

John Mellas

With my thesis I am looking to reform the programmatic space of a sports stadium, in particular the Bills Stadium, New Era Field. A typical stadium, like the Buffalo Bills New Era Field, only gets used 8 times a year for the 8 home games played each NFL season. If you break it down further, in each of those 8 games the stadium is only being used roughly 4-5 hours a day. So over the course of a year, the Bills Stadium gets used around 36-40 hours for its intended purpose. With this Bibliography, I hope to gain a base knowledge of Public Space, Sports Stadiums, and Multi Purpose Spaces that will enable me to formulate my project to reshape the program space of the Bills Stadium, New Era Field and the coexistence of programs in reprogramming stadiums.

PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE



upload.wikimedia.org

1. Glazer, Lilla (1987) *The Public Face of Architecture*. London, Collier Macmillan Publishers

Throughout history there have been many forms of public architecture, but they all try to accomplish a similar task: how to make space that all people can and would use. For public architecture to work it is really in its best interest to be a reflection of the culture of the time. As the culture changes, so does the most impactful public architecture. In early history, the town center and market was key. In the middle ages, the Church and square around the Church. In today's culture we have the ever expanding stadium. As the culture evolves and the ideologies of the time progress or regress, it is a clear depiction of the state of our culture at that time in history.

- What makes a good public space?
- Why is it that some places thrive when others fail?
- Examples of good space vs poorly designed space and their location in the urban fabric

- What type of people are in the surrounding area that would use the public spaces
2. Petersen, D. C. (1989). *Convention centers, stadiums and arenas*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Land Institute.

The public space that we as a culture use the most will be highlighted in the amount of space it takes up in our cities and the amount of money we pour into building it. There is no other public form of architecture that is as wasteful as the large stadiums, convention centers, and arenas we build all over the world. While there is some good that comes from the building and usage of the facilities, there is such a high cost to the community that it is typical to see backlash after the facilities are completed.

- Differences in program and similarities of design
- The public does not really know what they want
- Can there be a better form of public design for this typology that we have not found yet?

3. Mckean, K. (2004). Stadiums. *Aethlon*, 21(2), 75.

Stadiums have a certain impact on both our culture and urban fabric. With the growth of sporting events across the globe, it is quite clear that these structures will only continue to grow and match the populations intrust.

- Can their use and situation in the urban and rural setting be accomplished in a impactful way for the community?
- How can the stadium be a conduit for growth in the community?
- Why are we so adamant in the building of stadiums that only get used 8 days a year?

PUBLIC FUNDS

4. Delaney, K. J., & Eckstein, R. (2003). *Public dollars, private stadiums: The battle over building sports stadiums*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.

The current formula for building new stadiums in the US is setup to make the rich richer. The people that own the large sport teams are among the 1% of the richest people in the world. These people who are worth billions of dollars are perfectly fine with not having any of their money tied up in the construction of a new stadium. There are loopholes they are use as well as state funds (taxpayers money) that they can petition to be used to aid in the construction of a new stadium that will “benefit the community” yet there have been very few stadium designs that have more of an impact outside the scheduled games that take place there.

- New stadiums, who pays for such a large project, and the conflict between the people and the owners.
 - Why should a team that makes millions with an owner that is worth billions require funds from a public that 80-90% of won't utilize the facilities?
5. Baim, D. V. (1994). *The sports stadium as a municipal investment*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press.

Just like any piece of infrastructure, there is a benefit for the municipal government in place there. As is the case for the Bills, the land and stadium is owned by the county and the Bills pay to play there. They have a lease set up to occupy the space in the same way a business would lease office space for their workers. The costs of building a new stadium are extremely high with the odds of using that stadium for 50 are extremely low.

- Can building a new stadium be beneficial for a municipality?
 - Can its use extend past the primary function of a stadium?
 - If there is an over focus on stadiums in a municipality is it fair for the residents to have to support an infrastructure that they might not want?
 - Is the stadium worth it for the municipality if the team does not stay in the stadium for long?
 - How long does the team need to use the stadium for it to become beneficial?
6. Petersen, D. C. (1989). *Convention centers, stadiums and arenas*. Washington, D.C.: Urban Land Institute.

With every passing year the landscape of a new stadium changes. From the local surrounding to the team itself, there is always something happening around the facility.

