

Maracana

Maracanã, officially called Estádio Mário Filho, was built to serve as the flagship venue for the 1950 World Cup. It was meant to become the biggest football stadium in the world.

Construction began in August 1948 and was completed almost two years later.

Maracanã officially opened on 16 June 1950 with a friendly between a selection of players from Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

Eight days later, Maracanã hosted the opening match of the 1950 World Cup between Brazil and Mexico (4-0). It would go on to host four more matches in the first round group stage and a further three in the second round stage, among which the deciding final match between Uruguay and Brazil (2-1).

Estadio do Morumbi

In the early 1950s São Paulo started a search for a site to build a new stadium. They finally managed to buy a plot of land in the Morumbi area, at that time an inhabited area of forests and swamplands still outside the city.

In 1953 the club presented their plans for the construction of a massive concrete stadium that could hold 120,000 fans. Due to its location these were initially received with scepticism, and obtaining funding turned out to be troublesome.

After several years of preparation, construction of Morumbi finally started in 1956.

Works had progressed significantly by the middle of 1960, though were still nowhere near being completed yet. Still, the club decided to move in for the benefit of increased revenues, and on the 2nd of October 1960 the stadium officially opened with a match between São Paulo and Sporting Clube do Portugal (1-0).

Estadio Nacional de Brasilia

Estádio Nacional de Brasília Mané Garrincha is Brazil's recently opened new national stadium in the city of Brasília. It is one of the selected playing venues of the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

Construction of the stadium started in 2010 at the site of the old Estádio Mané Garrincha, which earlier got completely demolished. The project worked with a budget of R\$ 688 million, to be financed by the local government, though final costs are estimated to have passed R\$ 1 billion. Various delays and strikes plagued the project. The design of Estádio Nacional de Brasília was inspired by the works of architect Oscar Niemeyer, famous for his role in the design of the city of Brasília. Most characteristic feature are the 288 pillars that form the exterior and are holding up the roof.

Mineirão

Mineirão, officially called Estádio Governador Magalhães Pinto, was built to provide the city of Belo Horizonte with a larger alternative for Estádio Independência, then the prime venue of the city.

The stadium, projected with a capacity of 130,000 spectators, was meant to become the most modern stadium of Brazil and the new home of Atlético Mineiro and Cruzeiro.

Construction took almost five years, and on 5 September 1965 Mineirão officially opened with a match between a selection from the state of Minas Gerais and Argentine side River Plate (1-0).

Mineirão hardly changed in the following decades, and in the 1990s still had its original capacity. It was in 1997 when the record attendance attendance of 132,834 was set in a match between Cruzeiro and Vila Nova.

Arena Castelao

Arena Castelão, originally called Estádio Governador Plácido Aderaldo Castelo, opened on the 11th of November 1973 with a match between Ceará and Fortaleza (0-0).

The stadium was built at the initiative of state governor Plácido Castelo, after whom the stadium got subsequently named. It soon got referred to as Castelão though, after the area it stands in.

Castelão initially consisted of one small continuous oval-shaped tier and large ramps at both sides. The stadium did not have cover yet and could hold about 70,000 fans.

Itaipava Arena Fonte Nova

The Arena Fonte Nova, for sponsorship reasons called Itaipava Arena Fonte Nova, was built to serve as one of the playing venues for the 2014 World Cup.

The new arena replaced the old Estádio Fonte Nova, which had stood at the same place, and was designed to resemble the old stadium with one of the ends left open to provide for a view over the adjacent lake.

Estádio Fonte Nova got demolished in 2010, and construction of the new stadium took about two-and-a-half years. It got completed in early 2013 and officially opened on 5 April 2013. The first match, a friendly between local rivals Bahia and Vitória, was played two days later.

Estadio Beira-Rio

Estádio Beira-Rio got built in the 1950s following a period of successes for Internacional, which had resulted in their Estádio dos Eucaliptos becoming too small.

