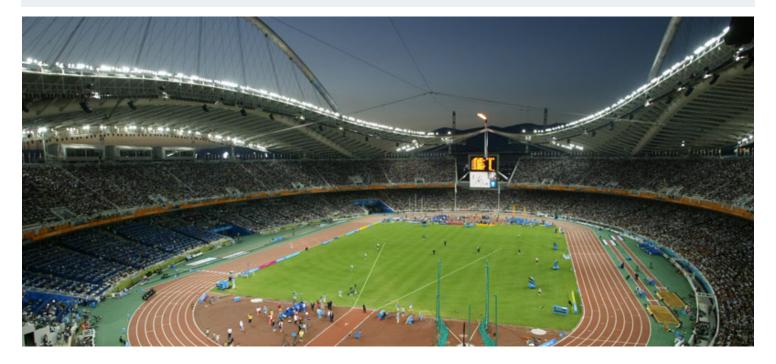
SPAZIO IIII MONDO

NEWS FROM MONDO'S WORLD





ATHENS OLYMPIC STADIUM

Olympics

Opening: August 13, 2004 Closed: August 29, 2004 Athletes participating: 10,625 Nations participating: 201

Olympic Stadium

Field Size: 105 m x 68 m Capacity: **69,618, 68,079, 55,000**

The press box: 480 Year of Inauguration: 1982 Stadium Area: 127,625 sq. m. Renovations: 2002-2004

Roof Design: Studio Santiago Calatrava Vals

Project Installation: Construction Cimolai Armando, George

Romano Studio

Covered area: 54,350 sq.m.
Dimensions: 260.3 m x 208.8 m
Total weight: 18,000 tons

Olympic Editions (Greece)

THE 2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS WERE SPECIAL NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT MARKED THE RETURN TO THE COUNTRY WHERE MODERN OLYMPICS BEGAN IN 1896, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN EQUIPMENT AND SPORT SURFACES.. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SPORTFLEX SUPER X PERFORMANCE TRACK WHICH WAS PROVIDED BY MONDO FOR THE OLYMPIC STADIUM.

A MAGNIFICENT STRUCTURE

Prior to the need to modernize the **Olympic Stadium** for the 2004 Athens Games, the stadium which is situated in the Greek capital was seen as a majestic structure. Designed in **1979** and built in 1980, the stadium represented one of the most interesting architectural works of the period, due to the series of 34 columns that were designed to support the stands. When completed, the most striking feature of the new stadium was the four pillars equipped with hanging lights which adorned the stage. Each pillar measured 62 meters in height. The project was completed in **1982**, and in September of the same year then-President Konstantinos Karamanlis inaugurated the new Greek structure at the European Championships in Athletics, which was the first major sporting event hosted by the Olympic Stadium. The structure remained virtually unchanged until the summer of 2002 when preparation for the 2004 Olympics commenced. The renovations involved not only the stadium, but also the entire **Athens Olympic Sports Complex**.

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THE NEW OLYMPIC STADIUM

The most important and most striking aspect of the Olympic Stadium was the addition of the lavish roof, which turned the structure into a true architectural artwork. By applying the laws of physics to its lightweight design, the Spanish architect **Santiago Calatrava** designed a roof that looks like a huge network of steel pipes and blue glass. The huge structure measured 304 feet long, 206.7 feet wide and 72 meters in height, weighing a to t a l 0 f 1 8 , 0 0 0 t t o n s .

Despite the criticisms and skepticism surrounding the initial project, the complex was finished just in time for the opening ceremony of the Athens Olympics. The project was completed July 30, 2004, just two weeks before the Games, and it had a major influence on the work being done on the track and equipment being set-up inside the stadium. "Work on the installation of the roof slowed our progress and we had to work overtime in order to finish on time - recalls Andrea Vallauri, Head of Mondo Sport Division. We managed to complete while the athletes were arriving. The intricate problems caused by the installation of stadium roof delayed the completion by at least four months."

MORE LIGHT ON THE TRACK

The roof, designed to withstand winds up to 120 km/h, consists of two half-shells that once put together, leave an open area which is the playing field. It's 'interesting how the structure rests on only four points where the arcs intersect, having no contact with the existing system. Made of polycarbonate, the transparent part of the roof provides optimal conditions for athletes and spectators during the competition and also improves lighting and filming conditions accordingly. Calatrava had initially thought about using transparent glass panels, but eventually decided on a special polycarbonate which is much lighter than glass. As for the Olympic track, Mondo provided the **Sportflex Super X Performance** surface. "It was a novelty - Vallauri remembers - because at that time we changed the wording and even the design of the underlying alveolar had been modified slightly, to further improve the product. The organizers also asked us to slightly change the red color of the track, making it a bit 'darker'. The final product used for the Olympic Stadium track was the latest evolution of Sportflex Super X, which was then used until the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where Mondo introduced Mondotrack.

ATHENS OLYMPIC SPORTS COMPLEX

The Olympic Stadium is located inside the **Athens Olympic Sports Complex**, in the area of Marousi, which is also known as OAKA (initials of the n a m e in n in G r e e k). In addition to the stadium, this area houses four sports facilities, along with other facilities dedicated to the sport. This complex formed the heart of the

To connect the two tracks of training the athletes had the main runway along the walkways that are covered by the regulations with the same material as the main runway. The athletes, in fact, walking with spikes, must be able to move safely.

A TOTAL COMMITTMENT

At Athens 2004, for the first time Mondo also provided facilities for athletics. "We have produced a new series called Athens - Vallauri said - with a drawing and a special look, and those models were used in subsequent years until the World Championships in Daegu 2011, when we used a new series. The next series, which will be used during the 2012 Olympics, will be called London ". The excellent relationship established between the company and the Italian Organizing Committee has allowed Mondo to offer a complete package of products and equipment, including services. "The relationship with the organizing committee was very good. We faced very skilled people. For us it was the first Olympics in which we have provided technical assistance: we have dealt with the cleanliness of the camps, runway and equipment, we did the repairs of the materials when necessary, and so on. It 'was a much appreciated 360 ° service made possible because of the excellent relationship established with the Organizing Committee, "said Vallauri.

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