

Allianz Arena – Munich, Germany

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The Allianz Arena is a football stadium in Munich, Germany home to Bayern Munich, TSV 1860, and the German National Football Team. The Stadium was completed in 2005 and cost around 340 million Euros. The main architects on the project were Alpine Bau Deutschland GmbH and Herzog and de Meuron. The structural engineer on the project was ARUP. The stadium is one of the most famous in the world. The three themes of the stadium are the unique exterior, the procession of fans to the stadium, and the crater like emphasis on the football pitch.

The exterior of the building is a shell of many ETFE pillows. These inflated pillows can be each individually lighted to produce a unique illuminated appearance. The most common appearance of the building is a mixture of red, white, and blue. The buildings exterior remains one appearance at a time as it was found that a more dynamic exterior distracted drivers on highways nearby.

The parking lots for the stadium are completely underground in order to preserve the natural landscape leading up to the stadium. The procession are becomes a sort of park as there are meandering paths through a lush green hill.

As one gets over the apex of the roof, the roof craters in to a central hole over the football pitch. This theme continues on the interior of the building. Inspired by Shakespearean theaters, the architects wanted fans to be on top of the action on the field. Thus the angle of the stands is quite severe.

These three themes make for an extraordinary stadium which provides both form and function.