



Ohio State University Ohio Stadium Renovation

The Osborn Engineering Company continues to maintain its 112-year legacy of creating and preserving some of the nation's great sports facility icons by being awarded the ACEC-Ohio Engineering Excellence Award for the \$187 million renovation and expansion of The Ohio State University's historic 80-year old Ohio Stadium.

Being listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, but in dire need of renovation and modernization, the University turned to Osborn to spearhead the complex task of upgrading the building to provide modern amenities, adding seating capacity and repairing the severe deterioration, while retaining the historic character of the facility. And do all this without missing a single football game and at no cost to the taxpayers or to the University's General Fund.

Key improvements to the famous "Horseshoe" include new seating to accommodate more than 10,000 additional rabid Buckeye fans, increasing restroom fixtures from a paltry 277 to a comfortable 1,160, the provision of nearly 200 concession stands located throughout the building, building of a modern, permanent seating structure and state-of-the-art scoreboard in the South End Zone, massive concrete and steel renovations to extend the life of the stadium at least 50 years, a modern press box structure that encompasses more than 7 times the space of the old one, completely renovated and modernized space for locker rooms, showers, training facilities, offices, etc., the addition of 81 hospitality suites and 2,625 club seats that generate most of the income to pay for the cost of the project, and a new 22,000 sq. ft. band room for "The Best Damn Band in the Land".

Key technical achievements for this project, which led to this prestigious award, included the following:

1. Developing a design scheme and concrete and steel repair criteria that allows the life of the structure to be extended at least an additional 50 years.
2. Designing a ground water cut-off wall system to allow the playing field to be lowered below the level of the adjacent Olentangy River and not let the field flood, to allow for additional field-level seating.
3. Defining a secure sequence of adding and removing significant structural steel members to allow suites to be incorporated where seating decks were previously, to maintain the structural integrity of the facility.
4. Efficiently relocating and upgrading a virtual "spaghetti bowl" of underground utilities to allow the project to be successful.
5. Completely redesigning and replacing the electrical and mechanical systems with modern, state-of-the-art systems.
6. Preserving the history and integrity of one of Ohio's most endearing landmarks, while providing the modern amenities required in today's sports facilities.
7. Accomplishing these feats while continuing to play Buckeye football throughout the process.

With the design of its first ballpark in 1909, Osborn set the standard of sport facility design with such notable treasures as **Yankee Stadium, Fenway Park, the University of Notre Dame and the University of Michigan**. Today, that legacy continues as they strive to maintain and protect the history they helped create. The highly acclaimed renovation and expansion of Ohio State University's **Ohio Stadium**, as well as its various projects at historic **Wrigley Field**, demonstrates their commitment to preserving the heritage of renowned facilities, while providing the modern amenities that today's fans and owners expect.

Ohio State Athletics Director, Andy Geiger, summarizes his feelings as follows: "As a place to welcome our guests, and have them enjoy the game, and have it be essentially state of the art, and still have it be the Horseshoe - I'm so grateful we were able to do this. I marvel at the vision of the (original) architects that conceived of the solutions that we have." All around, there is the look and feel of something new, even if the old stadium remains the backbone of the building.