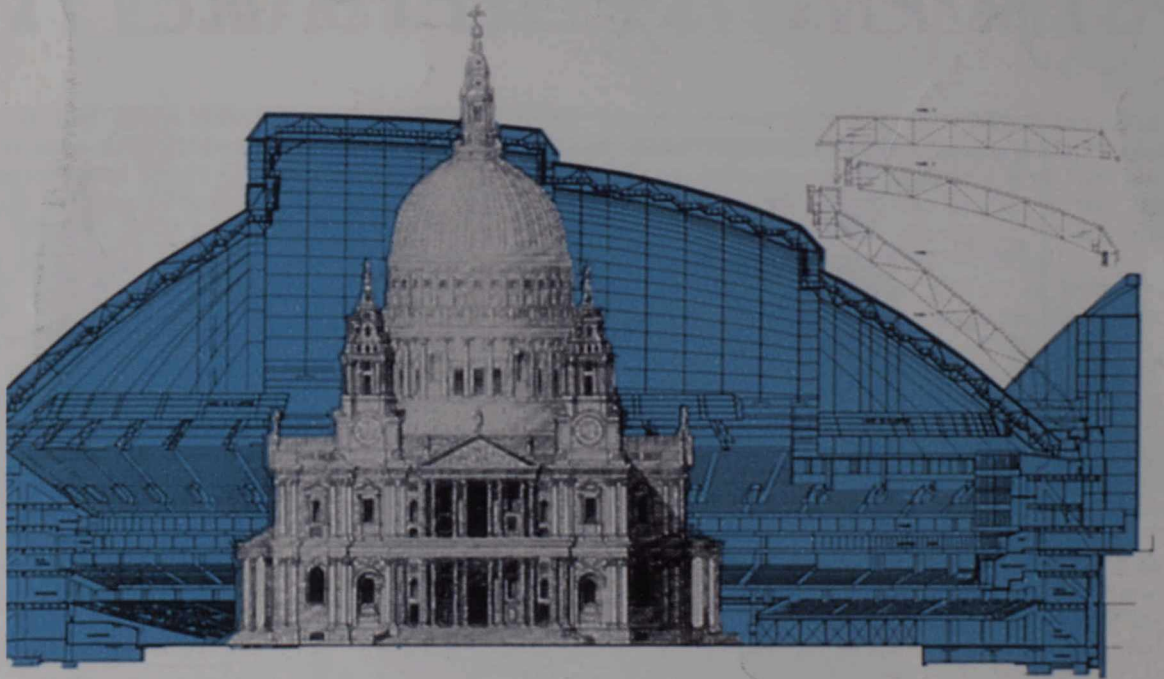
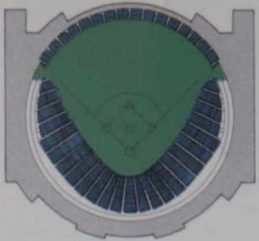
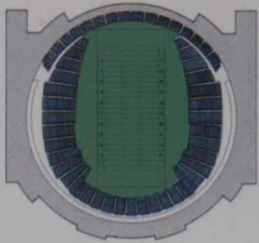


New SKYDOME boosts Toronto's bid to host 1996 summer Olympic Games



Comparison of elevation of SkyDome against that of Saint Paul's Cathedral.



Not only does the roof of the SkyDome retract; the seating can also be rearranged for use either as a football ground, or as a baseball diamond.

The SkyDome – the world's first major stadium with a fully retractable roof – has opened on schedule in central Toronto, and has already played host to a number of important sports events, concerts and other entertainment spectacles.

The new stadium is an impressive sight. The retractable roof – which can open or close in 20 minutes – covers eight acres and spans 674 feet at its widest point. That makes it big enough to enclose a 32-house subdivision or a 31-storey-high apartment block.

Indeed, the SkyDome could comfortably accommodate the Coliseum in Rome or even St Paul's Cathedral in London, with only the tip of the cathedral's spire showing above the stadium's roof.

Altogether, the SkyDome can hold about 53 000 spectators at big field-sports events such as football or baseball games, and as many as 70 000 fans at concerts and other on-stage events.

The SkyDome, however, is much more than just a stadium; it is an entertainment complex which also incorporates a 350-room hotel, numerous restaurants and bars, a health club with a swimming pool, squash courts, gymnasium, offices, exhibition space and a television studio.

Cornerstone of Olympic bid

With its range of facilities, the SkyDome has become the cornerstone venue in Toronto's bid to host the 1996 summer Olympic Games, marking the 100th anniversary of the modern-day Olympic movement.

Supporters of Toronto's bid like to point out that the city has all the requirements needed to make an Olympic bid successful. Toronto is easily reached – its international airport is served by 32 world airlines, and 60 per cent of North America's population lives within one hour's flight of the city.

It has more than 60 000 beds in first-class, North American-standard, hotels; 10 000 restaurants; and a public transportation system that is recognised as

the safest, cleanest and most efficient on the continent.

The city also has an excellent summer climate – it is on the the same latitude as Barcelona and Rome – with average daytime temperatures in the mid to high 70s. And of course, it has excellent, modern facilities to accommodate the full variety of sporting events of a summer Olympic Games.

Finally, the city is sufficiently international to make just about every nation on earth feel right at home. Its population of three million encompasses more than 70 ethnic groups; and more than 100 languages are spoken in the city.

As the Olympic supporters like to say: 'Everyone has a relative in Toronto'.



Toronto '96

