



## The Diamond

**T**he Diamond baseball stadium is located in Richmond, Virginia on an existing stadium site and baseball field. The contract for the project was awarded through a design-build competition for a new 12,500 seat stadium. The primary objective was good visibility for all spectators while creating a sense of closeness to the playing field, similar to the old structure. In addition, the owner emphasized the need to construct the entire project between baseball seasons — approximately 33 weeks — as well as the desire to have a maintenance free structure.

Cast-in-place and precast, post-tensioned concrete was used to meet the owner's needs and to fully express the designer's concept of the new stadium. Incorporated into the design is a match-cast, precast concrete main beam that supports the stadium seats and roof. The upper grandstand's concrete bents, which soar above the main and upper concourses, are supported by V-shaped columns sitting on one-story buttresses. Between the buttresses are planted berms screening the activities on the grade level. An aluminized roof, integrally colored concrete masonry units, and exterior ceramic tile complete the pallet for this low-maintenance facility.

The stadium is designed to withstand winds of at least 90 miles per hour, although it is believed the structure will be able to resist winds up to more than 150 miles an hour (241 km/hr). Furthermore, the structure will be able to accommodate potentially de-

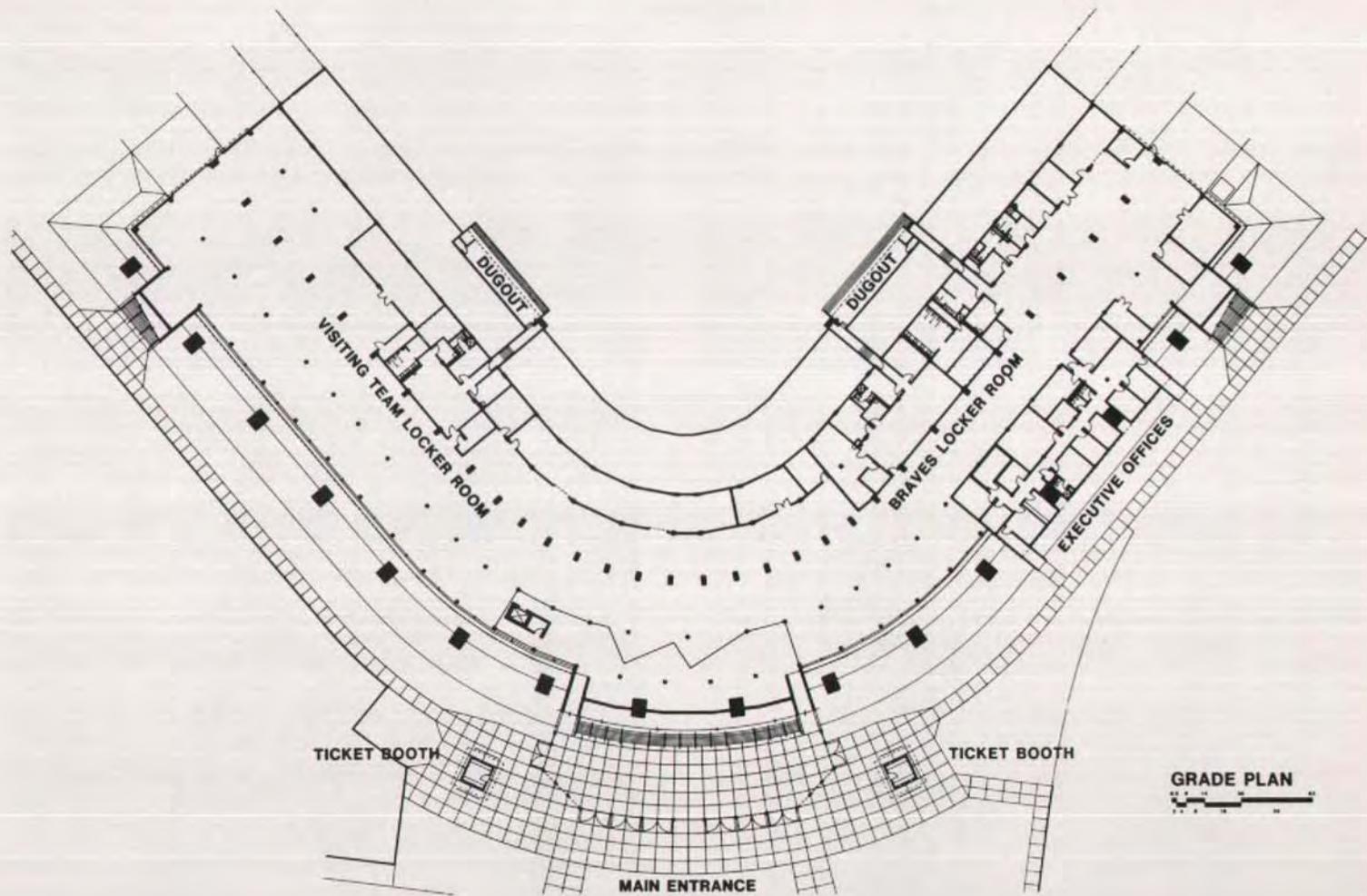
Erection and maintenance requirements made precast and cast-in-place concrete the first choice in building materials for this baseball stadium facility.

