

- STEPHEN JONES, RUGBY WORLD MAGAZINE



Populous are the world's leading designers of sports and entertainment facilities, having worked on some of the world's most iconic venues, including the London 2012 Olympic Stadium, Wembley Stadium, Yankee Stadium, the 02 Arena, Silverstone F1 Circuit, the FNB Stadium in South Africa, and the Emirates Stadium for Arsenal FC.

We have worked on over 2000 sports and entertainment projects around the world. With a portfolio of over 400 major event venues, we are also recognised as a world leader in overlay design, procurement and delivery.

As well as our passion for sport, Populous has a strong belief in sustainability and understanding how our buildings embed themselves in their environment. We have undertaken research into 'sustainable stadia' and designed some of the most energy-efficient venues in the world.

In addition to our extensive portfolio of work, we have a number of projects currently in development, including the French Rugby Federation's Grand Stade, new arenas in Las Vegas and Bristol, a long-term strategy for the development of Lord's Cricket Ground, and football stadia in the UK, Russia, Qatar, France and Mexico.









# POPULOUS TURNED THAT VISION INTO A STADIUM

- SERGE BLANCO, VICE PRESIDENT, FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE DE RUGBY



BBVA Compass Stadium, Houston

This stadium in Houston
has hosted a match between
the USA Eagles and a Tier 1
national rugby team every year
since 2012. The popularity of rugby is
booming in the States, with a sell-out
crowd watching the Eagles' 2014 match
against the All Blacks at Chicago's
Soldier Field. The sport also recently
gained varsity status, meaning
rugby players can now get
college scholarships.

**GOING GLOBAL** 

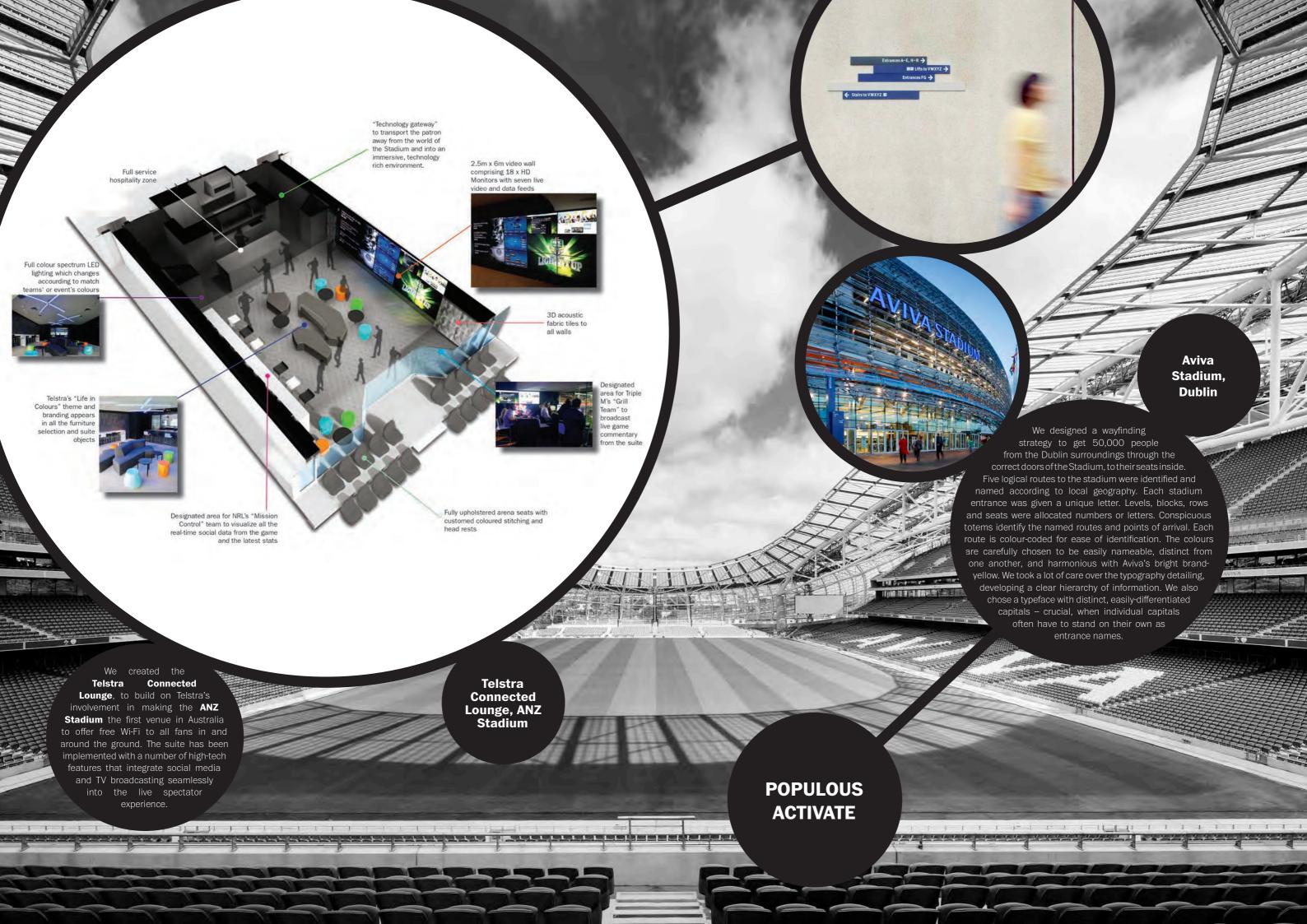
Home to the Hong Kong
Sevens, the most prestigious
event on the World Rugby Sevens
calendar, **Hong Kong Stadium** sees
thousands of costumed fans pack into its
infamous South Stand every March to revel in
a carnival atmosphere that is totally unique to
the sport. Sevens has a much more open field
than the fifteen-man version of the game, with
Fiji finishing as champions of the 2014-15
tournament. In 2016 the biggest spotlight
in world sport will shine on rugby when
sevens makes its debut at the Rio
2016 Olympic Games.