In 1956, the city of Porto Alegre donated the club a site in the river Guaíba, which they first had to drain before they could start construction. Building works started in 1959, but due to a lack of finances Internacional heavily relied on fans contributing the bricks, cement, and iron works. As a result, works progressed very slowly and it took a decade for construction to complete.

Estádio Beira-Rio officially opened on 6 April 1969 with a friendly versus Benfica (2-1). Soon after, it got nicknamed O Gigante.

Arena Corinthians

The Arena Corinthians, also referred to as Arena de Itaquera and Arena de São Paulo, got built to serve as a playing venue for the 2014 FIFA World Cup and to provide Corinthians with an own home.

Building works started in May 2011 and were planned to be completed in December 2013. However, an incident in which a crane and part of the roof structure collapsed, killing two workers, led to the opening being pushed back to May 2014. It officially opened on 18 May 2014 with a league match between Corinthians and Figueirense. Earlier, Corinthians had already played a league match at the stadium with reduced capacity.

The Arena Corinthians has a capacity of 48,000 seats, but for the purpose of the World Cup another 20,000 seats were added on both ends. During the World Cup, the stadium hosted the opening match, three further group matches, the round of 16 match between Argentina and Switzerland (1-0), and the semi-final between Argentina and the Netherlands (0-0).

Engenhao

Estádio Olímpico Nilton Santos, previously called Estádio Olímpico João Havelange and often nicknamed Engenhão, was built for the 2007 Pan-American Games that were hosted by Rio de Janeiro. The stadium officially opened on the 30 June 2007 with a match between Botafogo and Fluminense.

At the same time the Rio de Janeiro government, owner of the stadium, put out a tender for the use of the stadium after the games. Botafogo, having struggled to find a permanent home in the previous decades, was the only club to bid and therefore won the right to lease the stadium for a period of 20 years.

After Maracanã closed in 2010 for building works for the 2014 World Cup, both Flamengo and Fluminense moved most of their home matches to the Engenhao.

Itaipava Arena Pernambuco

The Arena Pernambuco, for sponsorship reasons called Itaipava Arena Pernambuco, was built to serve as the 2014 World Cup venue for the city of Recife. Construction of the stadium started in October 2010 and got completed in May 2013.

The Arena Pernambuco officially opened on the 22nd of May 2013 with a friendly match between Náutico and Portuguese side Sporting CP.

The arena came at a cost of R\$500 million, which was financed by a public-private partnership between the state of Pernambuco and a consortium led by construction firm Odebrecht including event management firm AEG. The latter will exploit the arena for multifunctional purposes. The naming rights were sold to beer brewer Itaipava.

Arena da Amazonia

The Arena da Amazônia was built to serve as one of playing venues for the 2014 FIFA World Cup. It replaced the old Vivaldão stadium, which used to be the main stadium of the city.

Demolition of Vivaldão started in March 2010 and in early 2011 construction began of the new stadium. The Arena da Amazônia was initially planned to be completed early 2013, but various delays pushed the opening back to early 2014.

The Arena da Amazônia was designed by German architecture firm gmp Architekten, also responsible for Frankfurt's Commerzbank Arena and Warsaw's Stadion Narodowy. The shape of the stadium is meant to resemble a traditional indigenous basket and takes into account the area's challenging climatic conditions. The roof's steel structure is designed to serve as a large gutter that drains the tropical rain water, the roof's coating reflects heat radiation and thus has a cooling effect, openings in the roof and facade stimulate ventilation, and there are ample areas of shade where spectators can shelter from the sun.

Allianz Parque

Allianz Parque was built to provide Palmeiras with a new modern home. It was built at the same site where Palmeiras' old Estádio Palestra Itália had stood.

Palmeiras played their last match at the old stadium in July 2010, and, after demolition, works on the new stadium started late 2011. The stadium had initially been scheduled to be completed in late 2013, but several delays pushed this back with a year.

Allianz Parque opened on 19 November 2014 with the Serie A match between Palmeiras and Sport (0-2). This followed several test events with lower capacity.