

Urban Stadia: Integrating Stadium Design with
Mixed-Use Building Tactics to Rejuvenate an
Urban Neighborhood

F i n a l R e s e a r c h R e p o r t

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Figure 01 - View from potential MN United Stadium site

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Research Abstract

Sporting stadiums impact the socio-economic capabilities in all of the areas in which they exist. Some have a good impact, they are able to fully integrate into the urban environment and benefit the area through areas such as economics, walkability, transportation, etc. But there are many that do not accomplish this. They essentially become ginormous concrete structures that are surrounded by thousands of asphalt-laden parking spaces and they only end up serving the community on the days in which the sporting team plays, usually once or twice a week. What if the same tactics we are using to rejuvenate our downtown areas can serve a bigger part in getting one of the most expensive typologies in this world back on track? With this research report, I look to delve into just what type of impact a stadium will have on an urban environment, when combined with mixed-use building tactics.

User / Client Description

What is this research directed to?

Minnesota FC United Soccer Team and Their Future Soccer Stadium



Figure 02 - Minnesota FC United soccer team logo

Who else will use the stadium?

Retail Stores
Businesses (Office Spaces)
Minneapolis Farmers Market
Apartment Tenants
Restaurants / Bars
Coffee Shop

Theoretical Premise / Unifying Idea

Research

A soccer stadium is needed to house the brand new Minnesota soccer team FC United. The new U.S. Bank stadium that is being constructed for the Vikings is not an effective stadium option for the team as it houses three times more than the team is looking to have for a capacity (approx.18,000). FC United wants a more intimate venue for both themselves and their growing fan base to enjoy. Stadium design has gone through a lot of stages of evolution, and I look to continue this process by developing a process on how to design a stadium with integrated mixed-use and a process with which to assess how the design works or is effective.

There are many texts that will help me with the developing of these processes, but two that will help most with the research involved for the following research journal. One will allow me to pull ideas from past stadium designs when designing a structure that incorporates both mixed-use and stadium design techniques. Another book will allow me to study different stadium designs while looking at some of the economic statistics of each design and what each one is used for.

One book titled Sports Architecture by Rod Sheard includes features many different stadium designs that are for many different sports and it also includes many of the facts about the capacity of each stadium, the location of each stadium as well as the cost of each stadium. There are also floor plans and sections in the book which will give me many clues into which spatial and circulation designs would be most appropriate for the mixed-use design that I am planning for the Minnesota FC United Soccer Team. Rod Sheard is one of the principals of Populous Architects who has done the majority of major sporting stadiums in the United States and around the world and the book includes many of the lessons that Rod and his staff learned with each of the projects which is a valuable resource for me as I try to define a revolutionary process to designing urban stadia.

Even when this book was published in the year 2000, Rod Sheard and his staff at Populous architects are at the leading edge of transforming stadium design in order to bring it into the next century. They understand that stadiums and their design are not only important to the

