Olympian Designer
By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE
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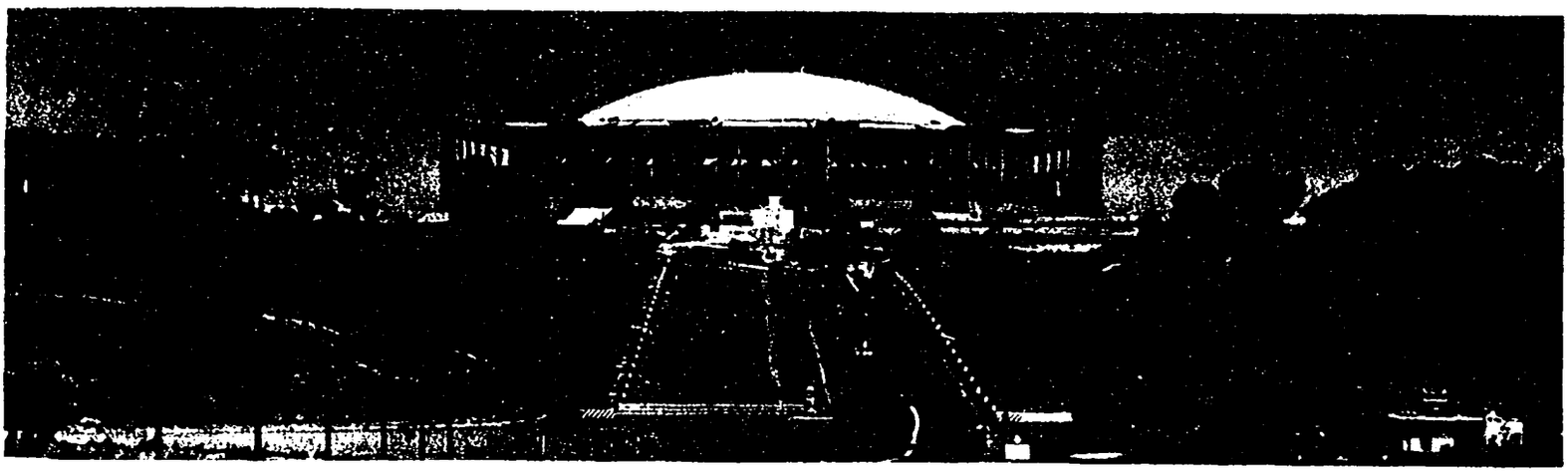

FOR THE OLYMPICS—Nervi has erected in Rome this large sports palace seating 16,000. Its dome is of prefabricated concrete elements. Collaborating architect: Marcello Piacentini.

