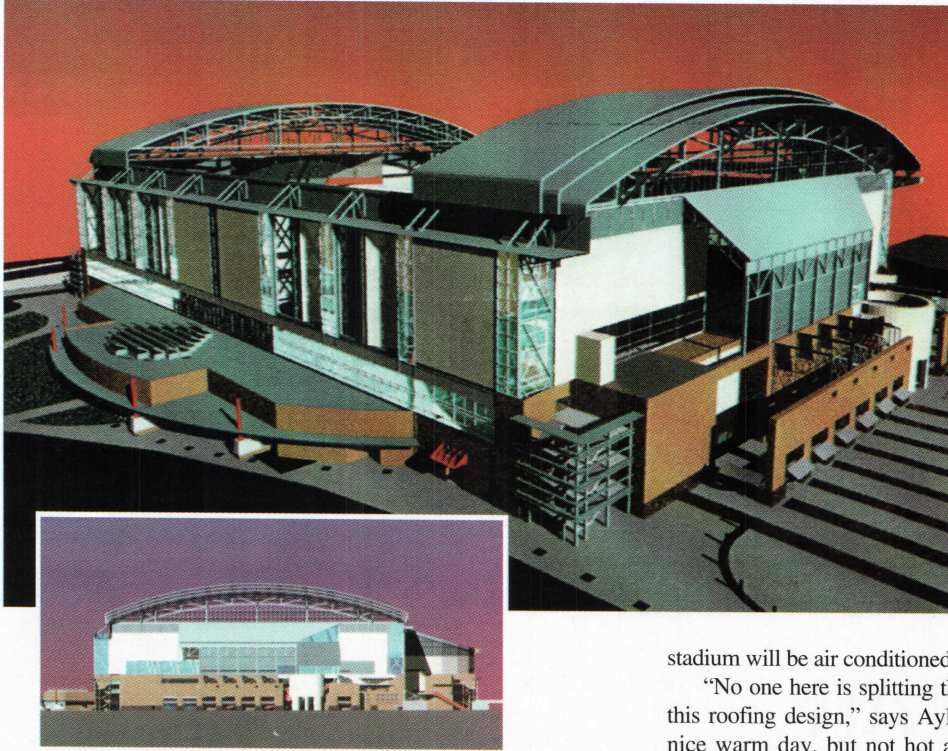


## Project Profiles

# What About BOB?

by Cynthia Scanlon



Renderings by Architecture  
Ellerbe Becket

baseball and the roof opens.”

According to Aylesworth, the technology that is being used to move the roof is nothing new. What is new is putting the technology to work on a baseball stadium. The retractable roof decision was made to provide fans with as much comfort as possible. On days when it is just too hot to be in the Arizona heat, the stadium roof will be closed and the

stadium will be air conditioned to a balmy 80 degrees.

“No one here is splitting the atom or inventing the wheel with this roofing design,” says Aylesworth. “We want it to feel like a nice warm day, but not hot and not uncomfortable. We are not trying to make this 72 degrees like you would in your office. We want you to have a cold drink, enjoy the ball game, wear shorts, bring the kids and have a nice experience.”

The proposed stadium plans will also hold 62 luxury suites and six party suites, which will hold 1,097 fans as well as 4,644 outside club seats on the luxury level.

While it has been decided to build the stadium out of brick, sandstone, concrete, steel and glass, many of the final details have yet to be decided.

“They are tinkering around with a theme restaurant and sports grill,” Aylesworth says. “The issue of alcohol has yet to be determined. Obviously beer is big revenue, so they’re trying to get a balance between what is politically and socially correct and what they need to make the stadium work financially.”

Plans are also in the works for a sports bar on the luxury level that will be open on game and nongame days. People can stop by for lunch and view the playing field while they eat.

Various other restaurants and beer gardens are planned just west of the stadium and possible on the luxury level.

A video playback screen will sit in the center field scoreboard. Approximately 350 television sets will be set up throughout the stadium, so if you are waiting in line at a concession stand or talking with friends away from your seat, you will still be able to see the game.

Stadium planners are also proposing a children’s area for ►

Despite a nationwide player’s strike, local tax revolts and a maelstrom of controversy surrounding the project almost from the beginning, the plan to create a majestic baseball stadium to grace downtown Phoenix is underway.

Affectionately dubbed BOB (the Bank One Ballpark), this crown jewel of downtown promises to thrill baseball novices and aficionados alike with amenities to please just about every age and taste.

“What we are targeting is a baseball experience, not just watching a baseball game,” says Bob Aylesworth, executive vice president of Huber, Hunt & Nichols, Inc., the construction manager for the Stadium district. “We want to be able to respond to fans that are 8 years old and fans that are 88 years old.”

The three-deck stadium will rise as high as 17 stories in some places. Bounded in by 4th, 7th and Jefferson streets, the structure will hold 47,340 people, which includes 528 in a grassy area with picnic tables just beyond center field.

The most notable part of the design will be the retractable roof—six metal panels that will move, three to each side, stacking one on top of the other. The entire roof, powered by wheels, cables and motors, can be opened completely within five minutes.