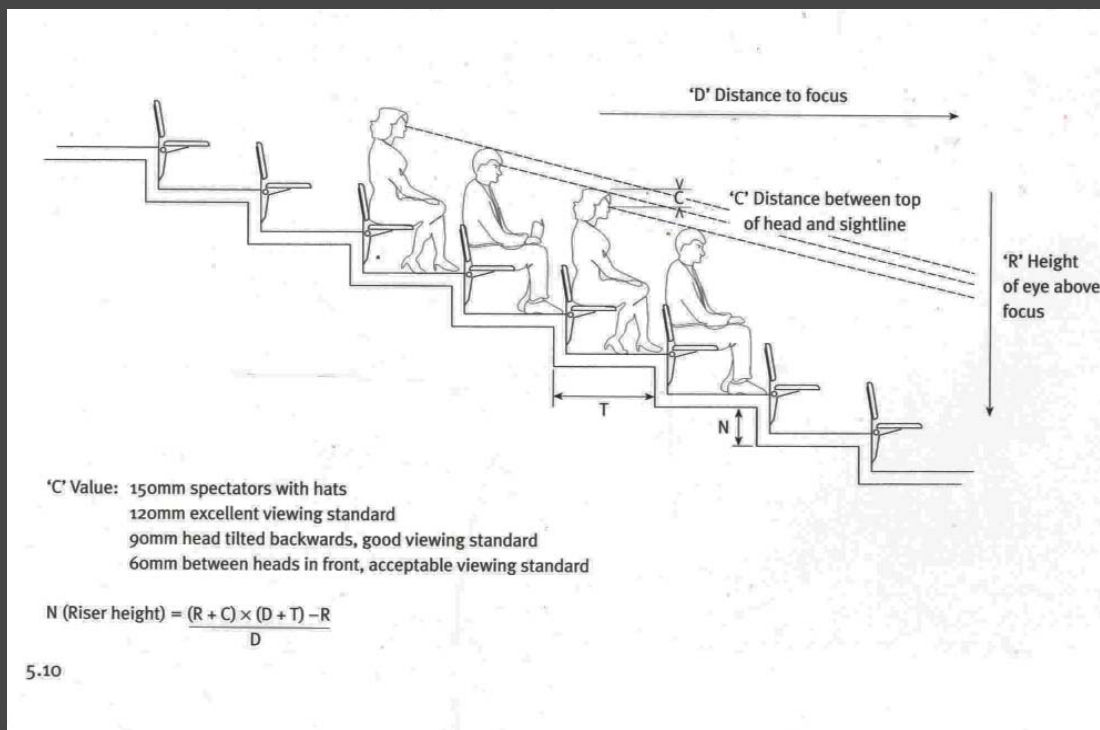


Figure 03 - Diagram with seating height and view-
ing calculations

and Performing Arts Centers by David C. Petersen. This book also looks at many different types of stadiums and designs, but instead focuses on the economic impact of the stadium designs and also looks at the differences that mixed-usage has on their integration into the city's activity. This book includes sections showing data from stadiums that include different sports and other things like entertainment venues and how that brings in a greater volume of both people and revenue for the city in which the stadium is located. The book also includes sections that help estimate future use or occupancy of stadiums which will be very useful to me as I try to develop a process with which to assess how the design works or is effective (one of my two secondary goals).

Unlike the previous book described, David's book focuses on the economics of stadi-

Research Justification

According to Plunkett Research, the sporting industry in the United States is worth \$498.4 million and throughout the world it is worth \$1.5 trillion. The industry has been around for decades and sports have become part of many country's identities. Instead of trying to take down the industry and prevent spending on the sporting stadiums, I think we should study how to design stadiums so that they fit in with the cities around them and perform several functions. If we can learn to design stadiums to have a mixed-use element with them like office or retail spaces for example, the stadium is able to more easily recover the cost of its construction and it is also able to save the city money that would've been spent constructing the spaces that are now a part of the stadium.

Plunkett Research states that the MLS (Major League Soccer) industry is worth \$600 million in the U.S., showing that although it may not be the most popular sport in the country, its fan base is steadily growing. The Minnesota United soccer team is an expansion team of the MLS looking to create a home for themselves in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. A large stadium for the Minnesota Vikings is being constructed, but the MN United team is looking to play in a stadium that has a seating capacity that is about one-third the size of the Vikings stadium to create a more intimate venue for their fans.

Stadium design has become more advanced over the years, becoming more tech-savvy and environmentally friendly. Stadium designs still leave much to be desired when it comes to truly fitting into an urban streetscape and feeling like a building that you could as easily walk into off the sidewalk and enjoy a cup of coffee as you could watch a sporting event in. With this thesis project, my goal is to create a process that allows stadium designers to more fully integrate their stadium ideas into the surrounding cities while designing a state-of-the-art mixed usage soccer stadium for the MN United team in Minneapolis, MN.

I believe that although the amount spent on stadiums on a world scale is staggering, we can create a process for designers to make their stadium designs work more for the city around them and also look more like the city around them. If this process can effectively change the way

we design our stadiums, then a huge impact will have been made on one of the largest and most expensive typologies existing. Stadiums will become urban nodes of activity and not just on the days that a sporting event is taking place, it will be one everyday, just like the rest of the city.



Figure 04 - Proposed Detroit Events Center featuring fully integrated mixed-use spaces

Historical, Social and Cultural Context of Sporting Stadiums

Historically, sporting events have drawn the attention of millions. Sports are something that can rally a whole city together for one cause. They are so engrained into the fabric of our world's culture. The first stadium ever designed was in the 8th century BC in Greece and there have been 1,000s of stadium designed and built since then. Some have taken steps back in stadium design and some have introduced elements that change the typology forever. Many have been successful from a safety standpoint, but some have failed in that regard. When a stadium design truly works, it can be a symbol of pride for the city and country/state for which it is in. When a design goes wrong, the result can be catastrophic because of how many lives occupy the space of a stadiums. Stadiums can have the power to drastically change its surroundings in good ways and bad. Stadiums and their designers are starting to evolve with the world around them. There are now many stadiums with retractable roof systems, mixed-use spaces, green roofs and other state-of-the-art technology featuring video screens that are thousands of square feet large. Some stadiums have been able to integrate into their environments, but stadiums still have yet to fully fit into the urban streetscape around it and blend in. Buildings that are thousands of square feet large are hard to blend into the environment around them, and it may take many advances in the typology in order to accomplish this, but I believe it can be done.