- Benefits and negatives of each
- How can the people use these "public" facilities when they are only open for specific events during the year?
- How do you plan for a stadium that you expect to last many years in a more urban setting where the landscape is always changing?
- Is there a program that can co-exist with the sport of the stadium?

7. Noll, R. G., & Zimbalist, A. S. (1997). *Sports, jobs, and taxes: The economic impact of sports teams and stadiums*. Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

Why do people put up with extremely high ticket prices when they could be watching the game from the comfort of their home? There is a communal and city energy of belonging to a place that we all feel when we enter a stadium and cheer on our home team. It is this desire to be a part of something that business are counting on when a new stadium (or old) begins to fill up on

game day. It is not just the municipality that benefits from a stadium, it's also the countless small businesses that are located in and around the stadiums, eagerly waiting for game day. These businesses are not looking at the games in a greedy way, they see these games as a God send. These are people that each of those businesses would probably never get as customers without the games. While the impact on the urban fabric and on the people's wallets might be higher than we would like, there is a benefit for the small business owner on game days that most tend to forget.

- Economic reach of sport stadiums
- Can a sports team support a town and not vice versa?
- What else can a stadium and team do for a community outside of the game?
- NFL stadiums (like new era field) are only used for ~40 hours a year for their intended purpose, is there a way to increase that usage with another program?
- Is that having an economic impact large enough to offset the cost of construction?

REPURPOSED BUILDINGS

8. Powell, K. (1999). *Architecture reborn: Converting old buildings for new uses*. New York: Rizzoli.

As the new becomes old there is a recognition of the possibility of repurposing it to increase the lifespan of a building. Empty factories become upscale lofts, houses become museums, and so on. With each new renovation, the public turns an eye to it and it becomes 'new' once again. What makes each instance of renovation unique is the type of program being fit into a structure that was designed for something else. Design then becomes more about the function of the building than the visual aspect. The visual qualities of the building, even if it is not a historic building, provide character because of its history. Each building is different in regards to how it was used, who lived in it, and reasons for repurposing it. When you add all these together and create something new that is well designed, it is hard for the public to turn away once they have seen it. It is the history of the people who used that building that make it special. The repurposing and renovation instead of knocking it down show that our culture has a respect for what came before, but it also knows we must look forward as well.

- Old to new and its importance in architectural, and human history
- Is it reasonable for large facilities, like stadiums, to be repurposed?
- Is the history of a building and the people who used it what makes it interesting after the repurposing?

9. Fitzgerald, J., & Leigh, N. G. (2002). *Economic revitalization: Cases and strategies for city and suburb*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications.

We live in an era of unpredictable economic shifting. What we know for sure is that the rich will always want to get richer. Knowing that, it is almost a certainty that large sports teams will always be around. Is there a way to take advantage of the presence of these teams and stadiums as an economic catalyst to revitalize the urban and suburban neighborhoods?

- Can stadiums be of benefit for the community outside of the scheduled NFL football games?
- Will stadiums play a bigger role in the community in the future?

10. Professional Sports Stadiums: Do they Divert Public Funds from Critical Public Infrastructure? Hearing before the Subcommittee on Domestic Policy of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of REpresentatives, 110 Congress, First Session, 9/10/09

- Discussion on the concern of public funded stadiums and their renovations
- If communities that pay for the stadium to be built and have to pay for renovations, how can that be fair to the taxpayers
- Can public officials understand the situation enough to make the right decision when it comes to public funds for stadiums or other projects? Wouldn't it be better if the committee for each were there at the time of this meeting to inform on both sides of the story?

WEB REFERENCES

11. Dargon, Tyler. (2016, June 22nd) *Buffalo Bills evaluating potential new stadium options*. <http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000671050/article/buffalo-bills-evaluating-potential-new-stadium-options>

There was much talk regarding where the Bills would be playing during the 2013 season after founding owner Ralph Wilson Jr. passed away. The conversation during that season was: "will the Bills stay in Buffalo?" Once the team's future was secure after Terry Pegula purchased the team for 1.4 billion, the conversation shifted to: "Where will the new Bills stadium be?" IT was a time of great excitement surrounding the Bills. They were here to stay for the foreseeable future, the City had development happening, and people were optimistic. Shortly after the announcement of Pegula purchasing the Bills, the city was abuzz with plans on where to build the new stadium downtown. While nothing is set in stone even today, Terry and the Bills organization have stated that "It is too early in our ownership to make any decision now". The new stadium will have to wait for now.

