

FIELDS OF DREAMS

How the pandemic is accelerating more inclusive 21st century sports districts

SUN-C05

The Session

Sunday, November 21st, 2021

4:00pm - 5:00pm CDT | Music City Center Room 102

1.00 PDH, LA CES/HSW, AIA/HSW, AICP, FL, NY/HSW

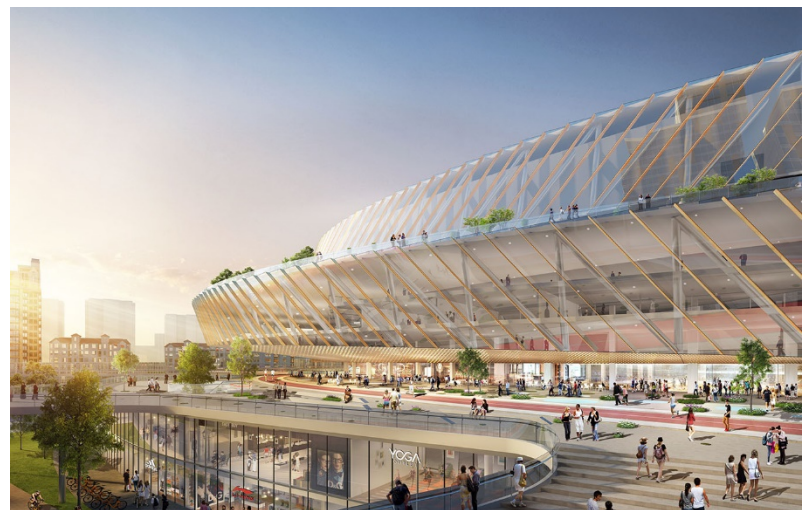
Like the teams that play in them, stadiums shape a city's identity. The object often gets all the attention, but the urban experience is what makes them memorable. This session examines how sports districts are adapting to a post-COVID world, emphasizing inclusion, safety, and social vitality as measures of success.

Learning Outcomes

1. Learn about the evolution of the sports district as the center of urban life for millennia, and how it contributed to urban form.
2. Understand how the post-COVID public realm is driving the development of 21st century sports districts and the opportunity for landscape architects to lead the design process.
3. Identify the unique needs of developers, city officials, public/private partnerships, team owners, fans, neighborhood residents, and the larger community, and how to unify them with a common vision.
4. Explore case studies that illustrate the planning and design process and how the contribution of landscape architects enhances the value proposition.



Titletown Green Bay, Wisconsin



Hongkou Stadium Shanghai, China

The Panel



Michael Grove FASLA
Principal, SASAKI
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Michael is the Chair of Landscape Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Ecology at Sasaki, a global design firm with offices in Boston, Denver, and Shanghai. He is a fierce advocate for the vital role landscape architects play in shaping contemporary cities. Informed by a rigorous inquiry of economic, ecological, and cultural influences, Michael believes that the role of the designer is to make cities livable, equitable, resilient, and just. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, serves on the board of directors for the Landscape Architecture Foundation, and teaches at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.



Lori Singleton ASLA
Vice President, SmithGroup
lori.singleton@smithgroup.com

Lori is passionate about bringing people together with the natural environment through the inventive yet functional design of vital public spaces. As a Design Director at SmithGroup, Lori seeks to leverage vacant or underutilized spaces as a catalyst for meaningful placemaking in urban areas. With a unique understanding of the project context, she is able to instill large-scale transformational change through a network of incremental, community-based projects that successfully synthesize the unique needs, perspectives and realities of clients and the community. Lori also relishes teaching, frequently serving as co-instructor for the University of Michigan Metro Studio.



Peter Osler ASLA, FAAR
Founder, Situate Studio
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Over his thirty-plus year career, Peter has built a reputation for design excellence in landscape architecture, architecture, and urban design. He recently founded *Situate Studio*, where he works as a sole practitioner and in collaboration with larger firms on site design commissions. Hallmarks of his built work are intensely scrutinized material palettes, impeccable detailing, and acute sensitivity to a site's history, culture, and biotic attributes at a multiplicity of scales and degrees of legibility. His designs have been published in the United States, Europe, and Asia, and have won both AIA and ASLA awards. He is also a recipient of the Rome Prize in landscape architecture from the American Academy in Rome. He has lectured, juried, and taught at numerous universities in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Key Topics

1. THE STADIUM: At the center of urban life since 75BC

A Crash Course in the Ancient History of Stadium Landscapes

1. Stadiums are among the oldest forms of urban architecture. From Olympia to Rome, arenas and amphitheaters were at the center of Western cities well before medieval cathedrals or the railroad stations of the industrial revolution.
2. Stadiums often served as the core open spaces of cities, guiding urban development around them.
3. Although most reference Rome's Coliseum, spectator sports were not just a western phenomenon, with ancient ball courts found throughout historic Mesoamerica, and early Chinese spaces inside the city center and imperial palaces for cuju, an early form of soccer.

Historic Adaptation and Contemporary Redevelopment

1. The Amphitheater of Arles in France, originally built in 90 AD, became a fortress in the 5th century, a walled village in medieval times, and was converted back to an arena in the 19th century.
2. The Piazza dell'Anfiteatro in Lucca, Italy was progressively filled with buildings from medieval times through the 1800s, eventually becoming a market square with the ruins of the amphitheater remaining embedded in the shops surrounding the public plaza.
3. Contemporary calls for the adaptive reuse of stadiums include proposals for high-density residential within stadium superstructures, hypermarkets, and e-sports venues.

Contribution to 20th Century Urban Decline and Redlining

1. The stadium's role in mid-century urban exodus corresponds to the development of postwar suburbs and car culture.
2. Parking was a critical factor driving the stadium's departure from city centers, and a cause for the demolition of existing urban fabric to build surface lots.
3. Single purpose structures became burdensome from both cost and energy perspectives.

21st Century Rebirth

1. The stadium as an anchor for urban renewal (Baltimore's Camden Yards by HOK and HMWhite; Cleveland Gateway by HOK and Sasaki; Denver's Coors Field by HOK).
2. The stadium as a catalyst for mixed-use entertainment districts (Comerica Park and Little Caesars Arena by HOK leading to The District Detroit by SmithGroup with Comerica Park and Little Caesars Arena by HOK; Beijing 2008 Olympic District by Sasaki with the National Stadium by Herzog & Demeuron and Water Cube by PTW).
3. The stadium as a driver of investment in parks and open space (Perth's Optus Stadium and Chevron Park by Hassell; London's 2012 Olympic District by AECOM with Olympic Stadium by Populous and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park by Hargreaves Jones; the Indianapolis Lucas Oil Stadium's walkability score).



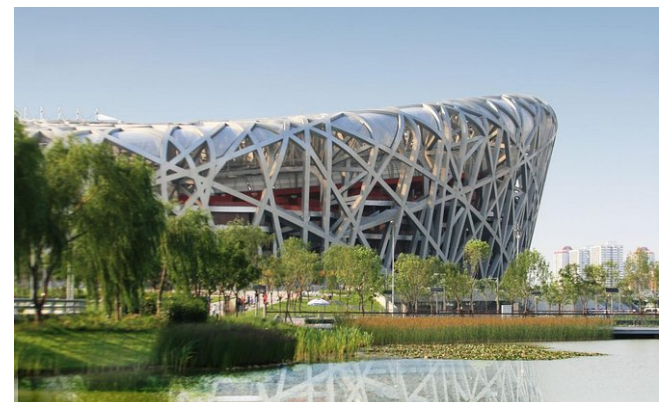
Piazza dell'Anfiteatro Lucca, Italy



McGregor Square Denver, Colorado



Stadium Park and Chevron Parklands Perth, Australia



Beijing Olympic Park Beijing, China

2. CASE STUDY 1: Titledown Plaza Green Bay, Wisconsin

Redefining the case for a downtown multi-programmed destination

1. Translating the culture, history, and defining physical identity of underserved districts into vibrant, contributing places for modern life.
2. Leveraging indoor/outdoor place-making opportunities for year-round use and activation of landscapes and the public realm.
3. Translating community consensus-building outcomes into enduring design across neighborhood, district and individual place scales.

A new breed of sports and entertainment center - public, open, and engaging year-round.

1. Designing for all seasons – including the northern Wisconsin winter.
2. Designing multi-purpose open spaces to promote both game-day excitement and every-day use for residents and visitors alike.
3. Celebrating the landscape as the destination driver beyond the event itself.



Titledown Green Bay, Wisconsin



Titledown Green Bay, Wisconsin

3. CASE STUDY 2: District Detroit Detroit, Michigan

The multi-headed role(s) of the landscape architect

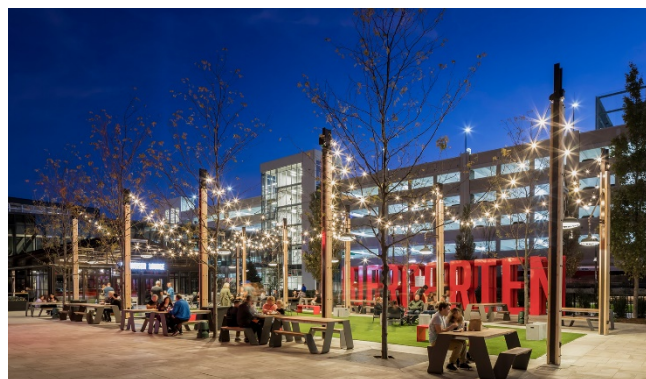
1. District developments led by entities that aren't conventional urban planners or real estate developers (like a professional sports team or a pizza chain).
2. The evolution of the idea – returning to a walkable downtown
3. Shaping development around memorable places - creating a fabric of district streets and open spaces.
4. The case for strong design leadership, partnerships, and trust.

A Vision for a True Mixed-Use, 24/7 District

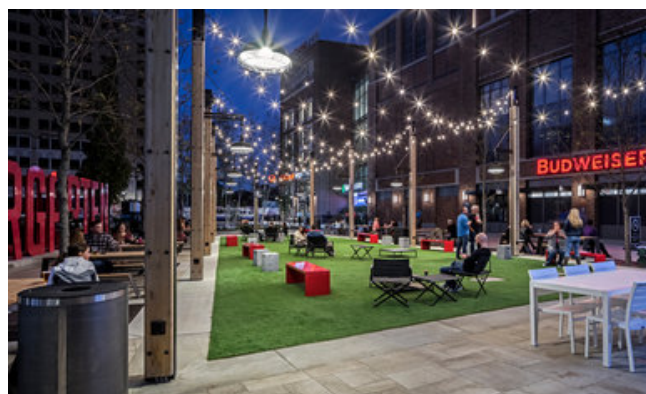
1. Massive venues at a neighborhood scale
2. The public realm between events - when there are no events scheduled, life goes on with public spaces and streets that support retail, residential and office
3. Integrating institutional partners such as health care providers and higher education for a complete neighborhood.

Balancing Community Needs

1. Sports and entertainment district benefits and conflicts with local communities.
2. Outdoor programming and events as free and open to the public vs. privatized / revenue-generating. COVID expanded demand for free and public open space.
3. Pre-game parties open to all. Summer Cinema Series.
4. Event-ready places to facilitate regular use – power, data, audio, wifi, water, tenting, and security.
5. Balancing security concerns with inclusive experience.



District Detroit Detroit, Michigan



District Detroit Detroit, Michigan

4. CASE STUDIES 3+4: Hongkou Stadium Shanghai, China Rach Chiec Sports District Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

The White Elephant in the Room

1. Why is a stadium built 30 years ago obsolete today?
2. What triggers the calculation between renovation or demolition?
3. How can the stadium/district be used when there is no game?
4. What is the future of e-sports and how can this new sector be accommodated?

Thinking Beyond Boundaries

1. Identifying opportunities for district-wide redevelopment and public private partnerships.
2. Integrating transit as a driver for year-round, non-game day uses and commercial investment.
3. Drawing the public realm inside and making the stadium accessible to all, even those without a ticket.

Turning a Lemon into Lemonade

1. Celebrating contextual and culture relevance.
2. Additional revenue generation beyond ticket sales.
3. Creating new civic spaces that are open and welcoming to all regardless of income.

Landscape as the Driver of Form and Identity

1. The stadium *as* a park, rather than the stadium within the park.
2. A model for the integration of a public realm into historically private or perceived private spaces.
3. Social distancing is the future. How can the adjacent landscape support large gatherings while avoiding packing people in like sardines?



Hongkou Stadium Shanghai, China



Hongkou Stadium Shanghai, China



Rach Chiec Sport District Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

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