Hong Kong Stadium





- WYNNE GRAY, NEW ZEALAND HERALD

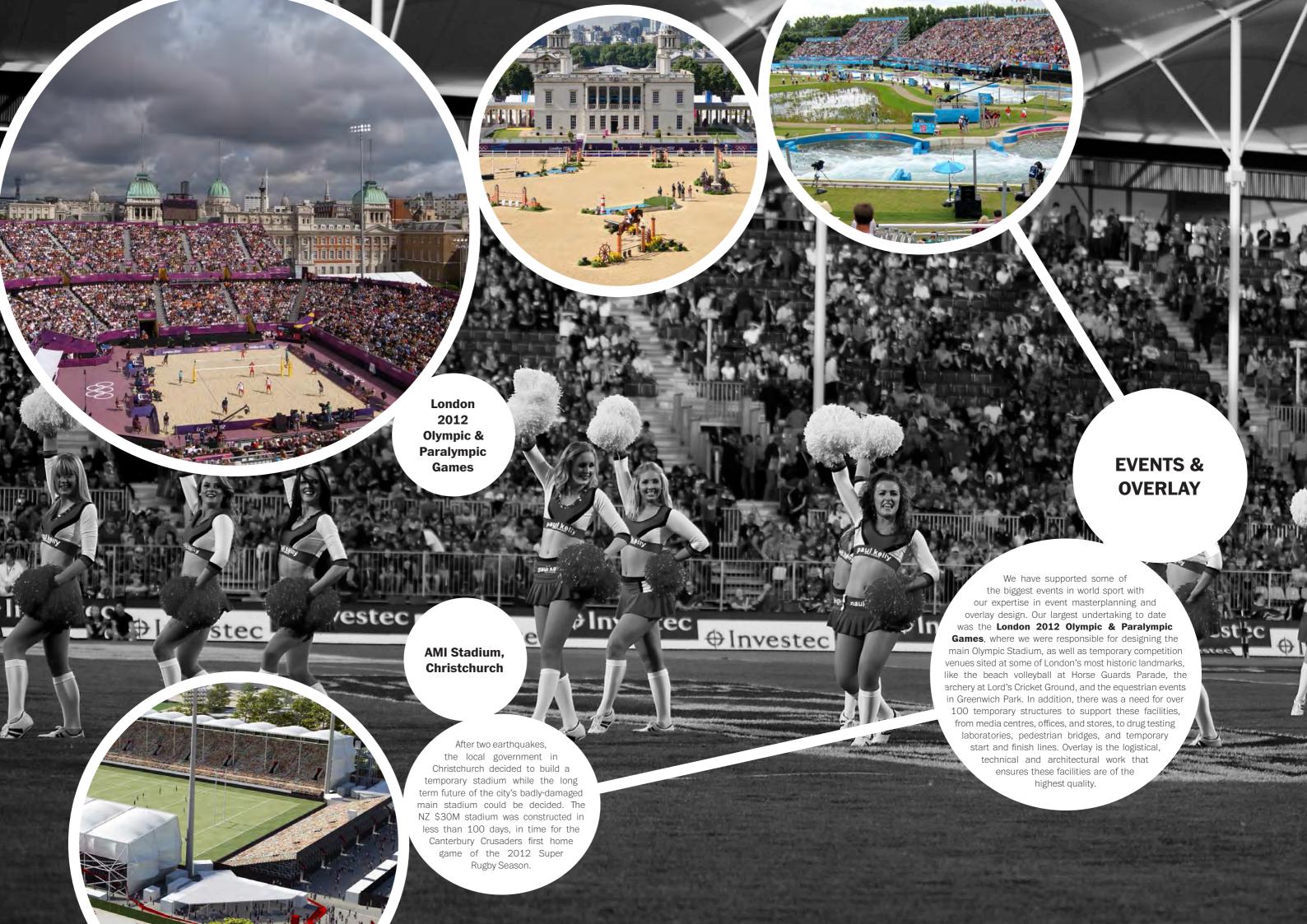




- LEIGH HALFPENNY, WALES INTERNATIONAL



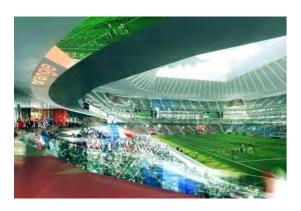






MAGIC PLACETO PLAY HERE AT THAT'S WHAT YOU PLAY THE GA

- Richie McCaw, Captain, New Zealand



# FFR GRAND STADE

LOCATION: Paris, France CLIENT: FFR COMPLETION DATE: TBC CAPACITY:82.000

The FFR Grand Stade will be France's national rugby stadium, hosting all home matches, while also accommodating conventions, shows and a range of sporting events thanks to its multi-purpose design. The retractable pitch will give the FFR the best quality pitch in international rugby. The retractable roof will deliver a more intense atmosphere and ensure matches are played whatever the weather. Its architecture echoes a fortified town, and the white stone quarries of Baux de Provence. Inside, the Plazas des Bandas, the arcades, the multi-level lounges, and the corner suites make a variety of unique spaces to stir the fervors of the French rugby fans.



# **FORSYTH BARR STADIUM**

LOCATION: Dunedin, New Zealand CLIENT: Carlsbrook Stadium Trust COMPLETION DATE: 2011 CAPACITY: 20,000 VALUE: NZ \$165m

