

Paris, 10 November 2025

Press release

Prix Versailles 2025: The World's Most Beautiful Arenas

Today, 10 November 2025, the Prix Versailles is announcing the names of the six projects included on the World's Most Beautiful Arenas List 2025.

Sport has taken its rightful place on the global podium by promoting values like balance, wellness, sharing and the drive to excel.

Many sport facilities today are multipurpose, with the ability to host a wide variety of events.

Jérôme Gouadain, Secretary General of the Prix Versailles, discusses this new 2025 List:

"The expectations for these recently inaugurated arenas are lofty. Investing as they do in the future, they are designed to foster intergenerational bonds, international exchanges and local interactions. As a result, this type of infrastructure is increasingly expected not only to fit seamlessly into the city and region but also to be receptive to its populations' aspirations, to be a source of inspiration for visitors and to constitute part of the area's heritage.

The stakes are high. And faced with this challenge, human creativity has responded by reclaiming its original role."

The awards discerned by the Prix Versailles aim to promote intelligent sustainability, in which culture serves and transcends the notion of the environment.

Three arenas from the 2025 List will also receive the further distinction of a World Title – Prix Versailles, Interior or Exterior – to be discerned at the World Ceremony, which will take place on 4 December at UNESCO Headquarters.



PRIX VERSAILLES

WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ARENAS LIST 2025

Xi'an International Football Centre

Xi'an, China

SAP Garden

Munich, Germany

Le Colisée

Chartres, France

Kagawa Prefectural Arena

Takamatsu, Japan

Caesars Superdome

New Orleans, United States

Intuit Dome

Inglewood, United States

*The Laureates are listed in the alphabetical order of the countries they represent
(based on their two-letter ISO 3166 country codes).*



PRIX VERSAILLES

PRESENTATION OF THE LAUREATES

Xi'an International Football Centre

Xi'an, China

The stadium and training grounds at the Xi'an International Football Centre were built as part of an ongoing nationwide campaign to promote football in China.

In Fengdong, the city's business district, this building from Zaha Hadid Architects lays the foundations for future development in the area around it. An ultra-modern bowl inside the saddle-shaped structure guarantees optimal views for up to 60,000 fans.

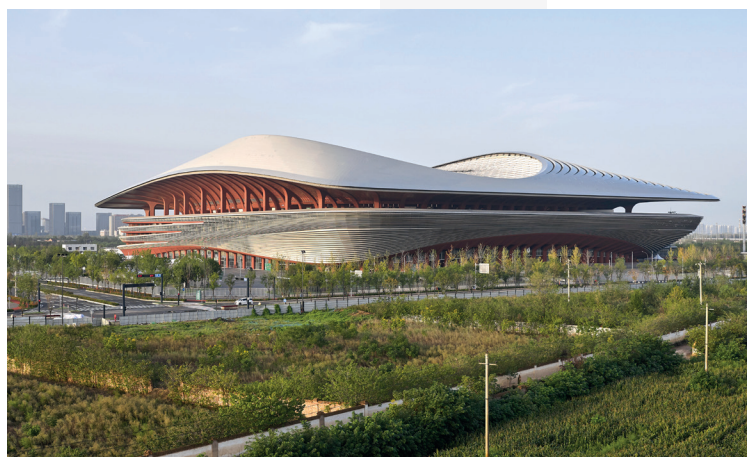
But more than that, the Centre is above all a new public space.

On shaded, south-facing terraces with views of the city and the Qin Mountains, leisure and dining areas are open daily, all day long, for locals as well as visitors coming to town for a match, a concert or a show.

The stadium's sweeping lines were designed to minimise the impact of prevailing winds from the north that chill the city each winter, and a translucent membrane protects spectators from inclement weather and direct sunlight while still allowing maximum levels of natural light to filter through to the pitch.



© Hufton + Crow



© Hufton + Crow



© Hufton + Crow

SAP Garden

Munich, Germany

How could Munich preserve its illustrious Olympic Park while creating a new and ambitious facility? The architects at 3XN had a clever answer to that question.

Spanning 62,500 m², SAP Garden is now home to EHC Red Bull München (ice hockey) and Bayern Munich (basketball). The main bowl can accommodate up to 10,700 hockey spectators or 11,500 for basketball, in grandstands that can be raised or lowered as needed, guaranteeing an optimal experience from every seat.

