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Soccer Stadium Architecture and Archibald Leitch

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GRAHAM CHRISTENSEN

SENIOR INTEGRATIVE PROJECT:
INDEPENDENT STUDY

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
2013



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE

Soccer Stadium Architecture and Archibald Leitch

Graham Christensen

Current Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
1	Man. United	35	27	4	4	79	36	85
2	Man City	34	21	8	5	61	31	71
3	Chelsea	34	19	8	7	68	35	65
4	Arsenal	35	18	10	7	66	36	64
5	Spurs	34	18	8	8	60	43	62
6	Everton	35	15	14	6	52	38	59
7	Liverpool	35	14	12	9	67	42	54
8	West Brom	34	14	6	14	46	44	48
9	Swansea City	34	10	12	12	43	44	42
10	West Ham	35	11	9	15	41	49	42
11	Fulham	35	10	10	15	44	53	40
12	Stoke City	35	9	13	13	31	41	40
13	Southampton	35	9	12	14	47	57	39
14	Norwich City	35	8	14	13	33	54	38
15	Sunderland	35	9	10	16	39	51	37
16	Aston Villa	35	9	10	16	42	64	37
17	Newcastle	35	10	7	18	43	66	37
18	Wigan Athletic	34	8	8	18	39	62	32
19	Rangers	35	4	13	18	29	56	25
20	Reading	35	5	10	20	37	65	25

Archibald Leitch

- Born April 27, 1865
- Glasgow, Scotland
- Won scholarship to Hutchesons' Grammar School
- Went on to Anderson's College studying science



Early Professional Life

- Held a variety of engineering jobs across Glasgow
- Then went to sea as a marine engineer for three years until 1890
 - Married that year
- Returned to working engineering jobs around Glasgow
- 1896, opens his own practice

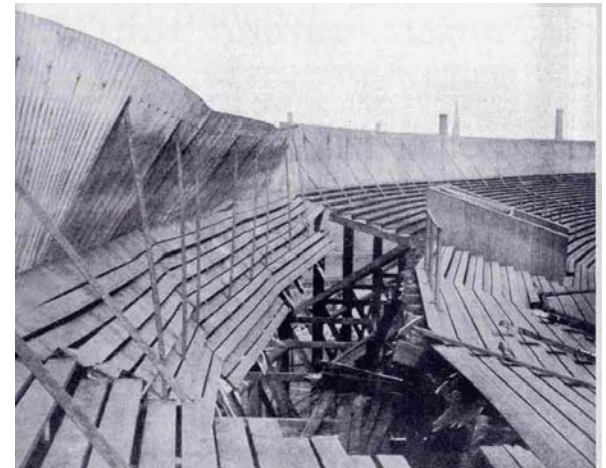
Sentinel Works (1903)

- First reinforced concrete building in Glasgow
- Patternmaking shop and office for an engineering firm
- Category A listed building



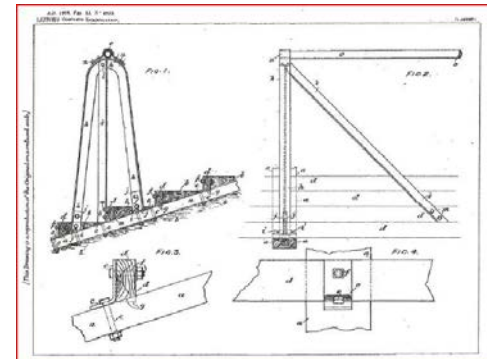
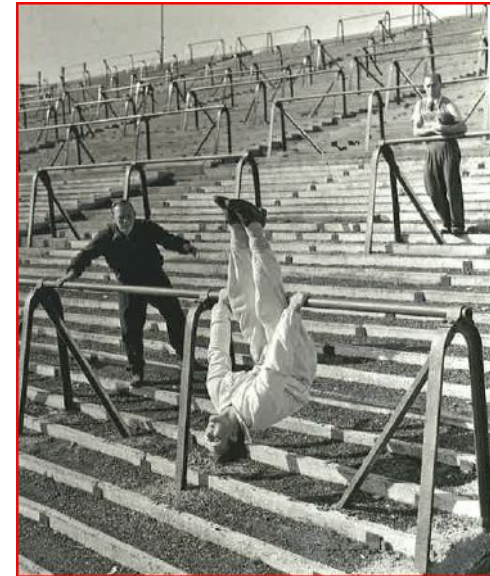
Ibrox (1899) and its 1902 Disaster