**COMPETITIONS: 2011 RWC** 

Forsyth Barr Stadium is the most southerly professional stadium in the world. When the decision was made to commission a new stadium, an allweather venue was the obvious choice, but given the modest size of Dunedin (119,000 people), it was difficult to justify the cost of an enclosed venue for a handful of sporting matches. It was agreed that the stadium be used for a variety of purposes, including sporting, cultural, and educational uses. A permanent roof was therefore required. Using ETFE, the Populous team designed the world's only permanently covered stadium toboast a natural turf playing field.



# **EDEN PARK**

LOCATION: Auckland New Zealand CLIENT: Eden Park Trust Board COMPLETION DATE: 2010 CAPACITY: 60,000 (RWC), 50.000 (Legacy)

**COMPETITIONS: 2011 RWC** 

The redevelopment of Eden Park saw the stadium capacity increased to 60,000 for the Rugby World Cup finals before reducing to 50,000 in its legacy mode. The redeveloped stadium embodies the principles of sustainable sports architecture through the careful retention and integration of existing facilities into new east and south stands, the re-orientation of the cricket block to create an improved spectator experience, and the development of a public transport hub to the western end of the ground. The new stands are wrapped in a translucent skin that encloses the concourse and integral activities of the stadium whilst removing the fences to the park's perimeter.