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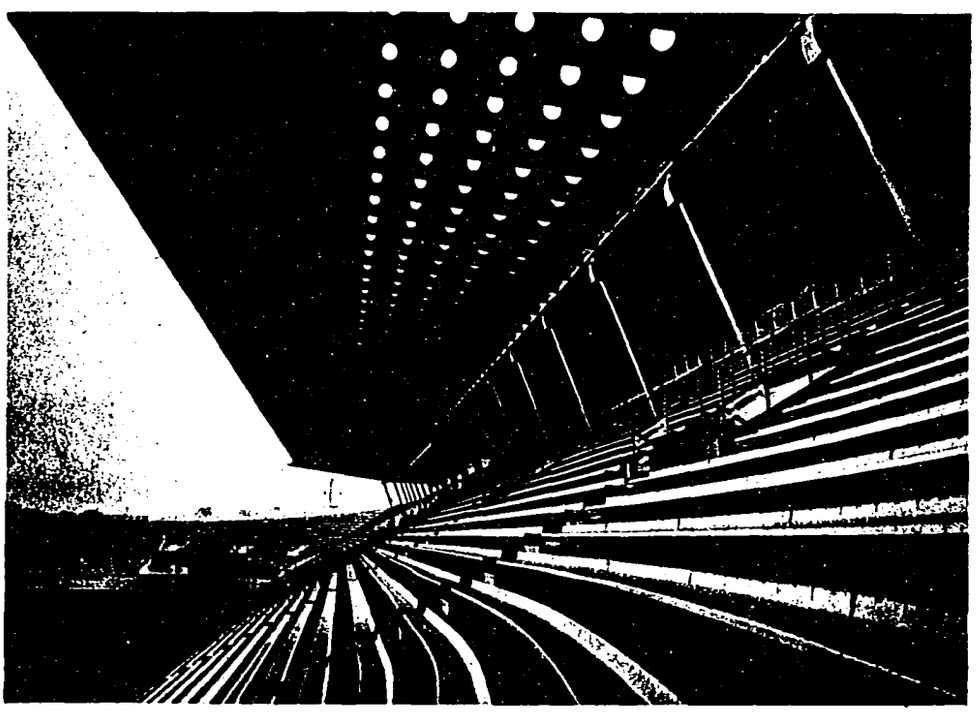
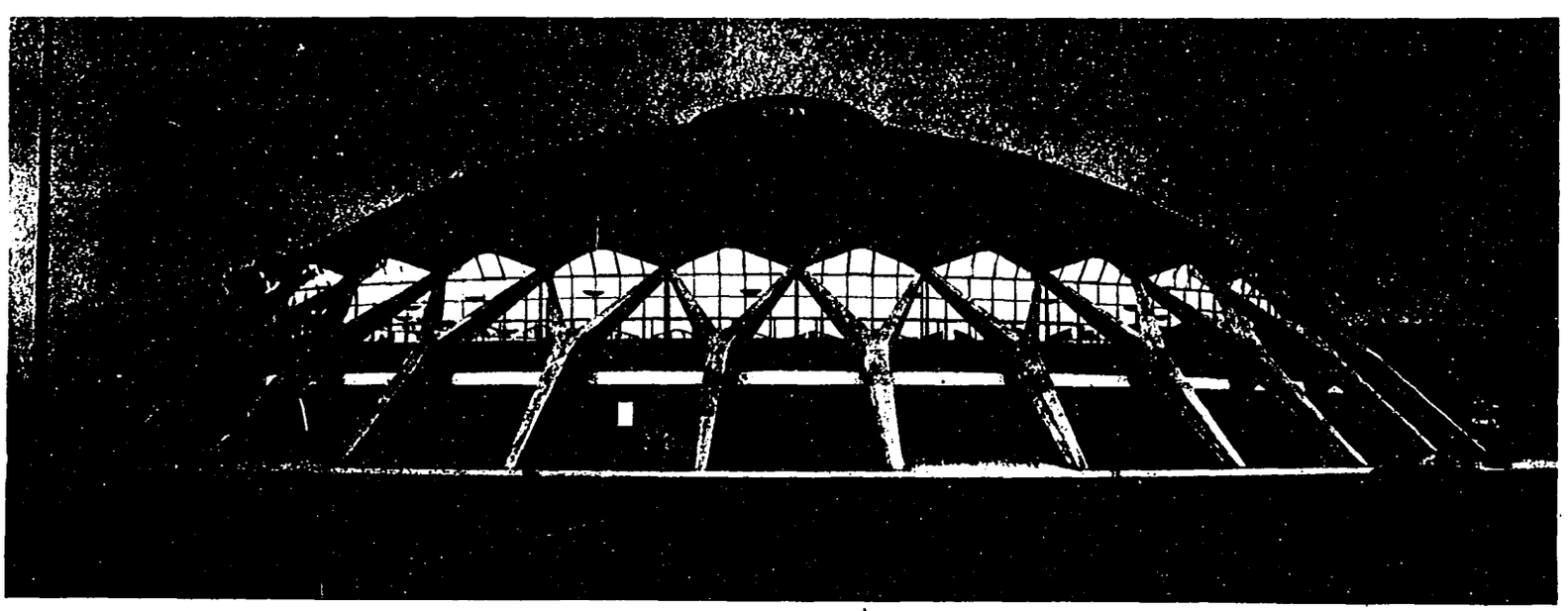
SOME of the most striking buildings of the twentieth century are the work of a 69-year-old Italian engineer, Pier Luigi Nervi. The three structures designed by Nervi for this year's Olympic games in Rome, shown on these pages, will introduce a large public to his achievements for the first time. Modest, industrious, quick to deny his extraordinary talents, Nervi attributes his remarkable contributions to "a love of good structure" and "patient and passionate work." His spectacular buildings are few in number—about thirty warehouses, factories, hangars and exposition halls constructed in Italy during the last forty years—and have been little publicized because of their technical and utilitarian nature. Their daring and ingenious innovations in the use of reinforced concrete fuse science and art for a new kind of engineering-architecture, in which structure and style are one. The result is a spectacular new beauty. These graceful shell enclosures, decorative ceiling patterns and sculpturesque supports are a significant addition to the monuments of Rome, as well as to the building arts.



STADIUM—This arena, also for the Olympics, is the work of Nervi and his son Antonio. It will hold 50,000 spectators.



SMALL SPORTS PALACE—Nervi's third building for the games, designed with Annibale Vitellozzi, will seat 5,000. Its fluted shell and Y-shaped supports have unusual elegance.

