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Kadrioru Staadion [Kadriorg Stadium]

Estonia

Roheline aas 24

Harju (County) 10150 Tallinn

Commission

1936

Completion

1937

Original name

Dünamo Staadion [Dynamo Stadium]

Original use

Sports/stadium

Current use

Sports/stadium/grandstand

Architects

Elmar Lohk

Engineers

August Komendant

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

One-dimensional/concrete frame, Two-dimensional/[cantilever] roof, [suspended] roof

Description

This small stadium was opened in 1924, although its current appearance is the result of a reconstruction that took place in 1936. Although its use over time has been largely for sports events, it was originally used to host large-scale popular choral singing concerts, a tradition with deep roots in Estonian culture. In its later adaptation for sporting uses, initially centered on track and field, the old historicist style architectural elements were replaced by modern grandstands and a large reinforced concrete sunshade, one of the first and most striking examples of a complex concrete structure built in Estonia.

The huge roof gives the stadium its current characteristic image: with a 13 m cantilever, it covers the premium seating area for officials and part of the stands, up to the very edge of the running track. It is a flat concrete slab, with reinforcements above that vary in section. Its long cantilever is supported by two parallel lines of pillars along the back perimeter, one line working under compression and the other under tension, as well as by a small counterweight. This system achieves an absolutely flat underside, an aspect that stands out for its formal elegance. In recent decades, the stadium housed the matches of the national soccer team, until a new stadium was built in 2001.

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