# **AVIVA STADIUM**

LOCATION: Dublin, Ireland CLIENT: Aviva Stadium COMPLETION DATE: 2010 CAPACITY: 50 000 VALUE: €400m

**COMPETITIONS: 6 Nations** 

The fluid form of the Aviva Stadium is a response to the proximity of the adjacent terraced housing, the transparent skin of the roof sloping down on the north side to allow the maximum amount of light through to the neighbouring gardens. The shimmering shingled roof surface rises up on the east and west to give cover to the large side stands and the roof drops down slightly again at the south to maximise winter sun onto the pitch. The stadium is designed to host international standard rugby, football and concert events, providing improved facilities for event spectators, tenant clubs, conferences, and the local community



# **CBUS SUPER STADIUM**

LOCATION: Robina, Australia CLIENT: MSFA COMPLETION DATE: 2008 CAPACITY: 25,000 VALUE: AUD \$120m

**COMPETITIONS: HSBC Sevens World Series (Gold Coast** Sevens)

The stadium is designed to reflect the identity of the Gold Coast. The main tenant of this regional stadium is the Gold Coast National Rugby League team, but the stadium also accommodates rugby union and soccer. It was completed before the beginning of the 2008 rugby league season. The building is designed for atmosphere and cost efficiency. The seating bowl is a single wrap-around tier, designed to achieve the closest possible seating configuration as well as the maximum coliseum effect. The cantilevered roof on all four sides of the stadium is also designed to provide a sense of enclosure as well as providing retention of sound and light and protection from weather.



# SUNCORP STADIUM

LOCATION: Brisbane, Australia CLIENT: Queensland Government COMPLETION DATE: 2003 CAPACITY: 52,500 VALUE: AUD \$180m

**COMPETITIONS: 2003 RWC** 

Suncorp Stadium at Lang Park is the first purposebuilt rectangular stadium in Australia. Set in the heart of an inner city residential area on the edge of the Queensland capital city's CBD, the stadium is the quintessential urban stadium. The stadium has been designed to reflect a sub-tropical climate and outdoor lifestyle. Open air terraces and viewing galleries provide a modern interpretation of traditional Australian stadium features. Materials have been carefully selected to reinforce the design, such as recycled timber screens to shade the large glazed areas enclosing dining spaces. Outdoor BBQ grills have also been located behind the screens



# **WESTPAC STADIUM**

CLIENT: Wellington Stadium Trust COMPLETION DATE: 2000 CAPACITY: 34,500 VALUE: NZ \$96m

**COMPETITIONS: 2011 RWC** 

LOCATION: Wellington, New Zealand Westpac Stadium is home to the two main sporting codes of rugby and cricket. The purpose built stadium offers state-of-the-art facilities for 34.500 spectators. and provided a unique opportunity to develop a worldclass cricket venue as a whole entity - rather than adding to an existing facility in a piecemeal fashion. The bowl took an unusual oval form as a rational response to the need to provide a five block cricket wicket of international standing. The bowl design includes a complete oval lower tien with separate box level seating of 2600 to the underside of the roof. giving dramatic and unobstructed views of the whole



# **ANZ STADIUM**

LOCATION: Sydney, Australia CLIENT: Stadium Australia Trust COMPLETION DATE: 1999 CAPACITY:110,000 (Olympic) 85.000 (Legacy) VALUE: AUD \$510m

**COMPETITIONS: 2003 RWC** 

ANZ Stadium is the largest capacity Olympic stadium ever built. The challenge was to design a venue which could accommodate 110,000 people during the Olympics but which could be reduced down afterwards to operate as a sustainable long term venue of 85 000 seats. The design solution was the removal of the upper end tiers and the addition of end roofs post-Games. Moveable seating tiers on rails were also installed to enable spectators to be brought in closer to the action, and allow for a variety of sports. This was the first time that a stadium of this scale had been designed to be reconfigured post



