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 groundskeeper’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.
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.
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