

Model for Madison Square Garden Is Put on Display

By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

Plans for the new Madison Square Garden, one of the most provocative of New York's new building projects, have reached close-to-final form after four years of development, criticism and controversy.

The plans, which have been embroiled in protests over the demolition of Pennsylvania Station, were unveiled without fanfare yesterday. The model of the sports complex, which will be built on the site occupied by the station, was included in the "Our Town, 1970" exhibition of models and photographs of building projects, which has been set up in the lobby of the Union Carbide Building at 270 Park Avenue.

The model shows a round sports arena, 425 feet in diameter and 150 feet high, connected by a glass bridge to a 29-story glass office building. The two buildings, designed by Charles Luckman Associates, will be constructed on the block bounded by 31st and 33d Streets, Seventh and Eighth Avenues. About half of the area will be left open for landscaped plazas.

Interior Columns Eliminated

The simple, but unconventional sports building will have a circular, prestressed concrete roof connected by steel cables to an exterior steel frame, eliminating all interior columns for unobstructed visibility. The outside walls will probably be precast concrete panels.

At four points, glass-enclosed escalator towers on the outside walls will divide the building into four areas for entrance and exit. The main approach will be through the Seventh Avenue entrance of the office building, along a promenade leading over the glass bridge to the ticket lobby in the Garden.

Inside the building, there is a complex and compact arrangement of services and facilities. Two lower levels under the Garden will serve the Pennsylvania Railroad, with trains below and passenger concourse above.

The first two levels above ground will have a 4,000-seat auditorium called the Forum on the Eighth Avenue side, a 400-seat sports cinema, a sports hall of fame, art museum and library and a 44-lane bowling alley.

22,000 Seats Planned

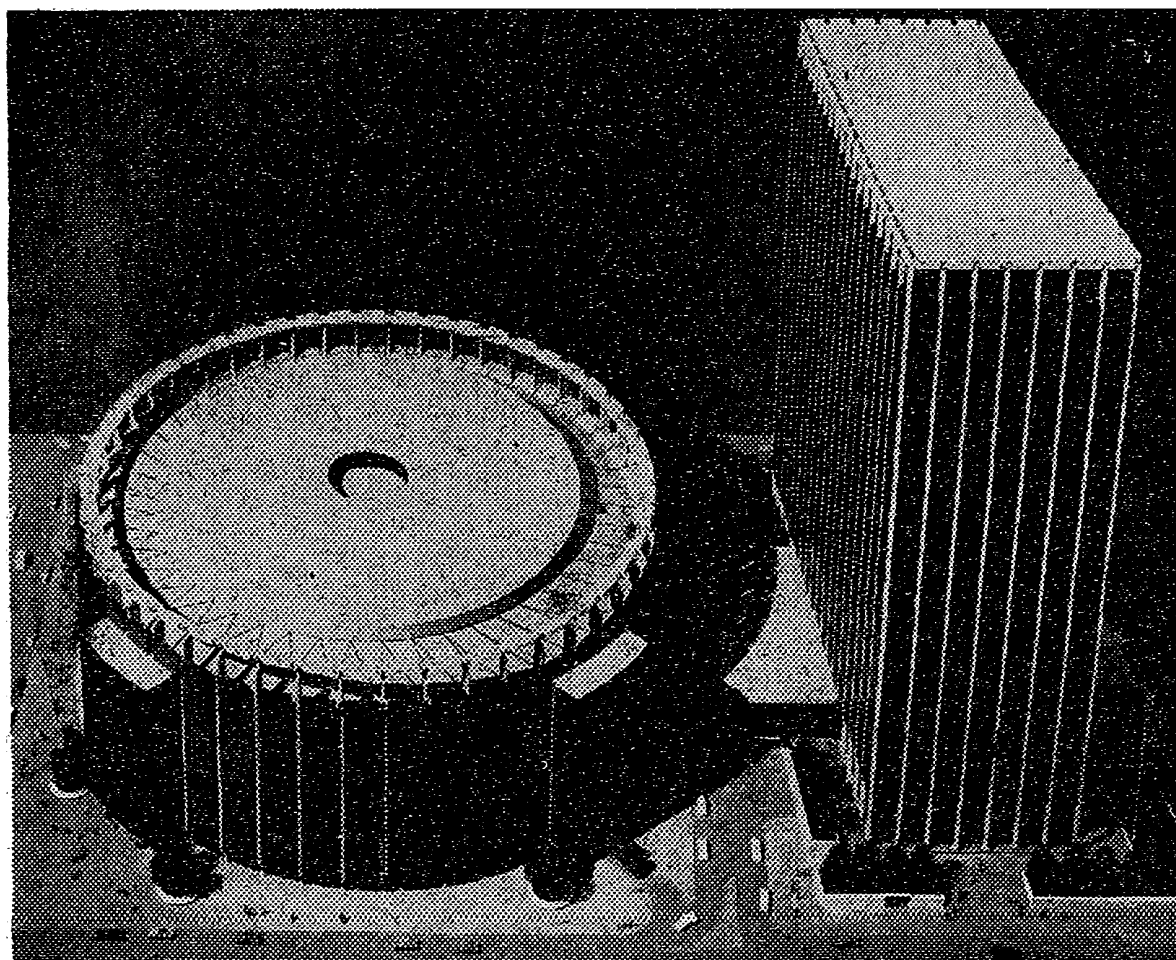
The main arena starts on the third level, 47 feet above ground. The playing field and stands of 22,000 seats will be under a cable-hung roof. Surrounding the playing field, on the level under the seats, will be 50,000 square feet of exhibition space.

The Forum theater, sports cinema and exhibition area, may be converted into a convention center.

Of the \$66 million cost estimated for the complex, \$44 million will be for the sports arena and the rest for work by the Pennsylvania Railroad on its own facilities, involving the demolition, the new foundations of the Garden, and renovation.

Construction of the sports building is being financed by a 25-year, \$34.5 million loan by the Chase Manhattan Bank. Work will start on the foundations this fall, above-grade construction should begin in mid-1965, and completion is expected by the fall of 1967.

The two buildings will be erected, owned and operated by the Madison Square Garden Center, Inc., of which 75 per cent is owned by the Madison Square Garden Corporation, the owner and operator of the present Garden, and the rest by the Pennsylvania Railroad.



The new Madison Square Garden, and adjoining rectangular office building, are depicted in a model on view in an exhibition called "Our Town, 1970," at Union Carbide Building.