing.

When these groups are pared with the people who always new that war is wrong, specially when racially or culturally motivated, an healthy atmosphere can be achieved.

People from one group will see their children and friends trying their best - sometimes wining, sometimes loosing. The emotional responses associated with it is critical. They will witness other parents from other groups having the same feelings for their children and friends. The observer can’t help but notice that regardless of race or creed we are equal.

We can expect that some of the residents from different cultures and social backgrounds will interact and become more tolerant if not friends as children and as adults. A teammate in sport, a teammate for life. This is where architecture and sport can be the most effective.
Bosnia has recently gone through a vicious culturally and ethnically induced war, some families were and are still looking for revenge. Right or wrong, in order to end the “even the score” syndrome, currently being felt in that country, one should look into architectural solutions which are geared toward interaction and respect among people. The site for this project is located approximately 4 miles south east of Sarajevo. Adjacent towns of Tmovo and Pale are approximately 10 miles away. The objective is to connect the adjacent but ethnically different cites of Tmovo (muslim), Pale (serb) and Sarajevo, which due to its multicultural demographics offers the ideal location.
Synergy of Architecture and Sport

Objective

Children play basketball near a shattered office towers in the Sarajevo financial district. An indication that with young minds serving as a clear canvas, human interaction will bring understanding. It is the inherent function of sport to promote interaction, and Architecture to provide opportunity. The proposition is to develop a sports complex, which is needed in Sarajevo encompassing unifying factors in architecture.
Synergy of Architecture and Sport

Site Plan

There are two main phases proposed for this development. The first is composed of the Olympic size stadium, administration and residence compound. These facilities are the backbone of a sports complex. Various gathering outdoor places including an 18 hole golf course will be developed simultaneously. The 2nd phase would include gymnastics, basketball, swimming and diving, Handball, and a multipurpose gymnasium. As part of the ongoing construction of roads and pathways, a series of viewpoints / symbols, will also be developed. They will become site boundaries and gathering points.
Due to the topographical makeup of the site, a key number of design factors are evident: Where to place parking, the stadium, the symbol of the new beginning in Bosnia, at the highest point of the site. Where to place gathering points, by the water, hidden from the elements, or if needed, where to create protective barriers. Also where roads and parks would ideally be placed. Factors like watershed, become critical when man made forms are placed in the landscape. Existing flora can also be important in determining the location of new architectural forms.
Synergy of Architecture and Sport

Northwest view

Spaces surrounding the stadium which promote relaxation and interaction. It allows for panoramic viewing of the site.
The stadium is the focal point of this project. With a capacity of 50,000, it provides a stage where various Olympic sports can take place. The circular structural layout represents the equal balance given to different ethnic groups from adjacent areas. The circle is utilized as a neutral architectural form. The surrounding accessing areas are favorable to gathering. The northern side is particularly important when considering vistas and relaxation. Also efficient are the concessions, washrooms which circumvent the entire perimeter of the stadium platform.
The highest point is occupied by the stadium. It becomes a reference point visible from all sides. The ascending order is significant considering the history of the stadium or sports arenas. The stage is where the action takes place, therefore, ascending to the focal point can become an enjoyable experience. Trees and pathways throughout the site enhance this journey.
The significant slope situated in the northern part of the stadium is evident. This is where the large water body and leisure spaces are located. The opportunity for great vistas is present. It is also possible to shy away from the main events taking place in the stadium, still keeping a certain degree of participation and awareness via audible and visual stimuli.
Synergy of Architecture and Sport

Outlook from Viewpoint 3

View from viewpoint 3 presents the stadium as an icon in the landscape. The form is an indication of the function. The verticality of the columns symbolizes a lighting tower. For a sports fan these columns are easily recognizable. The color is that of a new, fresh object which is well in accordance with the significance of this project - peace and new beginning.
This is an area created to delineate site boundaries and to establish a more direct dialog between the user, the site and its symbology. The premise is that by traveling through the access roads, visitors will be made aware of the direct axes connecting the center of the stadium and the neighboring communities. This is achieved by the curved road which at one instance points directly at the stadium, and moments later, points in the opposite direction to one of the adjacent cities - Pale, Trnovo or Sarajevo.
A resting and viewing area is possible regardless of the proximity of traffic. A drop in terrain will allow for a natural sound barrier from the road, creating one more user area within this space. The user can walk, sit, or just pass by and still enjoy the significance of this form.
The emergency and maintenance access to the field, with its connecting corridor leads directly to the change rooms entrance from the track. Above, is the medical center and to the right from the elevator shafts, is the main entrance hall and its multiuse space.
At eye level the user will perceive the trees to be more dense than what they are. This sense will heighten the experience of accessing the parking area, which, in most cases, is a bare and isolated space. It will also bring color and a degree of concealment as one approaches the stadium. The journey will become more enticing.
Synergy of Architecture and Sport

