

Just for the Sport

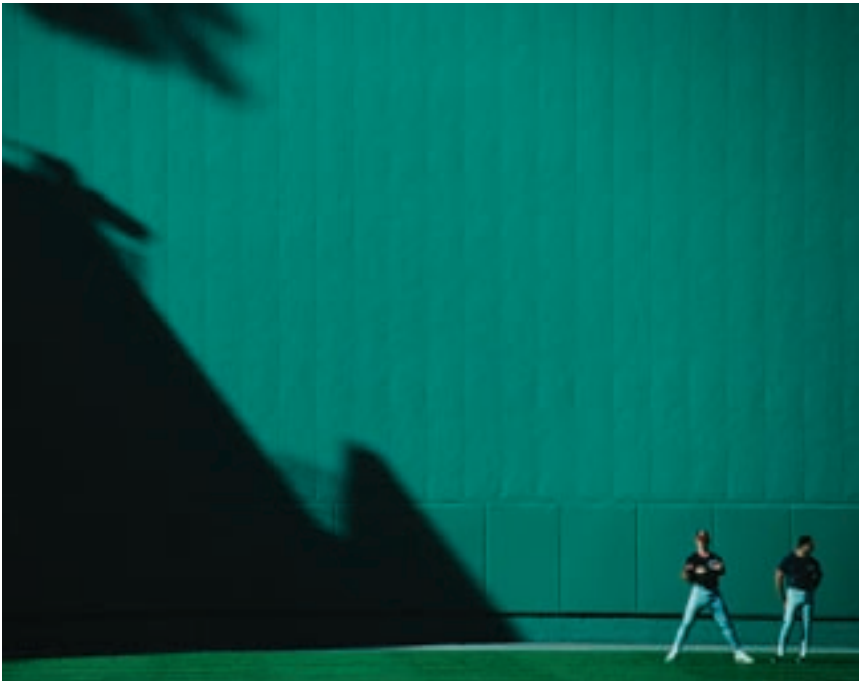
Stadiums stand as monuments to our love of spectator sports. Some are constructed on a gigantic scale with the goal of hosting ever-larger crowds of fans, while others are designed to impart a more traditional feel and capture the spirit of a bygone era in sports history.



A growing number of modern stadiums protect their spectators with movable roofs, and others, while protecting fans, leave an opening over the playing field exposing the athletes to the elements. Regardless of their style, stadiums offer fans the opportunity to see their favorite teams compete on the playing field and share in the action that only live venues can deliver. Every stadium also presents challenges in moving large numbers of spectators to and from seating areas quickly and conveniently ... because it's all about getting into the game.

Boston's legendary stadium

It's America's pastime and if Boston wasn't already a city rich in history, it's also home to the oldest of all Major League Baseball stadiums, Fenway Park, constructed in 1912. Situated near Kenmore Square in the heart of the city, Fenway is a legendary ballpark rich in baseball history, having seen the likes of some of the game's greatest players, from Babe Ruth to Joe Cronin to Ted Williams, and having played host to several All Star Games and nine World Series. Home of the Boston Red Sox, Fenway Park is small by baseball stadium standards with a seating capacity of just under 40,000. More recently, the park has been a frequent venue for concerts with The Police and Neil Diamond among the list of featured performers.



Fenway Park is famous for its Green Monster, the 37-foot, 2-inch high left-field wall that's robbed many a batter of what would have been a home run in any other ballpark.

Given Fenway's long history, it's no surprise that it has undergone several renovations and expansions, and the stadium's seven Schindler elevators and three Schindler escalators have been fully modernized as well. All equipment upgrades were performed during the baseball off-season so as not to interfere with the progress of the games, while Schindler service and maintenance is provided throughout the year.

San Diego's home run

If Boston's Fenway Park reflects baseball's rich heritage, PETCO Park, home of the Padres, conveys its future. Instead of the "retro-era" design that became popular with many baseball stadiums, PETCO Park, which opened in April 2004, reflects the "feel" of San Diego with 42,445 ocean-blue seats, steel beams in the same white color of the sails on nearby boats, and an exterior of Indian sandstone capturing the texture of San Diego's beaches. And there's also a heavy dose of modern technology here as seen in a 30-by-53-foot video display that offers high-resolution replays, even in direct sunlight. Above the left-field stands is a 34-by-80-foot electronic scoreboard that displays cheer graphics, game and player statistics, and animations. PETCO Park is truly a distinctive sports venue, and if a batter takes a moment to enjoy the spectacular view from home plate, he'll generally head right back to the dugout shaking his head at yet another strikeout.



Construction of PETCO Park presented a number of challenges, including several that affected its 14 Schindler elevators and nine Schindler escalators. The design of the escalators demanded innovation. Tim Tromp, Schindler's lead application engineer, explains, "This project was challenging due to the many constraints. Not only did the escalators have to fit within the confines of the stadium, but each had to be laterally restrained to meet state of California seismic requirements. In addition, polycarbonate canopies cover the escalators and presented their own design considerations. We had to consider reams of wind-load data resulting from wind-tunnel testing and simulation to ensure a successful installation. Schindler 9300-20® escalators hit a home run at PETCO Park by accommodating seismic requirements, wind load and canopy design." ▶





Houston's touchdown

When it comes to gridiron contests, some of the most avid fans can be found in Texas, and there's a good chance they'll be found in Reliant Stadium, home of the NFL's Houston Texans, and 17 Schindler elevators and 20 Schindler escalators. With a seating capacity of 71,500, a retractable-use venue serving a population of almost 4 million in the Houston area. This versatile stadium has played host to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, Super Bowl XXVIII, NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship Regional games and other attractions including the Rolling Stones, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and Disney on Ice.



Photo courtesy of Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.



Designed with a translucent fabric roof and extensive glazing, Reliant Stadium imparts an open-air feel during the day and an inviting glow at night. A special section of the stadium bleachers at the north end is referred to as the “Bull Pen,” where fans enthusiastically “connect” with the play on the field. Here, the energy is directed toward building team spirit and encouraging the entire stadium to make enough noise to inhibit the ability of the opposing team to hear the signals from their quarterback.

Reliant Center is a 1.4-million-square-foot exposition venue, with more than 706,000 square feet of single-level contiguous exhibit space. It hosts the Offshore Technology Conference, Houston Auto Show and the International Boat, Sport & Travel Show just to name a few. Schindler has recently been named to service the equipment in Reliant Center in addition to the equipment we serviced in the stadium, and now has two technicians located on-site, full time.

It’s all about moving ...

Sports move us, and in huge numbers. Schindler products and services efficiently move sports fans in and out of stadiums all over the world. As varied as the locations and configurations of these venues, so are the mobility solutions we provide. Whether meeting rigorous seismic requirements for stadiums located in earthquake zones, tight installation turnaround schedules or providing around-the-clock service ... Schindler’s solutions deliver reliable mobility. ■