# MILLENNIUM STADIUM

LOCATION: Cardiff, UK CLIENT: Welsh Rugby Union and Cardiff City Council COMPLETION DATE: 1999 CAPACITY: 74,500 VALUE: £120m

COMPETITIONS: 1999 RWC. 2007 RWC, 2015 RWC, 6 Nations

The Millennium Stadium is all about atmosphere. For many rugby fans there's nowhere else quite like it in the world. The steep tiers surround the pitch like a ravine putting spectators right on top of the action, while the roof, even when open, emphasises the roar of the crowd, consistently creating the loudest ground in the Six Nations. While primarily a venue for rugby, the Millennium Stadium has also staged a number of concerts, including the Tsunami Relief Concert. The stadium also hosted the Final of the FA Cup while Wembley Stadium was being built, and is set to host the 2017 UEFA Champions League Final.



# HONG KONG STADIUM

LOCATION: Hong Kong CLIENT: Hong Kong Jockey Club COMPLETION DATE: 1994 CAPACITY: 40,000 VALUF: \$85m

**COMPETITIONS: HSBC Sevens World Series (Hong Kong** Sevens)

Nestled in the valley of a tropical forest where the topography soars 300 feet above the surface of the pitch, the facility is the essence of site-structure unity. A continuous seating bowl, elliptically shaped about the pitch, gracefully transitions the surrounding hillsides into the structure of the stadium. The stadium incorporates two levels of seating to accommodate 40,000 spectators, and includes 50 private air-conditioned suites on an exclusive club level. Also included within the complex is 50,000 square feet of office space for the Hong Kong Sports Development Board in a separate office building, complete with its own lecture theatre.

34 35

# **CIRCUIT OF WALES**

LOCATION: Rassau, Wales
CLIENT: Heads of the Valleys
Development Company
COMPLETION DATE: TBC
VALUE: £250m

The Circuit of Wales will transform 830 acres of Blaenau Gwent in the scenic Welsh valleys on an unparalleled scale, and will shine the global spotlight on the region. It will represent a centre of excellence for UK motor sport and deliver an unrivalled low carbon international motor sports facility. Additionally, the development will be a world-class automotive cluster, centred around a performance circuit designed to host international motor sport events such as MotoGP, World Superbikes, World Motocross and World Touring Car, and will be a major addition to the UK's portfolio of leading motor sports facilities.



# TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR STADIUM

LOCATION: London, UK
CLIENT: Tottenham Hotspur FC
COMPLETION DATE: 2018
CAPACITY: 61,000

The new stadium for Tottenham Hotspur FC will revolutionise club stadium design, as well as bringing the spectacle of the NFL to North London for the first time. Designed to perfectly accomodate both elite football codes, the stadium will have a capacity of 61,000 seats and will include a large single-tier, 'home end' stand of 17,000 seats – the largest of its type in the UK – creating an intense atmosphere during matches. A large open public square to the south of the stadium, equivalent in size to Trafalgar Square and operated by the THFC Foundation, will allow for a range of sporting and community activities throughout the year.



# **LORD'S WARNER STAND**

LOCATION: London, UK CLIENT: MCC COMPLETION DATE: 2017 The Warner Stand is the first major phase of MCC's redevelopment of Lord's. The stand will dramatically improve the views from 600 seats that currently have very poor sightlines, and provide a new state-of-the-art match control and match officials' facility. It also includes a spectacular 135-seat restaurant with commanding views over the Ground. Providing cover to the new stand will be a semi-translucent fabric roof, supported by a timber structure. This style of roof – the first of its kind in the country – will reduce shadowing from the stand on to the playing area, while also ensuring that spectators benefit from both shade and a high degree of natural light.



# DARLING HARBOUR LIVE

LOCATION: Sydney, Australia CLIENT: NSW Government COMPLETION DATE: 2016 Sydney's new International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment precinct at Darling Harbour will reflect the dynamism of Sydney's cityscape, while respecting the precinct's parkland setting. The landmark Convention Centre, deliberately clad in materials which reflect its spectacular harbour outlook, will be complimented by the rest of the precinct which looks onto parkland. Here, the building's boundaries are set back, designed so the landscape becomes part of the building, with circulation and meeting spaces open to the park, terraces functioning as meeting spaces, and a huge 5000 sqm open deck on top of the building providing a platform to be used for major events.