Tucked beneath an artificial hill, three competition rinks that are open to the public help the arena blend into its surroundings and encourage locals to take to the ice.

Digital media and lights can change the ambience in each area, but that's not all the site has to offer: VIP areas, a restaurant, merchandise shops, offices, a public rooftop terrace and conference rooms all breathe life into the venue, even when no matches are being played.

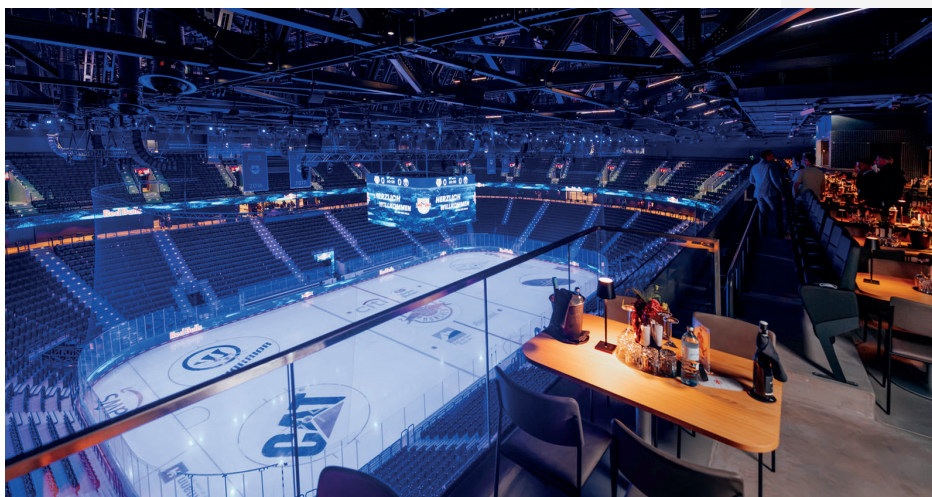
SAP Garden is a sustainable architectural model driven by effective aesthetics, with a green roof and maximised natural light, decked out in colours that shift in time with the seasons and the events.



© Rasmus Hjortshøj / SAP Garden



© Rasmus Hjortshøj / SAP Garden



© SAP Garden

Le Colisée

Chartres, France

In Chartres, the city's famous cathedral is the nexus of any urban development. So, it was only fitting that the grand façade and esplanade of Le Colisée – a new, adaptable venue for sport and culture – should elegantly look out towards the house of worship.

Designed by Groupe-6 architectes, this “colosseum” (*colisée* in French), like its namesake in Rome, is located in the heart of the city, while its ambulatory (created like an agora) and its elliptical main hall are reminiscent of ancient theatres.

Rather than building it in the suburbs, the district decided to place the facility in a railway wasteland, the kind of place that is usually converted into office clusters.

Directly connected to the train station via a footbridge, in keeping with the newly created intermodal transport hub, the semi-subterranean arena follows the natural slope of the site, limiting its visual impact.

Its airy rooftop garden and promenade, featuring a wide array of plants, is a special public space for residents and visitors alike.



© Michel Denancé



© Studio Martino



© Michel Denancé

Kagawa Prefectural Arena

Takamatsu, Japan

The poetry that emanates from the Kagawa Prefectural Arena (also known as Anabuki Arena Kagawa) has transformed what was once an incoherent space into a unique landscape in and of itself.

Looking out onto the Seto Inland Sea, near Takamatsu's train station and ferry terminal, this open structure designed by SANAA brings together the existing plaza, park and port, connecting the city and the sea.

This harmonious composition, visible from the water and the land alike, includes three separate gymnasiums, each with its own specific proportions, for everything from basketball to martial arts. They are linked together under a single, softly undulating roof that recalls the silhouettes of the small neighbouring islands on the horizon.

These wall-less sports halls were created for a social experience, with the stands as a soft boundary, not to mention an abundance of sheltered semi-outdoor spaces.

Enclosed within large picture windows, the building is flooded with natural light from every side.

Indoors, a subtle palette of pastel colours puts the finishing touch on this new and attractive sport facility.



© Ken'ichi Suzuki



© Ken'ichi Suzuki



© Ken'ichi Suzuki

Caesars Superdome

New Orleans, United States



© Trahan Architects

Just a short distance from the Mississippi River, the Superdome was one of American football's very first indoor stadiums and is still the world's largest fixed dome structure today. Now touted as the Saints' "cathedral", where the team plays its home games, the venue was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2016.