There are currently just over 60 stadiums being constructed at this moment with many of them costing millions of dollars. There has been much controversy over the massive amount of money that is put into stadiums and where it comes from. There has also been controversy about the construction techniques of stadiums in countries like Qatar and Brazil where many workers are migrants who come to those countries looking for work and get treated and paid very poorly and many die due to the grueling conditions they are put under. There are many reasons why people are against the building of stadiums, about as many as there are for their building. My argument is this, as long as stadiums are going to continue being built at the rate they are today and there is little we can do to slow them down, then why don't we work to reform the way that they are built? Let's work to make sporting stadiums work for our cities once again.



Figure 05 - Oakland Coliseum during a Raiders football game

uration, they made the necessary concessions to house all of the sporting field configurations turning a possibly great experience into more sub-par experiences. Over time, all of these cookie-cutter style stadiums started to wear down with age and stadium styles started changing. In the years of the late 90's and early 2000's stadium design in America started to transform into more sport-specific stadiums and some even started to integrate more mixed-usage into their buildings. A good example of this is Ford Field, an NFL football stadium that was built in 2002. This 1.5 million square foot stadium was built in the warehouse district in Detroit. It was the first NFL stadium to integrate mixed-use commercial development that leverages the stadium structure for year-round use. This stadium was a critical piece in rejuvenating downtown Detroit. From 2002 to 2015 more stadiums have been built and some integrated the mixed-use tactics of Ford Field into their plans and some didn't, but one thing was becoming clear, with more and more stadiums being designed for a single sporting use like they were in first half of the century,

more stadiums needed to be built to house all of the sporting teams. With more stadiums needing to be built, that meant cities and states with sporting teams in need of stadiums had to spend that much more money. Even in the late 90s and early 2000s little had still been proven that stadiums could be economically-viable ventures for the cities that they are in. This is where the location of the stadiums and inclusion of mixed-use can be so important for stadiums. If there is going to be more and more money spent on stadiums in the future, then we need to find a way to design these coliseums smarter so that they can give back to the city that is supporting them financially.



Figure 06 – Old Picture of Manchester United fans



Figure 07 - Century Link Field, home to the Seattle Seahawks NFL team and the Sounders MLS team

Socially, sports are also a juggernaut. The most popular sport in the world is soccer with approximately 3.5 billion estimated fans and even though it is not the most popular in America, it is growing in popularity every year. With this project I am looking to design a stadium that if built would cause as much positive change in the popularity of soccer in Minneapolis, MN as the design would cause for the stadium typology. The millennial generation are now adults and the social preferences of that generation is changing the world. Many of us prefer living in urban areas with lots of mixed-usage buildings. Those areas best fit our style of living, they are high energy and are connected to so many different outlets of entertainment. Stadiums are a part of those urban environments that the millennials are populating and they need to adapt to the changes that they are bringing with them. One of the biggest ways that stadiums can integrate into the urban neighborhoods around them is to study the social trends of the people in that neighborhood. In Minneapolis there is a growing number of millennials as mentioned before. If that is the group of people that will be buying tickets to see soccer games and concerts in a new stadium that is being designed, then the smartest thing to do economically-speaking is to design it around their lifestyle. Ford Field, the football stadium for the Detroit Lions football team features a team store, a nightclub/restaurant, 200-room hotel, office spaces and various retail areas. This is the level of mixed-use that needs to start being adapted into all new stadiums that hope to successfully inte-



Figure 08 - Entry elevation of Ford Field in Detroit, home of the NFL team the Detroit Lions

grate into their urban landscapes. Before the inclusion of mixed-usage to pull in people off the street and into the stadium, the stadium also needs to be placed in an urban location that is in close vicinity to a large number of people and walkable areas. The more walkable the area surrounding a stadium, the more foot traffic that stadium is going to get inside it. Kauffman stadium (MLB) and the Chiefs stadium (NFL) are both very beautiful stadiums for their respective sports, but they provide little extra earning possibilities for the city of Kansas City because they are only designed to house sporting events. And even if they were designed with mixed-usage, it wouldn't matter because both stadiums are placed in the middle of nothing in the city, they are very far away from the urban areas of the city and are surrounded by 19,000 parking spaces.