“It’s the first time a retractable roof has been put on a baseball venue in the United States,” says Aylesworth. “The only other application is the Skydome in Toronto, Canada, where they play

parents to bring their kids to play. The park is expected to cover approximately 10,500 square feet. The "Kid's Corner" will also allow a place for children to try on uniforms, play on equipment or have their picture taken with cardboard cutouts of famous ball players.

"We are looking to add a family dimension to the ball park," Aylesworth says. "If you happen to have young children, who may not have the patience to sit through nine innings of baseball, there's something else to do."

The stadium planners also want to surround the main concourse with baseball history. "This museum concept is alive and well," says Aylesworth. "We're not yet sure of the form, but it's clearly an aspect of the

design that is forthcoming."

One such idea for this history concept is the Play-O-Gram, which would be a lighted scoreboard that keeps track of the progress of the game like they did in pre-radio days.

"We want some things in the design that are reminiscent of the old ball parks," Aylesworth says. Baseball memorabilia such as posters, art and video exhibits will also be displayed throughout the stadium.

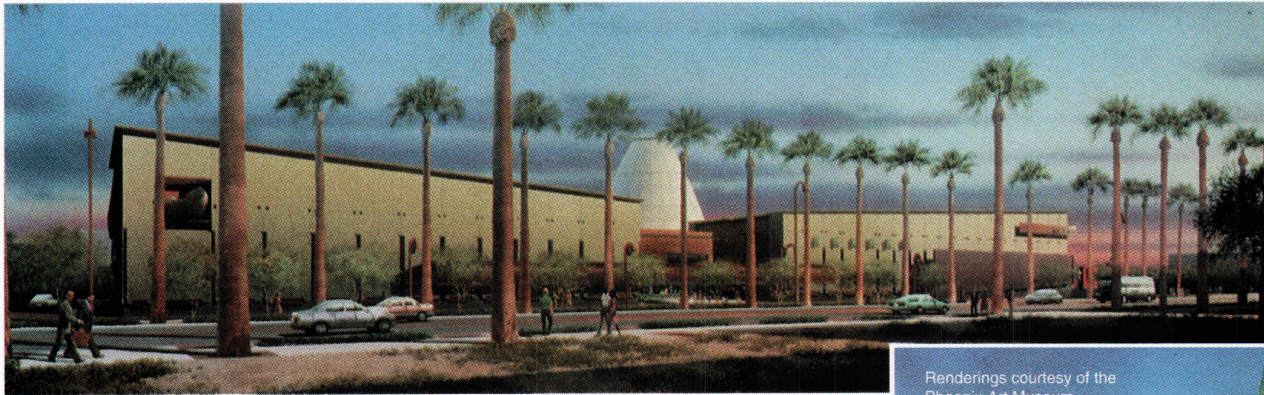
Hopes are high that the Arizona Diamondbacks, Arizona's newest baseball team, will do well. Stadium plans call for a Hall of Fame in the southwestern part of the stadium to track and showcase their achievements.

According to Aylesworth, utility relocations will start in September of this year. The existing site has utilities that will either have to be relocated or enhanced to provide capacity for the stadium. Once that construction work is finished, contractors are expected to start the excavation and foundation work in November.

Arizona has waited a long time for a stadium. Every time it seem that the dream would go down in flames, it rose out of the ashes. And now, it seems, the dream is finally going to be a reality.

"We're going to play ball in April 1998," says Aylesworth. "The stadium will be there for opening day."

A B



## A Work of Art

by Cynthia Scanlon

If you've driven down Central Avenue and spotted the huge green monolithic structure growing out of the ground, you've gazed at the Phoenix Art Museum's new \$25 million expansion. But unlike many of the Phoenix construction projects currently dotting the landscape, this multimillion dollar demolition and renovation project is going smoothly and according to plan.

"We are on schedule and on budget, which, for a museum project, is fairly atypical," says Brock Huttenmeyer, project manager for Johnson Carlier, Inc., the contractor that is building the project. "They are usually difficult to complete to the quality a museum expects, and typically, they run over budget."

Huttenmeyer attributes the company's success to Phoenix Art Museum Director Jim Ballanger and the museum staff's careful planning of the entire project.

"Jim Ballanger went around the country touring other museums that were under construction," Huttenmeyer says. "He found out what to expect, including all the pitfalls."

The museum, which is currently 73,000 square feet, will expand to more than 160,000 square feet.

The galleries will double to 65,000 square feet, and a new special exhibitions gallery of 9,100 square feet will provide for large-scale exhibitions that are not being able to be shown in Arizona currently.

The completed facility will also include a lobby, a great hall for community events, a 300-seat public theater for lectures, an audio-visual orientation room, food service facilities, and a covered 4,500 square-foot structure pavilion to be located in the renovated courtyard. All areas will be connected by public elevators and inclined walks.

Storage facilities, classrooms, studios and staff offices will also be renovated and modernized. Finally, state-of-the-art security systems will be installed.

The expansion of the museum was designed by the architectural firms of Lescher and Mahoney/DLR of Phoenix in association with Tod Williams/Billie Tsien and Associates of New York City.

Renderings courtesy of the Phoenix Art Museum

