

Civic Arena Pittsburgh

Pittsburg, United States of America

Civic Arena (formerly the Civic Auditorium and later Mellon Arena) was an arena located in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Civic Arena primarily served as the home to the Pittsburgh Penguins, the city's National Hockey League (NHL) franchise, from 1967 to 2010.

Constructed in 1961 for use by the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera (CLO), it was the brainchild of department store owner Edgar J. Kaufmann. It was the first retractable roof major-sports venue in the world, covering 170,000 sq. feet, constructed with nearly 3,000 tons of stainless steel and supported solely by a massive 260-foot-long cantilevered arm on the exterior. Even though it was designed and engineered as a retractable-roof dome, the operating cost and repairs to the hydraulic jacks halted all full retractions after 1995, and the roof stayed permanently closed after 2001. The first roof opening was during a July 4, 1962 Carol Burnett show to which she exclaimed "Ladies and Gentlemen...I present the sky!"

The Mellon Arena's stainless steel dome had glimmered and gleamed for over 40 years. As if the shape of this unique arena were not eye-opening enough, the dome was designed to open or close

in just two minutes. The Mellon Arena was the first retractable dome, and it was the largest dome in the world at the time it was built. It kept that record until the Houston Astrodome was built three years later. The stainless steel dome weighed almost four thousand tons and had a diameter of a little over four hundred feet. To cover the entire outer surface of the dome, it took a whopping 166,000 square feet, 2,950 tons of stainless steel sheeting.

The Civic Arena closed on June 26, 2010. The former Mellon naming rights expired soon after, and the Penguins and all other events moved across the street to the new Consol Energy Center - now PPG Paints Arena. After various groups declined historic status for the venue, it was demolished between September 2011 and March 2012.

In November 2011, the Penguins started selling Christmas ornaments crafted from the Civic Arena's stainless steel roof. The team used the promotion to raise money for its charitable foundation. Grove City-based Wendell August Forge, the oldest and largest forge in the United States, created two types of ornaments: one with the arena and the Pittsburgh skyline and another with the arena with the Penguins' logo. The Penguins had originally planned to sell 6,000 ornaments, but due to demand, the team ended selling over 40,000 pieces.



Environment:	urban
Use:	roof panels
Architects:	Mitchell & Ritchey Architects
Photographs:	Daveyin and others
More information:	wikipedia.org