The next generation of sporting event attenders want to see the design of sporting stadi-

Research Journal Article

Urban Stadia: Integrating Stadium Design with Mixed-Use Building Tactics to Rejuvenate an Urban Neighborhood

Introduction and Background

Principal Investigator - Mitch Borgen

Theory - Sporting Stadiums can combine the multi-use aspect of mixed-use typologies to create a stadium design that blends in with the urban neighborhood around while also creating a space that can be used for multiple functions instead of just sporting events, making it more economical for the city and more active and exciting for its citizens.

Potential Impact - To give all sports stadium designers a process by which they can fully integrate their stadium designs with mixed-use building techniques and then define a process by which they can determine whether the design will be effective in increasing the socio-economic capabilities of the neighborhood containing the mixed-use stadium.

Main Question - How can mixed-use building techniques combine with stadium design to have a positive socio-economic impact on a neglected urban neighborhood?

Secondary Questions -

1. How to design a stadium with integrated mixed-use.
2. How to define a process to assess how the design works or is effective.

Motivation - As a designer and a sports fan, sports stadium design has always been a passion of mine. I want to develop a process that helps other sporting stadium designers fully integrate their stadium designs in with the urban landscape around them by combining them with mixed-use design techniques.

Methodology Cont.

1. Create space planning alternatives for the soccer stadium using Sketchup including measurements of the following areas:

a. Total Sq. Ft.

i. Sq. Ft. of Stadium Area

ii. Sq. Ft. of Mixed-Use Area

2. Measure the economic impacts of each space planning alternative

a. Determine how much the sq.ft. of the mixed-use area will cost to construct (using RS Means) and compare that to how much revenue the mixed-use space of each design iteration will generate by determining the revenue generated by each of the following mixed-use spaces. Percentages that each mixed-use space will take of the overall mixed-use area allowance is as follows:

- Retail Stores (Clothing and Organic Food) - 8.3% ^

- Coffee Shop – 3.5% ^

- Restaurants/Bars - 21.7% ^

- Business/Office Space – 24.5% ^

- Apartments – 42% ^

*Using RS Means

^ Percentages of each mixed-use space are calculated from the spatial requirement of each space divided by the total square footage of the mixed-use typology; this is described in the Thesis Program Draft

b. Determine how much the sq. ft. of the stadium area will cost and compare that to how much revenue will be brought into the stadium through those seats

* Using RS Means

Methodology Cont.

c. Determine the net gain of the two different typologies (sports area and mixed-use) and which iteration contains the spatial planning that maximizes the economic gain of the stadium

*Using RS Means

3. Determine which, if any, of the stadium design iterations most exemplify a stadium that is designed with both spatial planning and economic impacts in mind

These numbers were kept the same in all of the iterations in order to keep consistency of the factors that are besides those being studied:

Soccer Field- 225 ft. x 345 ft.

Entire Stadium Footprint- 615 ft. x 695 ft.

Stadium Seating Capacity- 18,236

Square Footage of Circulation Space- 150,000 sq. ft. (gathered from research done for thesis program)

Total Square Footage of Stadium Seating and Mixed-Usage Areas- 427,425 sq. ft. (area of entire stadium footprint, used as arbitrary constant for this study)

Research Results

Iteration #1

Total Sq. Ft. of Stadium Seating Area- 154,013 sq. ft.

Total Sq. Ft. of Mixed-Use Area- 123,412 sq. ft. (Total Square Footage of Stadium Seating and Mixed-Usage Area and Circulation Area- Square Footage of Circulation Space-Total Square Footage of Stadium Seating)

Retail Stores (Clothing and Organic Food)- 10,243 sq. ft. at \$171.94/sq. ft. = \$1,761,152.91

Coffee Shop- 4,319 sq. ft. at \$232.28/sq. ft. = \$1,003,236.96

Restaurants/Bars- 26,780 sq. ft. at \$191.23/sq. ft. = \$5,121,052.26

Business Office Space- 30,236 sq. ft. at \$177.65/sq. ft. = \$5,371,491.85

Apartments- 51,834 sq. ft. at \$178.14/sq. ft. = \$9,233,659.68

Cost of Stadium Seating Area- 154,013 sq. ft. at \$145.92/sq. ft. = \$22,473,882.00

Profit of Stadium Seating Area- \$14,328,754.64 per year

Cost of Mixed-Use Area- \$22,490,593.66 (\$182.24/sq. ft.)

