



Women & Sport: The Issues for the Architect

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To create the proper provision for women in sport, the Architect has to satisfactorily resolve many factors.

Firstly, the sports space itself:

- Most do not have different dimensional requirements for women and men: football, rugby, basketball, tennis, hockey, cricket and nearly all others are played on the same arena or field of play. Some are different (eg. golf), but these are a few.



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Some spaces tend to be more female-friendly
Eg. The inclusion of dance studios

A creche facility would be valuable

A friendly entrance and reception is appreciated

However, we should now look at the supporting and surrounding areas:

- Design is inseparable from Management and operation. Proper catering for women in terms of performers, spectators and management itself is part of the holistic design process.

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Safety is a vital consideration inside and more importantly outside the facility

- **Outside:** Safe Parking and access for vehicles and transport, good lighting to external areas must be provided.
- **Inside:** Good supervision of all areas, both by management and by other users. No long, unsupervised, hidden corridors. In the USA jogging tracks provide safe conditions inside the building.

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Women & Sport

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Changing and showering areas. More privacy will be required, particularly for showers.



Provision for spectators in indoor arenas and stadia: we know that some changes have already taken place eg. all seating stadiums, improved toilet facilities, better control over violent behaviour by other spectators.

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Case Study: Sports Pavilion

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Many architects believe that good design can cater for successful buildings for all groups in society. A proper understanding of the needs of those groups, including women, is essential to that end.



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Conclusions

- A good architect should be able to design a building that will cope with the needs of all members of society.
- However, he or she needs a good client.
- He or she needs a good brief, with the full involvement of the operating team..

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- The lesson is to take a great deal of trouble to choose a good architect in the first instance.
- The additional challenge is this:

The architect and the client must be 'visionary' about their designs. Buildings must be designed for flexibility and accommodate uses that were not thought about when the building was conceived.