

# In the land of the Giants

The new Sydney Showground, the primary ground for the Australian Football League and home of the Giants, makes its debut: seat capacity doubled, technological and lighting systems upgraded

The official name is Sydney Showground Main Arena, but it is commonly known as the Skoda Stadium, the primary Australian Football venue and home of one of the most popular clubs in Australia, the Greater Western Sydney Giants. May 26 marked the official debut of the “new” Skoda Stadium, the result of a massive upgrade that increased seat capacity, technological equipment and hospitality services, and redeveloped the Australian arena to become a major international venue for international sport events and competitions, especially for Australian Rules Football, an uniquely Australian >

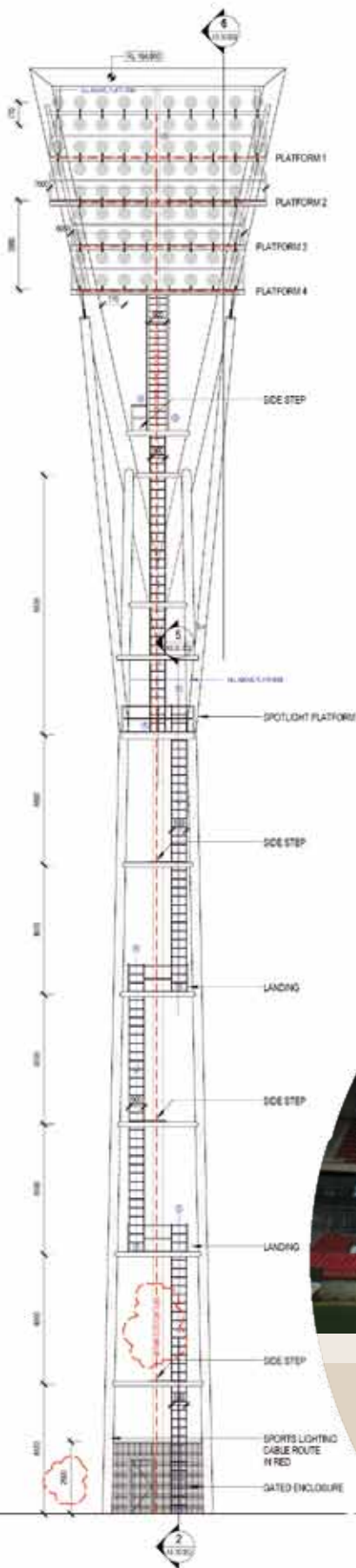






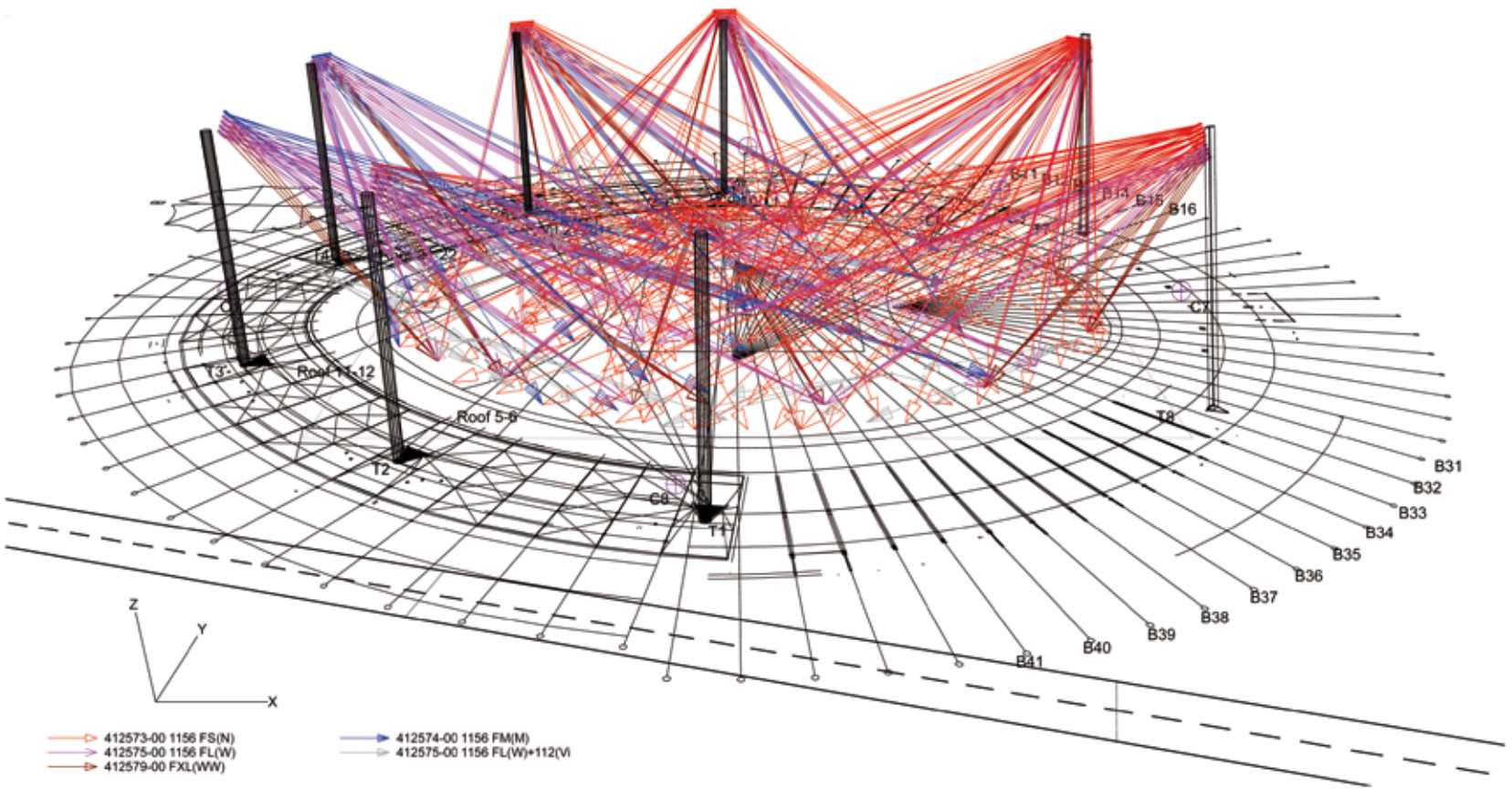
› indigenous sport that is now breaking down cultural barriers, attracting fans from throughout Europe. Following the upgrade, seat capacity increased from 13,000 to 25,000, new bars and function spaces were created and the field and stands were reconfigured. However, the truly revolutionary upgrade concerned the stadium's technological equipment and systems. The Giants' inaugural match was extensively covered by numerous websites and international media. Aerial photographs showed the world, rising from ›

On these pages, pictures of the Skoda Stadium in Sydney after the upgrade that increased seat capacity and involved the total remaking of the technological systems in order to comply with international TV broadcasting standards. The new stadium has totally 504 Forum spotlights (Disano), mounted on spotlight towers divided into sets of 40 to 54 units on the pre-existing structures and up to 80 on the new towers