Profit of Mixed-Use Area- \$9,084,208.80 per year

Retail Stores (Clothing and Organic Food)- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$313,435.80/year

Coffee Shop- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$132,161.40/year

Restaurants/Bars- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$819,468/year

Business Office Space- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$925,221.60/year

Apartments- 51,834 sq. ft. x \$133 per square foot (rent) = \$6,893,922/year

Cost of Both Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$44,964,475.66

Yearly Profit of Both Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$23,412,963.44

Research Results Cont.

Iteration #1



Figure 09 - Top view of stadium iteration #1



Figure 10 - Perspective of stadium iteration #1

Research Results Cont.

Iteration #2

Total Sq. Ft. of Stadium Seating Area- 155,946 sq. ft.

Total Sq. Ft. of Mixed-Use Area- 121,479 sq. ft. (Total Square Footage of Stadium Seating and Mixed-Usage Area and Circulation Area- Square Footage of Circulation Space-Total Square Footage of Stadium Seating)

Retail Stores (Clothing and Organic Food)- 10,083 sq. ft. at \$173.02/sq. ft. = \$1,744,533.88

Coffee Shop- 4,252 sq. ft. at \$234.31/sq. ft. = \$996,277.47

Restaurants/Bars- 26,361 sq. ft. at \$191.40/sq. ft. = \$5,045,492.15

Business Office Space- 29,762 sq. ft. at \$178.25/sq. ft. = \$5,305,206.88

Apartments- 51,021 sq. ft. at \$178.53/sq. ft. = \$9,108,651.22

Cost of Stadium Seating Area- 155,946 sq. ft. at \$145.80/sq. ft. = \$22,736,707.41

Profit of Stadium Seating Area- \$14,328,754.64 per year

Cost of Mixed-Use Area- \$22,200,161.60 (\$182.75/sq. ft.)

Profit of Mixed-Use Area- \$8,941,807.80 per year

Retail Stores (Clothing and Organic Food)- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$308,539.80/year

Coffee Shop- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$130,111.20/year

Restaurants/Bars- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$806,646.60/year

Business Office Space- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$910,717.20/year

Apartments- 51,021 sq. ft. x \$133 per square foot = \$6,785,793/year

Cost of Both Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$44,936,869.01

Yearly Profit of Both Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$23,270,562.44

Research Results Cont.

Iteration #2



Figure 11 - Top view of stadium iteration #2



Figure 12 - Perspective of stadium iteration #2

Research Results Cont.

Iteration #3

Total Sq. Ft. of Stadium Seating Area- 175,410 sq. ft.

Total Sq. Ft. of Mixed-Use Area- 102,015 sq. ft. (Total Square Footage of Stadium Seating and Mixed-Usage Area and Circulation Area- Square Footage of Circulation Space-Total Square Footage of Stadium Seating)

Retail Stores (Clothing and Organic Food)- 8,467 sq. ft. at \$181.16/sq. ft. = \$1,533,902.78

Coffee Shop- 3,571 sq. ft. at \$227.24/ sq. ft. = \$811,464.89

Restaurants/Bars- 22,137 sq. ft. at \$191.36/sq. ft. = \$4,236,047.45

Business Office Space- 24,994 sq. ft. at \$185.58/sq. ft. = \$4,638,440.92

Apartments- 42,846 sq. ft. at \$183.25/sq. ft. = \$7,851,640.34

Cost of Stadium Seating Area- 175,410 sq. ft. at \$144.71/sq. ft. = \$25,383,221.92

Profit of Stadium Seating Area- \$14,328,754.64 per year

Cost of Mixed-Use Area- \$19,071,496.38 (or \$186.95/sq. ft.)

Profit of Mixed-Use Area- \$7,509,089.40 per year

Retail Stores (Clothing and Organic Food)- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$259,090.20/year

Coffee Shop- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$109,272.60/year

Restaurants/Bars- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$677,392.20/year

Business Office Space- \$30.60 per square foot (rent) = \$764,816.40/year

Apartments- 42,846 sq. ft. x \$133 per square foot = \$5,698,518/year

Cost of Both Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$44,454,718.30

Yearly Profit of Both Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$21,837,844.04

Research Results Cont.

Iteration #3



Figure 13 - Top view of stadium iteration #3



Figure 14 - Perspective of stadium iteration #3

Research Results Cont.

