



# ARCHITECTURE

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# Yugoslavia

## *Winter Olympic Stadium Dominated by Huge, Angular Trusswork*

Sports arenas have become the cathedrals of our time, especially those for world competitions and Olympic games. The most important in Yugoslavia is the Zetra, built for the Winter Olympiad of 1984.

For the first time since the assassination of Austrian Crown Prince Ferdinand in 1914, which triggered World War I, Sarajevo will again be a focus of world attention next February when the 14th winter Olympic games take place in and around this semi-Oriental city of 500,000.

Sited on 40 hectares, the Zetra complex includes a stadium, Olympic hall, and skating rink, all designed by local architects: Alikalfić, Dapa, and Morankić. The elements are terraced to fit the sloped site. The stadium can hold 50,000, with covered seating for 18,000. Construction lasted six months at a cost of \$5 million. It is here that the ceremonial opening of the Olympics will take place.

The most challenging element in the Zetra complex was the Olympic Hall, costing \$17 million. During the Olympics, it will be used for hockey, figure skating, and the final ceremony. Post-Olympic use can be varied and flexible, because of movable walls and demountable seating. After the Olympics, the 105x65-meter arena and 60x30-meter ice rink will be covered with polyurethane paving and serve for gymnastics, boxing, and other sports with a spectator capacity of from 4,000 to 12,000. The high-tech press room for 400 correspondents will be transformed into three auxiliary sports areas.

Unlike most high-tech arenas that are painted in different, usually primary colors, here everything is a neutral tone to focus attention on the players.

Inspiration for the Olympic Hall probably came from Norman Foster's Sainsbury Centre, where, as at Zetra, a single cross-section is extended longitudinally, so that two elevations are identical to the section. The hanger-like expression is also achieved by having the roof and sides the same. One facade, however, is curved to fit in with surrounding mountain slopes. The trusses, like pointed bones on skin, contrast sharply to the smooth, flat volumes. Cladding is copper, echoing the city's many copper-roofed mosques.



*Top, hangar-like Olympic hall, with its dramatic, angular trusses. Above, interior, with Olympic rink.*

Next to the Olympic hall is the racing skating rink. At a cost of \$6 million, it is functionally connected to the Olympic hall, and unlike rinks used for previous games, which were built flat on the ground, this one is on a reinforced concrete slab raised above 16,000 square meters of storage space.

In these times of economic crisis, when

Yugoslavia is following a policy of maximum exports and minimum imports, it is important that all materials and equipment (except for Dutch-produced lighting systems and American-produced acoustics) are domestic.

The Zetra project won the Borba Prize in 1982, Yugoslavia's most important architectural award. **LENKO PLESTINA**

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