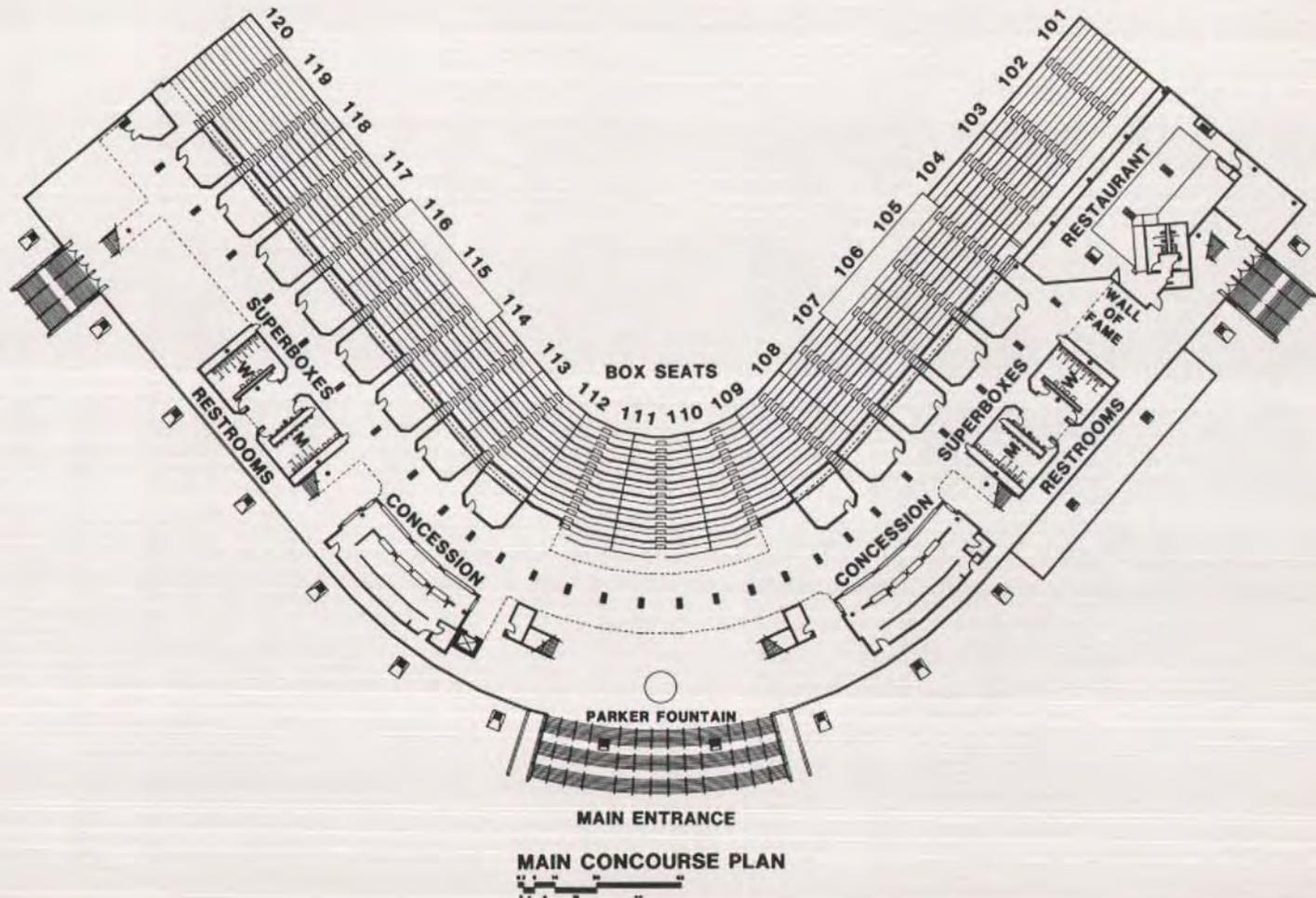
structive expansions and contractions that would occur over a 140 deg F (67 deg C) temperature range. The roof is designed to take loads equivalent to those imposed by up to 6 or 7 ft (1.8 or 2.1 m) of snow.