Constants

RS Means Constants

In order to keep the integrity of the study, there were multiple constants that I kept when studying the construction costs of the different typologies present in this study. Here is a list of the constants that I kept for each typology:

Stadium seating area

Material: Concrete block/steel frame

Stories: 2

Story Height: 20 ft.

Apartments

Material: Face brick w/concrete block/steel joists

Stories: 3

Story Height: 10 ft.

Offices

Material: Face brick w/concrete block/steel joists

Stories: 2

Story Height: 12 ft.

Restaurant

Material: Face brick w/concrete block/steel joists

Stories: 1

Story Height: 15 ft.

Research Results Cont.

Retail Stores (Clothing and Organic Food)

Material: Face brick w/concrete block/steel joists

Stories: 1

Story Height: 15 ft.

Coffee

Material: Face brick w/concrete block/steel joists

Stories: 1

Story Height: 15 ft.

Contractor Fees: 25%

Architectural Fees: 7%

Location: Minneapolis, MN

Other Pricing Constants-

Average Retail Rent in Minneapolis, MN: \$30.60/sq. ft.

Average Apartment Rent in Minneapolis, MN: \$133/sq. ft.

Average American MLS Ticket Price (\$46.22) x Total Number of Home Games in MLS

Season (17) x Maximum Stadium Seating Capacity (18,236): \$14,328,754.64

(Maximum Stadium Seating Profit/Year)

Research Results Cont.

Results

Iteration #1

- Square Footage of the Stadium Seating Area- 154,013 sq. ft.
- Square Footage of the Mixed-Use Area- 123,412 sq. ft.
- Cost of Both the Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$44,964,475.66 (\$162.08/sq. ft.)
- Profit of Both the Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$23,412,963.44/year (\$84.39/sq. ft.)

Iteration #2

- Square Footage of the Stadium Seating Area- 155,946 sq. ft.
- Square Footage of the Mixed-Use Area- 121,479 sq. ft.
- Cost of Both the Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$44,936,869.01 (\$161.98/sq. ft.)
- Profit of Both the Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$23,270,562.44/year (\$83.88/sq. ft.)

Iteration #3

- Square Footage of the Stadium Seating Area- 175,410 sq. ft.
- Square Footage of the Mixed-Use Area- 102,015 sq. ft.
- Cost of Both the Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$44,454,718.30 (\$160.24/sq. ft.)
- Profit of Both the Stadium Seating Area and Mixed-Use Area- \$21,837,844.04/year (\$78.72/sq. ft.)

Conclusions and Projections

Conclusion

Iteration #1 and #2 have 25 rows of seats on the main concourse. These iterations that have more rows of seating on the main concourse take up less square footage for the same amount of seats as iteration 3, which has only 20 rows in its main concourse. This allows for both iteration #1 and #2 to have more space for the mixed-usage typology. My theory was that the stadium designs that allow for more mixed-use square footage will generate more revenue through that typology and will be the better stadium design choices, economically speaking. The results of this study confirm my theory as both iteration 1 and 2, the iterations with more space for mixed-use areas, averaged about \$1.5 million more dollars in profit per year than iteration #3 according to the above calculations. The total square footages were kept the same for all of the stadium iterations so the main thing that was changing between each iteration was the percentage of the overall stadium square footage that the mixed-use and stadium seating areas took up. We can see that in iteration #1 and #2 when the mixed-use area made up just over 120,000 sq. ft. the combined cost of both the mixed-use and seating spaces was more than \$500,000 greater than in iteration #3. When studying the net profit however, the case for iteration #1 and #2 can be made over #3. The net profit combines both the cost of the stadium seating and mixed-use areas and combines them with the profits they are able to garner. With iteration #1 and #2 both costing around \$500,000 more than iteration #3 but able to make much more profit (\$1.5 million/year), the spatial planning present in iteration #1 and #2 are clearly more cost-effective than in #3. Now to study the economic difference between #1 and #2. The spatial planning found in iteration #1 is a little under \$30,000 more costly than in iteration #2, but in iteration #1 yearly profits are over \$140,000 more/year than in iteration #2. This makes iteration #1 the most economical spatial planning out of all three that were studied.

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Appendix : Personal Identification

Mitchell Clark Borgen



“My experience at NDSU has made it possible for me to achieve my dreams someday and design sporting stadiums. I used to draw plans for sporting fields on church service programs with no hope of making those designs come to life, and that has all changed.”