Parking

There are 6000 parking spaces provided for stadium users. The North American requirement would be 12000. However two important factors should be considered: The first is that European users tend to use more public transportation when accessing sporting events. The second, is that in cases where the stadium would be filled to its maximum capacity, overflow traffic could make use of accessing roads which are wide enough for 3 car lanes. The layout of the parking is a square cell which combined with another of the same kind, allows for a very efficient easily identifiable area. Traffic flow is improved by simply rotating the parking cell in order to avoid exits and entrances from adjacent lots to face each other.
The parking surface is composed of local stone, crushed and compacted in place. This environmentally conscientious system will allow for better water drainage and use of local materials. The terrain will still maintain its natural look and feel. The use of vegetation will also bring scale and nature to an otherwise very functional environment.
The structural whole can be identified as well as the access routes, including services and concessions. The site overview shows an intuitive scaling of the project - stadium and surrounding area, vertical circulation and user interaction.
Cut through the change rooms, main entrance, VIP seating, and access to the field from the change room area. Also shown is the vertical circulation, through the stairwell. The elevated plane from which the user enters the stadium is an important factor as it relates to the idea of a base for a monument.
The gap between the first seating ring and the second is evident, it creates a barrier free access to the lower stands. Also to provide the soon to be viewer with a hint of the arena creating a poetic notion which is important to all sports lovers. The view lines projected from the top left corner of the stadium show the visibility factor of a possible user at the furthest point on the stands. The radius is approximately 130 meters, less than the maximum recommended of 150.
Factors particular to one location can be generalized to fit a wide range of architectural creations. For example: sport promotes peace. Materials, color and texture are all symbolic and may also affect the perception of the user. Other aspects of architecture can be general and apply to a particular location - the best place to create a stadium, a gathering area, etc. This urban study follows a series of factors which are characteristic to certain conditions of human behavior. In this case war and peace.
Under access to the field is provided by an underground tunnel. The load from the column above is divided by two separate members which wrap around the tunnel and sit beside its walls. The tunnel also provides access to the living areas situated underground.
This project is representative of a personal knowledge of architecture, athletics and physical development as a way of peaceful coexistence. This is not an attempt to create political architecture filed with ostentatious, self serving forms. It is architecture that respects the common user. Stairs used as great entrances for people to access the stage. Landscape as an offering to the user. The simplicity of form and function saying: resources and hope are not being wasted. This may be a romantic approach but what is life, and architecture in particular, without romanticism? Even if this proposition is wrong, Sarajevo and adjacent areas will still have an area where people can run faster, jump higher and ultimately live a healthier life.
Synergy of Architecture and Sport

Bibliography


Curriculum Vitae

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Architectural Science - Design Major - Completion April 95
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GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT - JANUARY 1996 TO AUGUST 1997
- Maintenance of graduate computer lab
- Scanning, plotting, trouble shooting computers and networks
- Instructing students on the use of computer equipment and applications including CAD, Desktop Publishing and Word Processing

STEPHEN LeBLANC RESIDENTIAL DESIGN
PERSONAL DESIGN ASSISTANT - MAY 1994 TO OCTOBER 1994
- Planning and design of custom residential units
- Operation of Auto-Cad workstation

KENTRIDGE JOHNSON Ltd.  ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS
INTERNS - JANUARY 1992 TO NOVEMBER 1993; JUNE 1995 TO SEPTEMBER 1995
- Design of small buildings
- Editing drawings for existing ongoing projects
- Finishing incomplete building facades
- Rendering presentation boards
- Design with various CAD packages

HANDIWORKS
OWNER - MAY 1991 TO SEPTEMBER 1991
- Ownership and operation of a small renovation business
- Small renovations, painting, fence and deck construction
- Responsible for promotions, public relations, management, and financial obligations of the business

WORK EXPERIENCE

COMPUTER PROFICIENCY
- Microstation 95
- Auto-Cad 12 & 13
- Drafix Windows CAD
- Photoshop 3.0 & 4.0
- PageMaker 6.0 & 6.5
- Microsoft Excel 97
- Microsoft Word 97
- Microsoft PowerPoint 97

SPECIAL SKILLS
- Fluent in Portuguese and Spanish with a rudimentary knowledge of French
- Well versed in Graphics Arts (Painting, Drawing and Sculpting)

PERSONAL INTERESTS
- Actively involved in sports - Soccer (professional level), Weight Training, Volleyball and Basketball
- Computers
- Culinary Arts

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST