

## **Cape Town's brand new stadium**

Construction of the breathtaking new [Cape Town Stadium](#), located on the [Green Point Common](#) between the twin icons of [Table Mountain](#) and [Robben Island](#), began in March 2007.

In just 33 months, joint contractors Murray & Roberts and WBHO completed the massive project at a cost of R4,4-billion – or approximately US\$600-million. The project architects were an association between GMP Architects of Germany and two local firms, Louis Karol and Associates and Point Architects.

All systems of the 68 000-seater have been tested and the brand new stadium is now ready to welcome the world to “the greatest show on earth”.

### **About the stadium**

**The design.** The sweeping silhouette of [Cape Town Stadium](#) has forever changed the face of the surrounding [Green Point Common](#). Enveloped by a façade of woven fibreglass coated with Teflon, it will resemble a rose-coloured bowl floating on a base when lit up at night. The architects have dubbed the stadium “the diva of Cape Town”, due to its ability to reflect the constantly changing moods of the city in varying weather conditions.

**The roof.** The design and construction of the roof is unique. Its original basic structure resembled a bicycle wheel, open in the middle. Some 72 cables linking the outer and inner rings of the circle were slowly tightened to raise the roof from ground level to its present height. In another first, the roof has 16mm-thick panels of glass to cover and protect spectators from strong winds and rain. This will let in the light, while the ceiling panels underneath – made of woven PVC fabric – will soften the noise from within.

**The stadium bowl.** For the eight World Cup matches to be played at the venue, the stadium will have a seating capacity of 68 000, including 13 000 temporary seats that will be removed after the competition. The stadium is designed in such a way that all spectators are close to the game and that the stadium can be evacuated in 15 minutes.

**Safety.** Spectators will be protected by a state-of-the-art camera surveillance system, monitored by police in the Venue Operations Centre inside the stadium. Pitch invasions are discouraged by a wide moat around the circumference. There is also a police station inside the building to deal with hooligans and other criminals.

### **How green is the stadium?**

A review team appointed by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has found that Cape Town Stadium meets high standards of environmental protection.

Water and energy efficiency measures are part of the design and, when the old Green Point Stadium was demolished to make way for the new one, 95% of the components were recycled and reused. Water from the stadium roof and drainage of the pitch is pumped into ponds on [Green Point Common](#), thus reducing dependency on potable water.

The inward pitch of the roof and the use of the roof's inner ring to house the 360 lights (instead of using high exterior masts) are both features that reduce the negative visual impact from outside.

## Quick facts

- 96 000m<sup>3</sup> of concrete were used to build [Cape Town Stadium](#).
- The roof weighs 4 700 tons.
- Some 9 000 glass panels were used to cover 37 000m<sup>2</sup> of roof.
- There are 500 toilets and 360 urinals.
- The stadium has 115 entry turnstiles.
- There are 16 lifts in the building.
- More than 2 500 workers were employed on site during construction, and almost 1 200 artisans received training from the contractors.