



# MAGIC BOX ARENA

Lille, France

European Steel Construction Award 2013

The Grand Stade de Lille, renamed “Décathlon Arena – Stade Pierre Mauroy,” is one of the most multifunctional stadiums in Europe. At a time when sport is more than ever a spectacle, the boldness of the Lille stadium makes perfect sense. With its unique ability in Europe to transform its 51,000-seat stadium into a 30,000-seat Arena, it redefines usage, turning every event into an exceptional immersive experience.

**An architectural manifesto redefining the stadium’s uses**

The challenge was to design a structure where the spectator would be equally comfortable watching a football or basketball match, a concert, or an opera. To achieve this, it was essential that the entire stadium be covered. Thus, the roof opens in two halves along the longitudinal axis.

Next, it was necessary to imagine a retractable pitch to avoid damaging it outside of football or rugby matches, as well as a grandstand configuration that would bring spectators closer to the action for indoor team sports and cultural events, offering the closest proximity to the spectacle.

We envisioned retracting the northern half of the pitch and tucking 7,000 additional seats underneath, creating a 30,000-seat Arena in half of the stadium. A black velvet curtain, fixed on “patiences,” is raised by cables to the roof. It unfolds along the transverse axis of the field, isolating the southern (...)

Client

Lille Métropole Communauté Urbaine

Program

Large Multifunctional Sports and Cultural Facility, including a 51,000-seat Stadium and a 30,000-seat Arena.

Surface

80 750 m<sup>2</sup>

Cost of Work

324 000 000 € excl. TAX

Status

Event box delivered in 2015

Environmental Quality

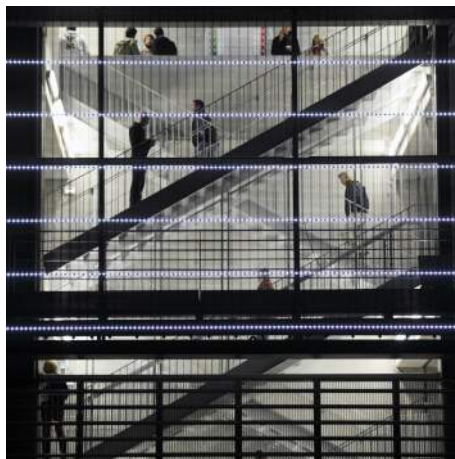
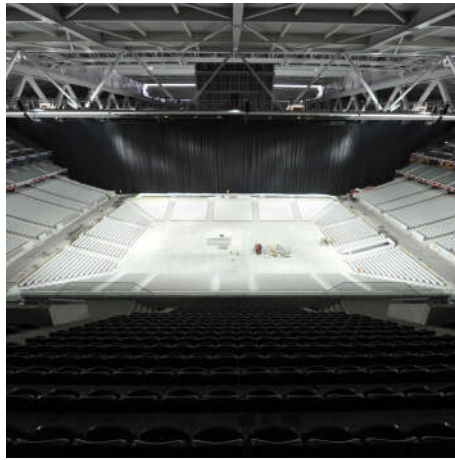
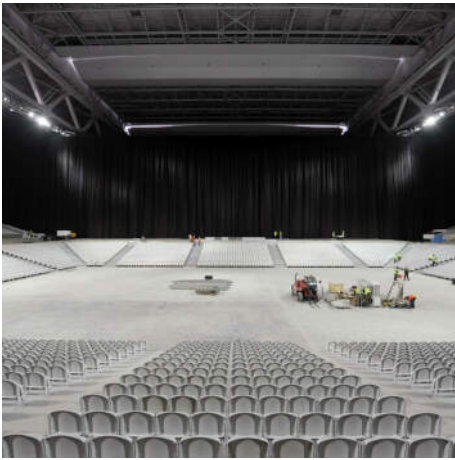
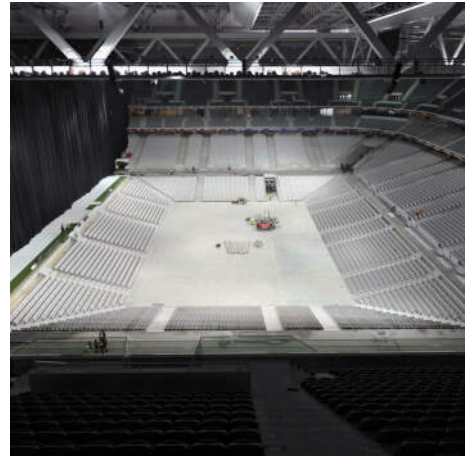
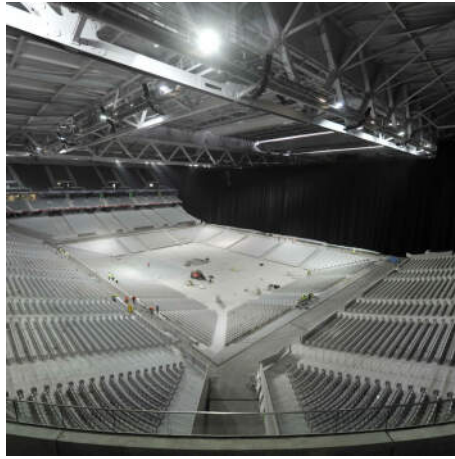
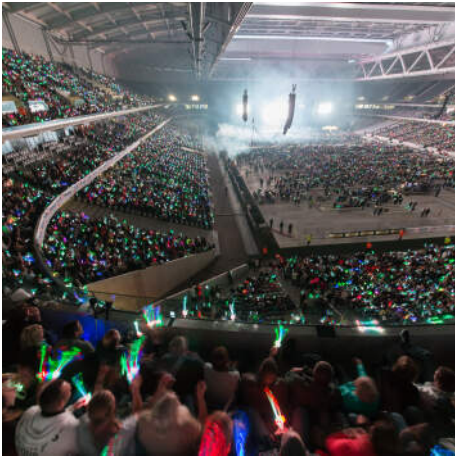
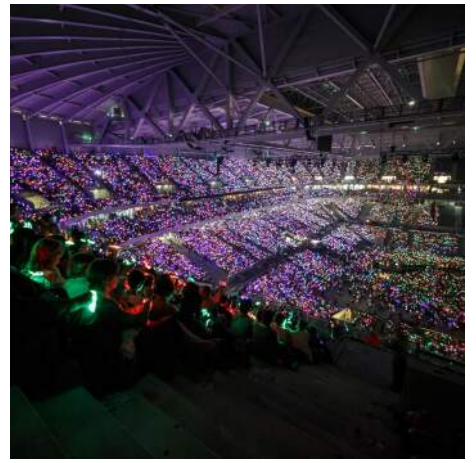
RT 2012,

Compactness/Versatility/Flexibility: 3 facilities in 1: 1 Stadium + 1 Arena + 1 Zenith, Photovoltaic panels, Rainwater harvesting for turf irrigation.

Arena

Culture





Watch the video  
<https://vimeo.com/1011007203>