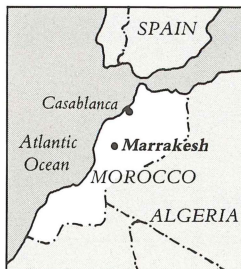


Stadia, Marrakesh



Project Data

Five stadia, Marrakesh,
Morocco:
One for 40,000 seated
spectators
Four for 400 seated spectators
Client: Ministry of the
Interior
(Special funding for the
Ministry of Youth and
Sports)
Architect: Charles Boccara
Contractor: Entreprise
Rissani
Cost: US\$1 million
Date: 1979

When the provincial authorities in Marrakesh commissioned the architect to design a new main stadium for the region in 1977, the allocated budget was approximately US\$1 million. After studying the programme, it became apparent that a vast prestigious stadium would cost an immense amount to maintain once it was built (electricity, upkeep of the grass, etc.), while, on the other hand, many densely-populated neighbourhoods of the city had no sports facilities at all ... nor could they be financed were the big stadium constructed.

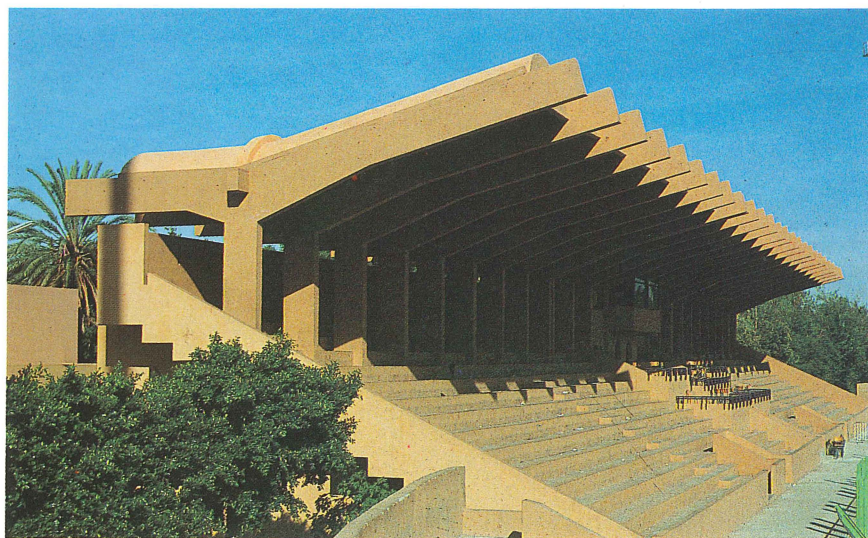
For the exact same budget, the architect concluded that a large stadium for 40,000 persons could fulfill most large-scale sports needs and four additional stadia in different neighbourhoods could serve a growing urban population with greater frequency. In this way, a

more balanced infrastructure for sports at all levels was created in place of a single large arena in one location.

In the largest of the five stadia, a reinforced concrete structure was decided upon for the tribune and the uncovered seating; however, the box-office as well as the dressing-rooms and gallery surrounding the courtyards with fountains behind the tribune were faced with exposed local brick. For the small neighbourhood stadia, facilities were kept to an absolute minimum: entrance and ticket booth, dressing rooms and a grounds-keeper's house were arranged around a small, planted courtyard. The structure, also of reinforced concrete, allowed for the dressing areas to be located beneath the seating.