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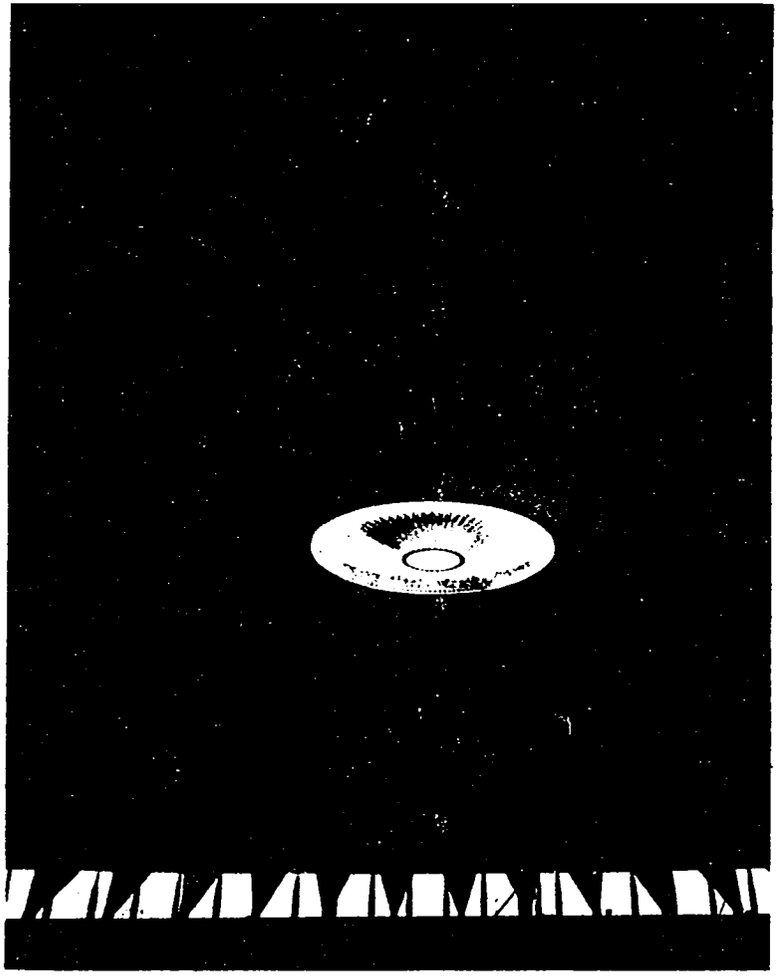
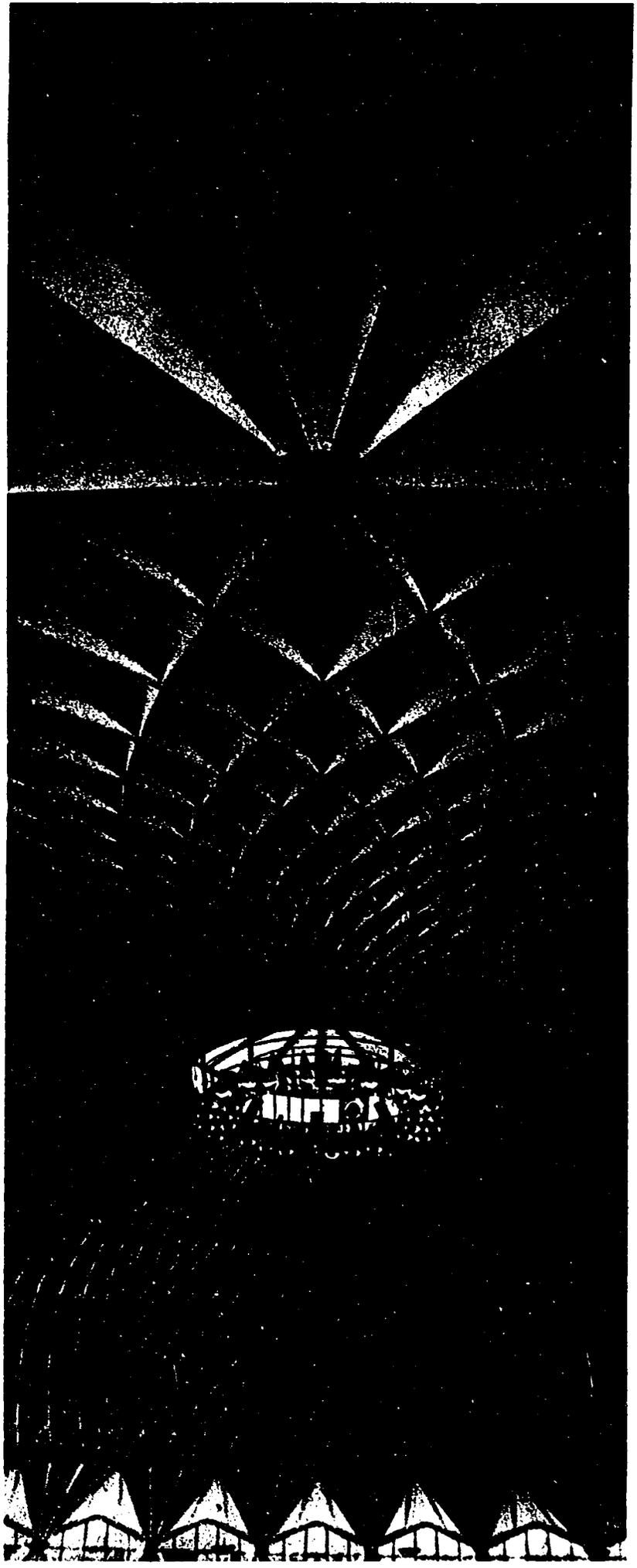


GEOMETRIC LOOK—Radiating ribs create a pattern in the large sports palace roof.

FAN SHAPED—Connectors carry the weight of the large palace's ceiling to seats below.



NETWORK—A web of flowerlike beauty grows out of the ceiling structure of the small palace.

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