

Velodrome

Berlin, Germany

The project is linked to the reunification of the two Germanys. Building on the nomination of the city of Berlin for the 2000 Olympics, finally celebrated in Sydney, Senate of the German capital turned its commitment to a unifying project of redistribution and linking the two parts of the city, the Olympic project. Under these rules were designed not only sports facilities, also a number of networks that served to them. It is within this context, the enthusiastic and controversial time, the city of Berlin created an international competition for the design of the Velodrome and Olympic Swimming Pool. The winning project submitted by French architect Dominique Perrault proposes a risky experiment

Environment:	urban
Use:	mesh roof and façade
Material:	316 - Futura 240
Fabricator:	GKD
Architects:	Dominique Perrault Architects
Photographs:	Georges Fessy
More information:	perraultarchitecture.com en.gkd.de impetus-pr.de



Picture courtesy of Georges Fessy

to combine the old existing building with the new architectural image that wished to present to the city and get while the pool and the Velodrome fade from view, which only left a beautiful "apple orchard." The territorial concept was limited by considerations of a rectangular field in two forms, a round for the velodrome and the other rectangular pool to enroll. For the Velodrome, 17 m buried under ground, only striking at first glance the bright gable metal disc with 142 mm diameter, which is its cover. A dramatic structure of radial steel with 48 triangle beams covers 115 m free below and it is supported by 16 concrete columns 13 m high. The beams that transmitted 3,500 ton weight to columns remember with its structure a bicycle wheel, which without intermediate supports creates a free surface suitable for any sport. This structure is covered with metal mesh panels. The building of the pool has a suggestive pools parallelepiped structure, a rectangular building

whose roof structure was also made with steel beams in which a double metal skin rests. A recess in the ground completely surrounding both buildings, while an inclined ground plane allows them to be viewed from above, while offering a green view from the inside.

In both buildings the bottom is interrupted by a public street where the different entrances in the side wall and you can see both the enormous structural reinforced concrete pillars and reinforcements in the retaining wall. Like most Dominique Perrault's works the dominant materials in the construction of this project are the metal and the glass. Both the Velodrome as the Pool have an outer shell of wire mesh, stainless steel. This wire is divided into prefabricated plates bolted to metal frames also, creating a surface that sparkles with sunlight and at first glance resemble stretches of water in the center of the park, and lakes.

The structure of the Velodrome and the pool were made with steel beams and the deck skylights that allow natural light to open. The perimeter of both the Velodrome and the pool is limited with large windows and metal frames, as many of the internal partitions, because the architect was of the opinion that the walls should not enclose or isolate why on numerous occasions glass was used as the separator material.



Picture courtesy of Georges Fessy