# **LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC STADIUM**

LOCATION: London, UK
CLIENT: LOCOG
COMPLETION DATE: 2012
CAPACITY: 80,000

The London Olympic Stadium brought all 80,000 spectators far closer to the event than at previous Games venues with a compact seating bowl. The design made full use of the stadium's island situation, providing a circuit of spectator podium concourse, connected by bridges to the main park. This podium concourse promoted the carnival nature of the event with an array of facilities distributed along the water's edge. During the three hours of an athletics event, spectators were free to move from their seat out onto the podium to visit these colourful clusters of concession pods, and view across the waterways the activities in the adjacent park and venues.



# **SILVERSTONE**

LOCATION: Silverstone, UK CLIENT: BRDC COMPLETION DATE: 2011 Having failed to gain the rights to the F1 Grand Prix in 2008, Silverstone wanted to upgrade their track and facilities to bring the historic circuit back to its rightful position at the heart of UK motor sport and make it a destination again, for drivers and spectators. The masterplan had several phases, including a 360 metre long pit and paddock building and an upgraded circuit with a new section that would enable Silverstone both to get a circuit licence to host MotoGP and bring the excitement of overtaking back to the track.



# WIMBLEDON CENTRE COURT

LOCATION: London, UK
CLIENT: AELTC
COMPLETION DATE: 2009
CAPACITY: 15,000
VALUE: \$450m

The most dramatic feature of the Centre Court redesign is the retractable roof. Measuring 65 x 75m, the hydraulically operated structure is a folding fabric concertina, with steel trusses supporting a translucent fabric skin. The roof allows matches to be played under cover during inclement weather over the two weeks of The Championships. A key consideration in the design was the internal environment: both the players and spectators need to be comfortable. To that end, the design allows natural light to reach the grass, while an airflow removes condensation from within the bowl.



# YANKEE STADIUM

LOCATION: Bronx, New York CLIENT: New York Yankees COMPLETION DATE: 2009 CAPACITY:49,000 VALUE: \$2.3b Yankee Stadium serves as a container of emotions to capture the revelry and pride needed to carry the most storied franchise in American sport into the next generation. The ballpark's skin is highlighted by a fourstory limestone and granite façade inspired by the 1923 Bronx Stadium. The signature frieze from the original ballpark was recreated as a crowning element of the seating bowl, and the same field geometry that served as a framework for yesterday's legends will challenge tomorrow's heroes. Although the ballpark was built across the street from the original location, New Yankee Stadium has ignited a transformation of the Bronx community in which it is located.



# **WEMBLEY STADIUM**

LOCATION: London, UK
CLIENT: Wembley Stadium Ltd
COMPLETION DATE: 2007
CAPACITY: 90,000
VALUE: £352m

Wembley Stadium was designed as a multi-purpose venue to host football, rugby, events, and concerts. An open, four-tier seating bowl gives excellent sightlines across the pitch, and improved spectator comfort. A retractable roof on the southern side allows additional light and air onto the pitch and shelters spectators during events. Key to the roof design is the Wembley Arch, symbol of the new stadium and the longest single span roof structure in the world. Supporting both the fixed and moving roof sections from above, the arch eliminates internal columns, and brings a new landmark to the London skyline.



# O<sub>2</sub> ARENA

LOCATION: London, UK
CLIENT: AEG
COMPLETION DATE: 2007
CAPACITY: 20,000
VALUE: £168m

Originally known as the Millennium Dome, The  $\rm O_2$  is one of the world's most unique contemporary structures. The logistical challenge of placing a building the scale of the  $\rm O_2$  Arena within the Dome lends itself to the analogy of building a ship within a bottle, only at the largest scale imaginable. An innovative structural methodology was required so that the building cores and enormous roof system could be erected without conventional tower cranes. Voted Best International Arena at the Pollstar Concert Industry Awards every year since it opened, the  $\rm O_2$  Arena sells more tickets than any other arena in the world, outselling its nearest rival by over 50%.

36 37