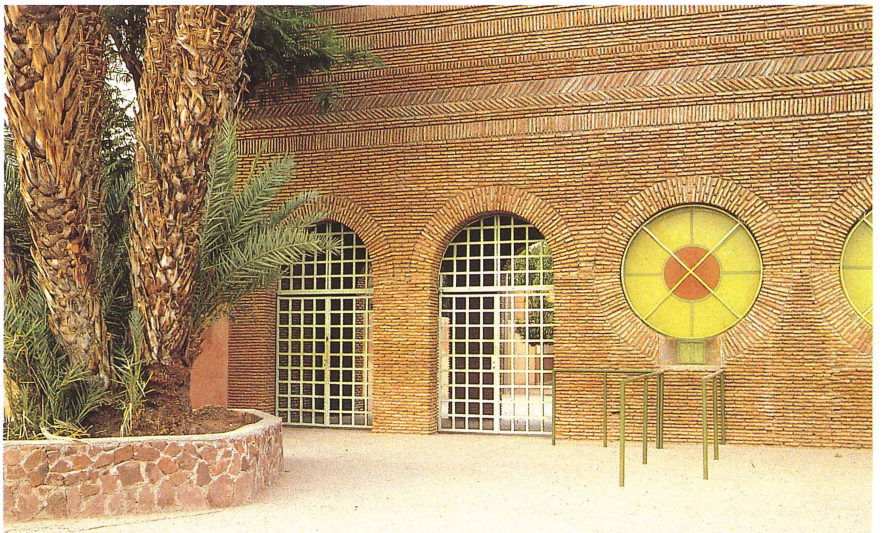
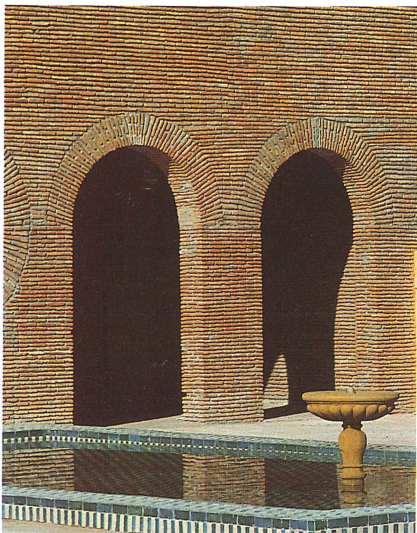
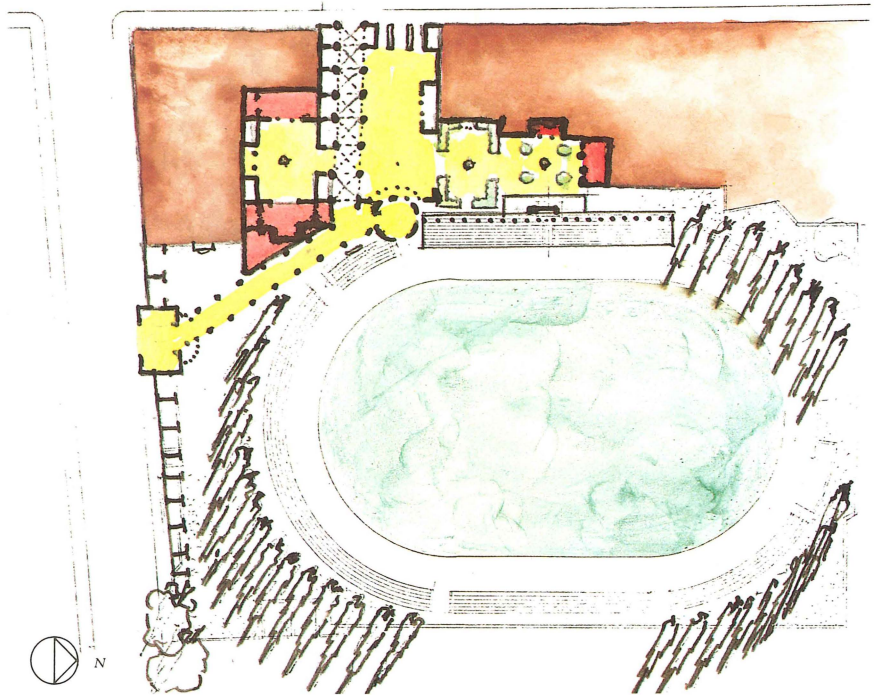
Below: View of the tribune of the principal stadium seating 40,000 persons.

Bottom: Rear of the principal stadium, with dressing rooms and lounge area.



Text, photographs and drawings courtesy of the architect.

Right: Plan of the principal stadium in Marrakesh.
 Below: Frontal view of the principal stadium seen from the main pitch.
 Bottom: Detail of fountain and brick facing in a courtyard behind the principal stadium.
 Bottom, right: View of the box-office.

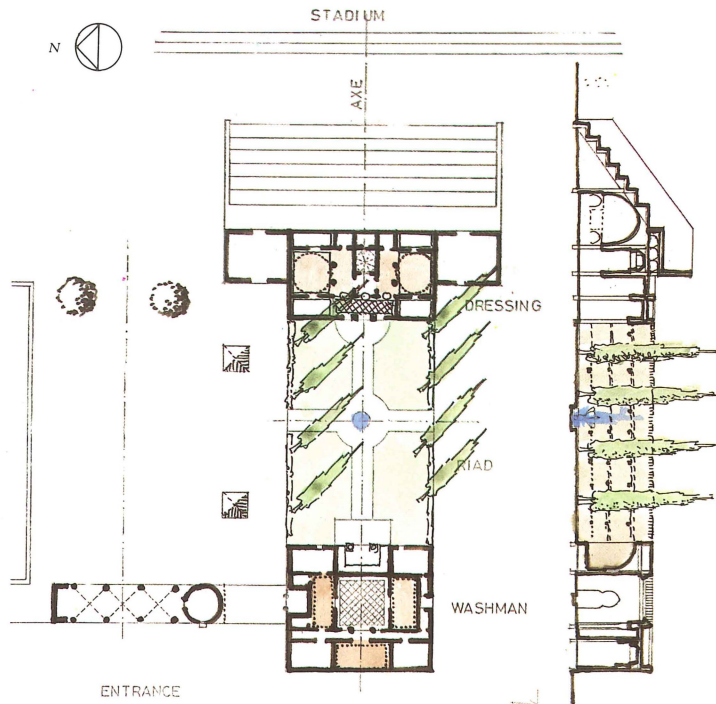
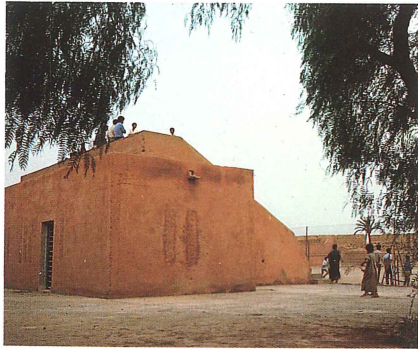


Right: Plan and section of 400-seat neighbourhood stadium.

Below: View from the rear.

Centre: View of one of the four small stadia.

Bottom: Playing field of a small stadium next to the old ramparts of the city.



Charles Boccara was born in Tunis. He had his professional training at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He has his own practice in Marrakesh.