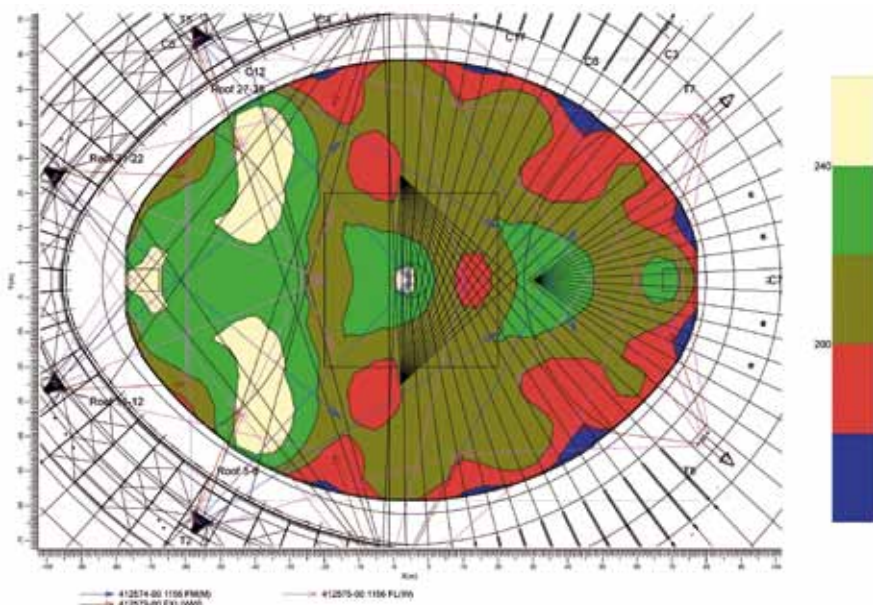


Shown here is a detail of the design project for one of the six spotlight towers built in the stadium. Each structure was carefully shaped and dimensioned to ensure not only perfect lighting conditions over the pitch but also to give aesthetic appeal. The red colour of the spotlight towers turned them into the symbol of the new Skoda Stadium itself. Pictures of the new system were beamed around the world. The stadium was the country's main baseball venue during the Olympics 2000.





The Australian Football League requires the lighting of the pitch to have an average light level of 1400 lux near each TV camera. The pictures on these pages show the simulations of the lighting design laid down by the Austrian company Pierlite. "The search for the most efficient set of lighting products was an exciting challenge".



› the wavy roof covering the stands, the six red spot-light towers with their innovative design and lighting products entirely made in Italy.

#### Forum: high performance and custom design

**Andrew Nagy**, Application Engineering Design Manager at **Pierlite Australia** Pty. Ltd., talks about the origins of the new lighting system, designed entirely with Disano products, in compliance with the stringent AFL (Australian Football League) requirements. "The project – explains Nagy – included the total replacement of the existing system and the removal of the lighting equipment previously installed on the six spotlight towers. Two towers were replaced with new ones to achieve visual and aesthetic consistency". The original lighting system was custom built to comply with TV broadcasting of baseball games (the



Forum spotlights for the Skoda Stadium were equipped with protections against wild bird collisions. The system's performance was integrated with extra fixtures installed around the pitch and on the sides, including a sophisticated light management system and emergency lights.

- › stadium was originally built as Australia's main baseball venue during the Olympics), and lighting equipment was arranged strategically around the field. Pierlite designed a new lighting system capable of meeting the first AFL requirement, i.e. a system that could provide and keep a lighting level of 1400 lux near each camera.

"The real challenge for lighting designers and installers was to find the most efficient set of lighting products to achieve this goal". Pierlite installed a set of 504 2Kw Forum fixtures (Disano). The product has a compact shape and five rows of "high performance" spotlights. Fixtures were installed on the towers according to a non-uniform criterion: 40 to 54 spotlights were installed on the existing towers and up to 80 spotlights on the new ones. Extra spotlights were

installed strategically around the pitch, once again near TV cameras to facilitate broadcasting coverage. Forty-eight lighting fixtures were equipped with re-strike controller to guarantee emergency lighting. For the Skoda Stadium, Disano designed and developed a special version of Forum with very high performance levels, both in terms of technical features and materials, so that the fixtures could blend perfectly into the surroundings. "We were asked – explains Maurizio Fortunato from Disano illuminazione – to provide products that could combine high performance levels and top quality materials in order to withstand the wear and tear of weather conditions. And not only that: they have been equipped with special sheathing and covers to protect against wild birds collisions". The Forum version developed for the Skoda Stadium, therefore, represents a major milestone in the evolution of the spotlight itself. "It was developed following a process of constant remodelling and improvement – confirms Fortunato – with the objective to provide the fixture with greater performance and wider usage".