The main approach to the stadium was designed to provide a grand sense of entrance. After ticketing and passing through turnstiles, spectators cross a broad plaza and ascend a short flight of stairs to a large, open, central space flanked by stairs to the upper concourse. The focal point of this area is a large central fountain that serves as a gathering place while providing spectators with an unobstructed view of the playing field. Handicapped access is provided by a slight ramp leading down to grade level where an elevator is available to reach the main and upper concourse levels.

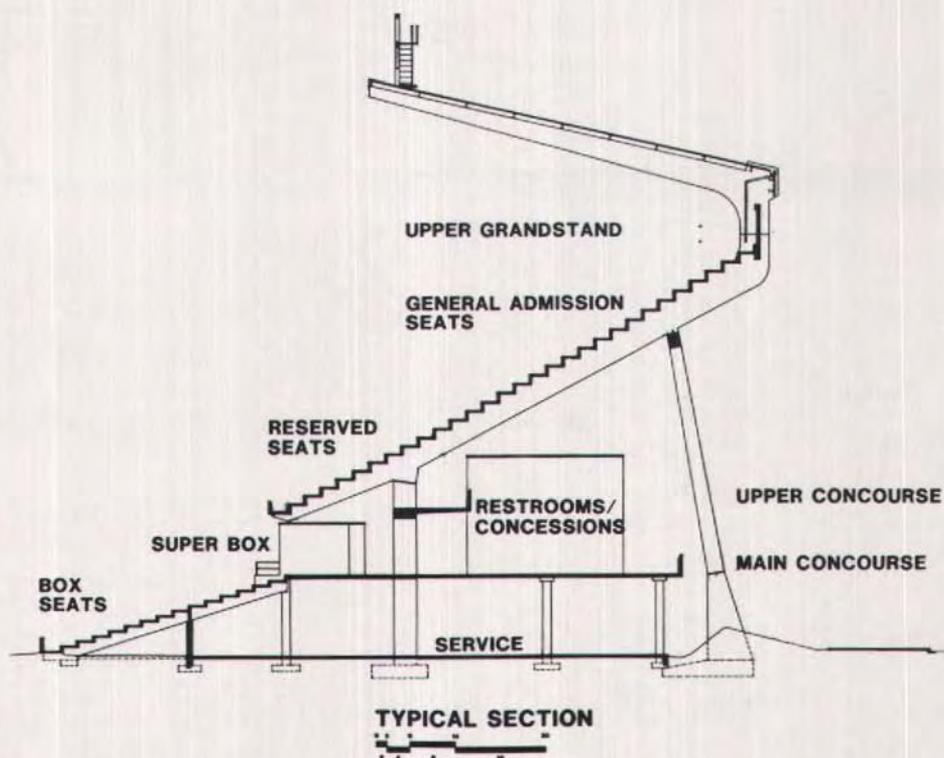
The design solution provides a very compact stadium with 12,500 seats on the home plate side between first and third bases. This results in a very intimate setting where fans are close to the action before them. The concourse areas also provide







MAIN CONCOURSE PLAN





varied spaces which are protected from the weather by the upper grandstand. This space is ideal for such functions as art exhibits, community and social events, and specialty shows.

The Diamond baseball stadium was completed in April 1985. Careful blending of form, function and balanced forces has made this structure a Richmond landmark and one of the city's most popular gathering places.

## Credits

Owner: Richmond Metropolitan Authority, Richmond, Virginia.

Architect: Baskervill & Son, P.C., Richmond, Virginia.

Structural Engineer: Thomas A. Hanson & Associates, Inc., Richmond Virginia.

General Contractor and Precast Concrete Manufacturer: McDevitt & Street, Richmond, Virginia.

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