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Soccer Meets Architecture

On June 9, 2006 the final stage of the 18th FIFA World Cup competition got underway in Germany. The 64 matches in the twelve World Cup arenas were watched by billions of soccer fans on all five continents – in addition to the hundreds of thousands lucky enough to have been present in the stadiums. Many of the arenas were re-built or modernized for the number one sporting event world-wide. The task confronted architects of international renown with major challenges. This DW Transtel series presents the stadiums from an architectural aspect.

01 Berlin

With a capacity of 76.000, this all-seater stadium is the biggest in Germany. Because of its historical importance, reconstruction of the old Olympic Stadium had to take place within the framework of strict conservation requirements.

02 Dortmund

The eight 62 meter-high pylons of the modernized stadium tower up into the Dortmund skyline like giant yellow fingers. Visible from afar, during the World Cup the steel structures pointed the way to fans from all over the world.

03 Frankfurt

The old Wald Stadium has been completely rebuilt. The new arena has a gigantic video cube under a retractable roof.

04 Gelsenkirchen

This multi-functional arena with its retractable roof and removable pitch is regarded as one of the most modern stadiums in Europe.

05 Hamburg

The first stadium to undergo reconstruction for the World Cup, UEFA included it in its exclusive "Five-Star Stadia" club.

06 Hanover

Converted into an out-and-out soccer arena in just eighteen months, the stadium passed its test in the 2005 Confederations Cup.

07 Kaiserslautern

Towering high above the town like a modern-day fortress, the stadium creates a stunning impression even from some distance away.

08 Cologne

Cologne's stadium, too, is a new generation arena. The roof of this state-of-the-art stadium is suspended from four 72 meter-high towers. Brightly illuminated at night matches, they are the architectural highlights of this soccer temple.

09 Leipzig

The stadium is the only venue in former East Germany. A true architectural achievement, the new arena was built on the site of the old Central Stadium so rich in tradition.

10 Munich

Glowing like a fireball or as airily blue as the Bavarian sky: many similes have been coined to describe the futuristic facade of this avant-garde architectural work of art with its magical aura.

11 Nuremberg

As in Berlin and Stuttgart, the stadium is not an out-and-out soccer arena. Its running track means it can also be used for athletics events. The playing surface was lowered to increase the capacity of the arena.

12 Stuttgart

This stadium's most outstanding feature is the steel cable truss design of the membrane roof which protects every seat from the elements.