

Minimum Documentation Fiche

composed by national/regional working party of SECTION BASILICATA-PUGLIA,
Italy



01. Picture of building/site

Depicted Site: Stadio San Nicola.
Source: Adriana Maranghino (2019)
date: 1990

1. Identity of building

1.1 current name of building

Stadio San Nicola

1.2 variant or former name

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1.3 number & name of street

Strada Torrebella

1.4 town

Bari

1.5 province/state

Bari/Puglia

1.6 zip code

70100

1.7 country

Italy

1.8 national grid reference

41°05'05.4"N 16°50'26.8"E

1.9 classification/typology

Architecture for the community

1.10 protection status & date

-

2. History of building

2.1 original brief/purpose

Football and athletics stadium

2.2 dates: commission/completion

1987/1990

2.3 architectural and other designers

Renzo Piano Building Workshop Architects

2.4 others associated with building

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2.5 significant alterations with dates

-

2.6 current use

Football Stadium

2.7 current condition

Mediocre

3. Description

3.1 General Description

The building was built on the occasion of the organization of the 1990 football world championships in Italy. The project foresees a system that can contain, in a double reservoir, a total of sixty thousand places, 67% of which are covered. The grandstands are protected by a light translucent Teflon cover, which optimizes television footage by projecting a soft shadow. The playing field is surrounded by an eight-lane athletics track and the entire building consists of four gyms, numerous changing rooms and other services for a diversified use. There is a route that runs circularly under the stands that can be used by athletes and authorities.

3.2 Construction

The project is based on a radial geometric system made up of 26 axes, each of which corresponds to an entrance. The sports facility has two stands, a lower and an upper one, and a service body, all ring-shaped. The upper grandstand, visible from the outside, is attached to the ring service body and hides the lower tier. At the ends of each of the 26 sectors, two steel beams are cantilevered towards the field, with a length varying between 14 and 26 meters. These are connected at the end by a steel tubular lattice beam with the function of maintenance walkway and support for lighting systems. The supporting structure of the upper tribune is composed of a trellis of beams, arranged

in two directions, annular and radial. The trellis is cast on site, with the exception of the radial beams. The shell is formed inside by prefabricated reinforced concrete steps, while outside by the slabs of the prefabricated radial beams, with a wave shape. The grandstands are covered by a Teflon coated fiberglass membrane, permeable to sunlight.

3.3 Context

The stadium stands on the side of an artificial hill and is divided into its excavation, leaving only the upper tribune and the roof visible, reducing the environmental impact of the work without preventing its constituent elements from being appreciated.

4. Evaluation

4.1 Technical

The stadium is a clear example of the application of construction techniques in reinforced concrete. The particular design of the curved beams solves a technical-structural aspect and shows the complex, dynamic and peculiar character.

4.2 Social

The stadium is still a reference point for the community and for the many fans of the Bari football team. Although it has always been considered too large and too large for its real use, on numerous occasions the sold-out has given away, to the participants of the sporting event, a memorable glance.

4.3 cultural & aesthetic

The building, after the football world cup of 1990, became the home of the Bari football team, becoming a reference point not only for its grandeur, observable from multiple points of the city, but also for its characteristic forms that make it similar to a "spaceship", the common pseudonym people from Bari use to call it.

4.4 Historical

The construction is a fixed point, perhaps the highest, in the historiography of the late modern architecture of the city of Bari. It probably represents the last example of modernity before the works counted in the contemporary world.

4.5 general assessment

The work is an example of applying the potential of reinforced concrete and represents one of the most important works of Renzo Piano's career.

5. Documentation

5.1 Principal references

GB progetti, aprile 1993

SIGNORILE e GISMONDI, Atlante del '900, Laterza, Bari 2009, pp.27-31

BUCHANAN, Renzo Piano. L'opera completa del Renzo Piano Building Workshop, Allemandi, Torino 2001

5.2 visual material attached

Fig.01 – Design plan, sketch (Renzo Piano)
Fig.02 – Section, Elevation (Renzo Piano)
Fig.03 – General view (google)

5.3 rapporteur/date

Stefano Vito Sangirardi, April 2020

6. Fiche report examination by ISC/R

name of examining ISC member:

date of examination:

approval:

working party/ref. no:

NAI ref. no:

comments:

Fig.01 – Design plan, sketch (Renzo Piano)

Fig.02 – Section, Elevation (Renzo Piano)

Fig.03 – General view (google)