- Where would the best place for the stadium be?
- Buffalo is a small market team (second smallest in the NFL), is a new stadium worth the high cost and higher cost of admission to games?
- What if the new stadium was built where the current one is?
- Is there a way to satisfy the NFL's want of a new stadium for the Bills while also doing what is best for the community?

- 12.** Wagner-McGough, Sean (2016. June 6th) *Roger Goodell: Bills must 'stay up' with modern NFL stadiums*
<http://www.cbssports.com/nfl/news/roger-goodell-bills-must-stay-up-with-modern-nfl-stadiums/>

The purpose of building a new stadium for the Bills is one of greed. The NFL has a revenue stream of ~6 billion dollars and all the NFL teams share the revenue from each season. It gets split evenly amongst the 32 teams even if your team did not bring in as much as the rest, you still get an even share of the pie. With a new stadium comes more expensive tickets, more suites, and a better (more ways to spend money) fan experience. The NFL hopes that the revenue that the Bills generate with a new stadium will be more on par with the rest of the league.

- Is it fair to the people of Buffalo for the NFL to say we need a new stadium when majority of fans enjoy the fan experience at New Era Field?
- Is it better to have a product that will bring more people back to watch a game, or more ways to get people to spend their money?

- 13.** Bills fan forums (2015-2016) *Keep the Ralph? The cost of a new stadium to Bills Fans.*
[http://boards.buffalobills.com/showthread.php?529243-Keep-the-Ralph-The-cost-of-a-new-stadium-to-Bills-fans\(WGRZ\)/page6&p=8684359#post8684359](http://boards.buffalobills.com/showthread.php?529243-Keep-the-Ralph-The-cost-of-a-new-stadium-to-Bills-fans(WGRZ)/page6&p=8684359#post8684359)

With all the talk surrounding the new Bills stadium after Terry Pegula purchased the team in 2014, there were many fans that took to the official Bills forums to let their voice be heard. The overwhelming voice that the fans had was: "what is wrong with the Ralph?" It can be viewed as those in a position of making the decision of building a new stadium might not know what the fans want.

- Should the decision of a new stadium be left up to the fans and the people who will be funding it?
- Why are new stadiums being pushed forward when current facilities are adequate to support the team?

- 14.** Coates, Dennis & Humphreys, Brad (2011, June 7th) *Can new stadiums revitalise urban neighbourhoods?*

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/gate.lib.buffalo.edu/doi/10.1111/j.1740-9713.2011.00488.x/full>

[ull](#)

Since stadiums like New Era Field are only in use with their designed purpose for ~40 hours a year it would seem difficult for that facility to facilitate. However, during those moments of high usage there is enough money and population circulating to create a new town surrounding the stadium. Even though this article focuses on new stadiums, the same can be applied to stadiums that are looking to revitalise urban areas as well. Aside from the stadium in Orchard Park, NY, there is little reason to visit that part of Buffalo. However, if there was a stadium that was approaching the people on a more useful level it could become a center for a new community. The Harbor Center in Downtown Buffalo is a great example of this way of thinking. The Academy of Hockey is trying to engage the public in a way that exists outside of the Sabres games.

- What is required to make a stadium usable for more than its intended design?
- Is there a program that is well suited for adapting to the form of a stadium?
- What does the surrounding urban fabric in need of? Can it be what helps form the reprogramming of the site?

- 15.** Rodak, Mike (2016, June 22) *Bills owner Terry Pegula on new stadium: 'We'll look into that'*

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/16431024/buffalo-bills-owner-terry-pegula-nfl-asked-new-stadium-plans

There is still plenty of time for the Bills organization to look into the siting of a new stadium should they choose to build one. With time on their side, what really needs to be addressed is the product on the field. The Bills have missed the playoffs for the past 16 years, and this season does not seem to be making any headway to breaking that trend. If the Bills start making the playoffs on a consistent basis, there would probably be more backing from the fans to have a new stadium built.

- Does Buffalo need a new stadium that can support concerts and other events?
- How often do events take place in Key Bank Center that have it filled to capacity?
- Does Buffalo have a need for a large indoor stadium outside of Football usage?