

The Team

Despite nine years of work by the office on this project and despite having brought the scheme to detailed construction phase, the Baghdad Stadium never appeared in any of his architectural publications, although it is listed in C. Petit's *Le Corbusier lui-même*, as *centre sportif a Bagdad avec Georges Présenté*. Nor does it appear frequently in his sketchbooks. Above all the sketchbooks are dominated by the Capitol Park at Chandigarh but also by his many other projects in design or construction in India, France, Germany, and Japan. In this exhibition there are notes and sketches from Le Corbusier to members of the team, but the clear implication is that Le Corbusier left most of the work on the Baghdad scheme to his office. Indeed almost everyone in the office is represented somewhere among the great collection of drawings.

The hand of Xenakis is certainly evident in early drawings. He was interested in rhythmic configurations, and it is likely that he was involved in the early conception of the veils. However, the figurative nature of the Chandigarh Portico, the most obvious precedent for the veils, and the use of Le Corbusier's *boîte à miracles* for the gymnasium, suggests that, like much of the late work in the office, the great reservoir of Corbusian themes was the subject of experiment by the team.

Internal memos from Le Corbusier to the office in April, 1961 divided the final resolution of the scheme as follows: Alain Taves was responsible for the gymnasium (and his drawings were the basis of construction 20 years later); Jose Oubrierie, was responsible for the pools, the tennis-area and the restaurant; Guillermo Jullian was responsible for the stadium, and it is his drawings of the veils that are on exhibit.

Normally, the engineer on the project, Georges Présenté is one of the very few figures outside Le Corbusier's office named as a collaborator. He was the principal of the Paris office of an engineering firm based in Ohio, USA. Not only was he capable of working between the French of Le Corbusier's office and the English requires in Baghdad (like Chandigarh, a legacy of British colonial government), he seems to have had good relations with the Baghdad authorities and took a personal interest in the stadium project. With few exceptions, the final drawings are from his office, and, long after the project has been suspended, he helped to execute the Gymnasium.

The drawings from Présenté's office – in ink and ink wash – are quite beautiful, as even the reinforcement elevation of veil 1-2 illustrates. The austerity of the spatial order of the architecture required an intimate collaboration with the engineer. There appear to have been three periods of intense study of the Stadium – in 1961, '62, and '64. The sequence of studies of veil 5-6 shows that Julia's effort to include a meeting room with an inclined roof was flattened a month later to provide a roof-garden and finally dropped in the 1964 scheme.

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Despite nine years of work by the office on this project and despite having brought the scheme to detailed construction phase, the Baghdad Stadium never appeared in any of his architectural publications, although it is listed in *Le Corbusier: la œuvre, as centre sportif à Bagdad* (1963). *George Pissoneir*. Nor does it appear frequently in his sketchbooks. Above all the sketchbooks are dominated by the Capitol Park at Chandigarh, but also by his many other projects in design or construction in India, France, Germany and Japan. In this exhibition there are notes and sketches from Le Corbusier to members of the team, but the clear implication is that Le Corbusier left most of the work on the Baghdad scheme to his office. Indeed almost everyone in the office is represented somewhere among the great collection of drawings.

The bond of *Acoustics* is certainly evident in early drawings. He was interested in rhythmic configurations, and it is likely that he was involved in the early conception of the Valls. However, the figurative nature of the Chandigarh Period, the most obvious precedent for the Valls, and the use of Le Corbusier's *Amibi à narrative* for the gymnasium, suggests that the most of the late work in the office, the great reservoir of Corbusian thought was the subject of experiment by the team.

Initial success from Le Corbusier to the office in April, 1961 divided the final resolution of the scheme as follows: Akram Elwan was responsible for the gymnasium (and his drawings were the basis of the construction 20 years later); Jose Oubriche (Figs 1,2) with a site-collage on the wall (see below) was responsible for the pools, the tennis court and the restaurant; Guillermo Jullian was responsible for the stadium, and it is his drawings of the Valls that are on exhibit.

Nominally the engineer on the project, Georges Pissoneir is one of the very few figures outside Le Corbusier's office named as a collaborator. He was the principal of the Paris office of an engineering firm based in Ohio, USA. Not only was he capable of working between the French of Le Corbusier's office and the English required in Baghdad (like Chandigarh, a legacy of British colonial government) he seems to have had good relations with the Baghdad authorities and took personal interest in the Stadium Project. With few exceptions, the final drawings are from his office, and, long after the project had been suspended, he helped to execute the Gymnasium.

The drawings from Pissoneir's office - in ink and ink wash - are quite beautiful, as even the reinforcement elevation of Vail 1-2 illustrates (Fig 3).

The maturity of the spatial order of the architecture required an intimate collaboration with the engineer. There appear to have been three periods of intense study of the Stadium - in 1961, '62, and '64. The sequence of studies of Vail 5-6 (Figs 4-8) shows that Pissoneir's effort to include a meeting room with an inclined roof was frustrated a month later to provide a roof-garden and finally dropped in the 1964 scheme.



Fig. 1 View of Le Corbusier's office, 1961, from *Le Corbusier: la œuvre*, Paris, 1960.
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Fig. 2 Le Corbusier's office, Le Corbusier in discussion with another man, with type for Baghdad Stadium on wall, 1961, 1960.
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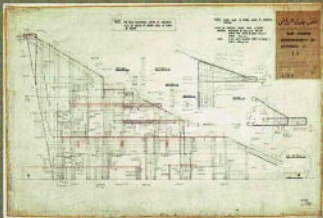


Fig. 3 Vail 1-2, reinforcement elevation of Gymnasium, Pissoneir, April 1961, 31.4 x 24.2cm.

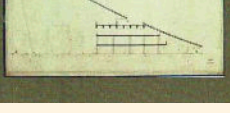
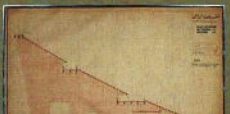
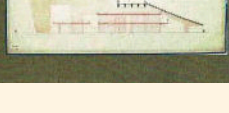
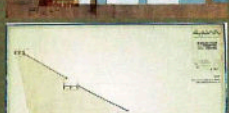


Fig. 4 Plan and elevation of Vail 5a, drawing developed from 1961-62.
Fig. 5 Plan and elevation of Vail 5b, 2nd July 1962, and 3rd August 1962, meeting room, roof garden, roof.
Fig. 6 Plan and elevation of Vail 5c, 1962.
Fig. 7 Elevation of Vail 5d, August 1962, meeting room, roof garden, roof.
Fig. 8 Elevation of Vail 5e, August 1962, meeting room, roof garden, roof.
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