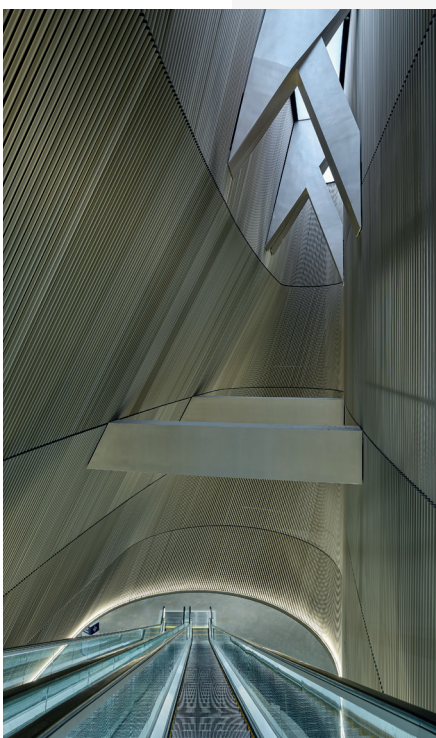
After the significant damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, its renovation was eventually entrusted to Trahan Architects, who were tasked with extending the 50-year-old building's life while restoring it to its former glory.

The linchpin of their architectural strategy revolved around the creation of three new corner entrances, each one featuring a light-filled atrium.

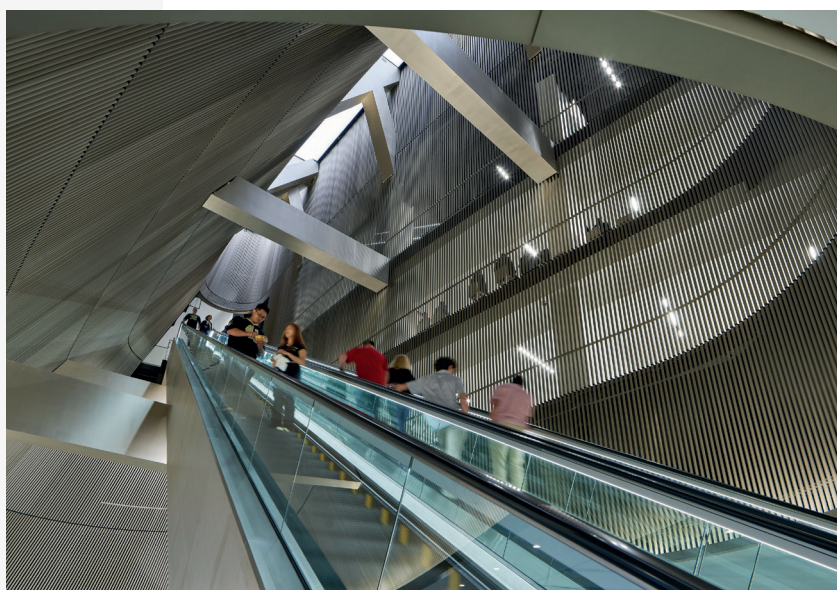
The interior space, which was considerably augmented without expanding the footprint, gives the stadium an accessible new look.

Clad in anodised aluminium rods, it echoes the iconic, golden sculptural form of the Superdome's exterior.

Majestic and timeless, this five-year-long redesign achieves a rare balance between innovation and heritage.



© Trahan Architects



© Trahan Architects

Intuit Dome

Inglewood, United States

For the Los Angeles Clippers, it's nothing but net, even down to their new sporting home at Intuit Dome, whose spectacular architecture, developed by AECOM, calls to mind the swish of a basketball.

Built with the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in mind, this impressive structure dedicated to basketball is characterised by the immersive experience that it delivers to visitors, enhanced by a multitude of tech-based entertainment options.

Open to anyone – be they long-time fans or first-time spectators, or a member of a club or association – this facility is a welcome surprise, with its participatory features and its enthusiastic team spirit. Interior design is key here, from the biggest spaces to premium suites and lounges, thanks to the involvement of Rita Konig.

Like the murals, digital art installations and sculptures crafted by LA-area artists that are scattered throughout the site, Intuit Dome is prepared to unveil to the world its vision of the arena of the future.



© Intuit Dome



© Intuit Dome



© Intuit Dome



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