- Ranger FC and Ibrox Stadium
 - Need for expansion to keep pace with cross town rivals Celtic
- Leitch completed commission for free
 - Capacity of 80,000
- Stadium Hosted England vs. Scotland match in 1902 testing the stadiums capacity with 60,000 fans
- Stands gave out, 25 people died and 190 hurt
 - Leitch was found not to blame, faulty wood had been supplied to him



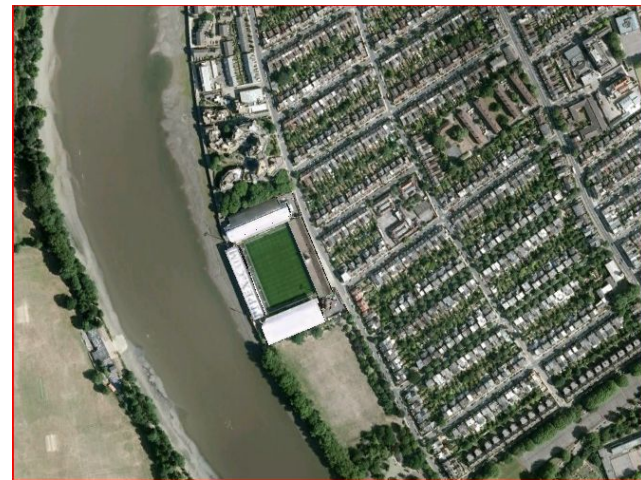
Improving Safety Measure

- After the disaster Leitch's work would come to define stadium design
- Patented "Crush Barrier"
 - Prevented Stampede effect
- Improved Terracing
 - Allowed for everyone to see
 - Better crowd control

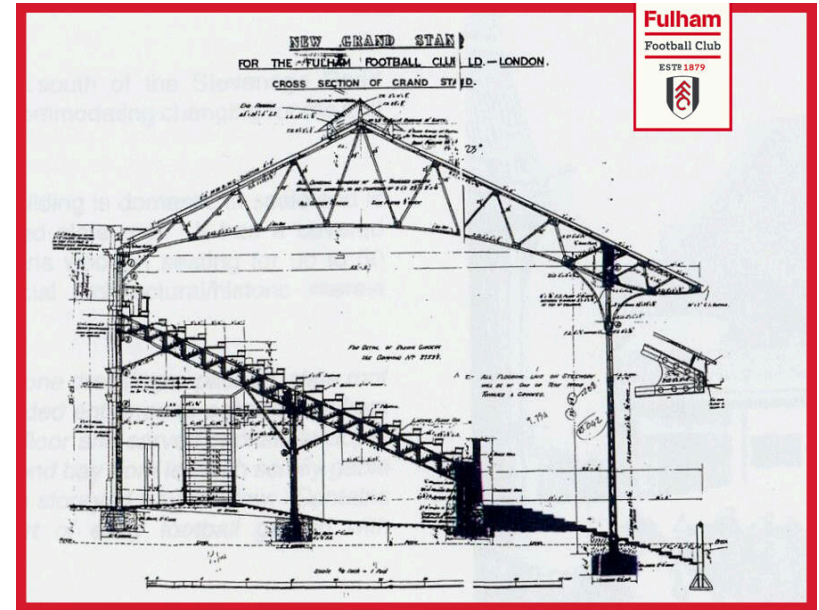
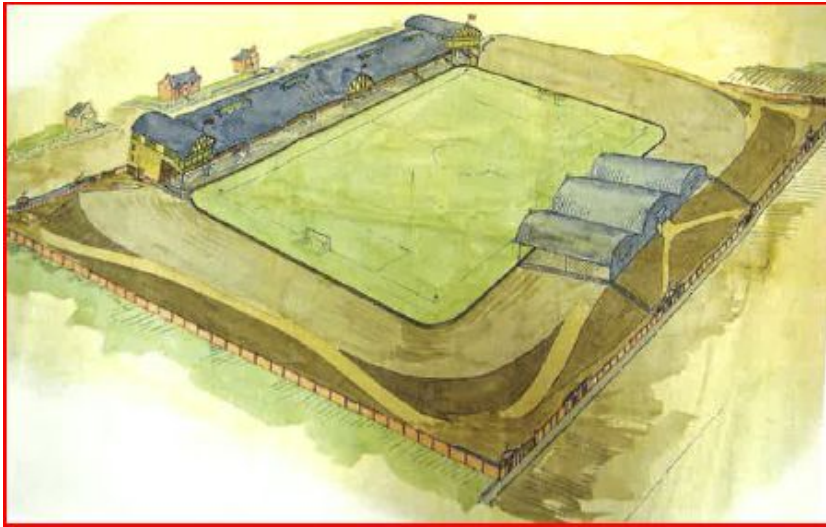


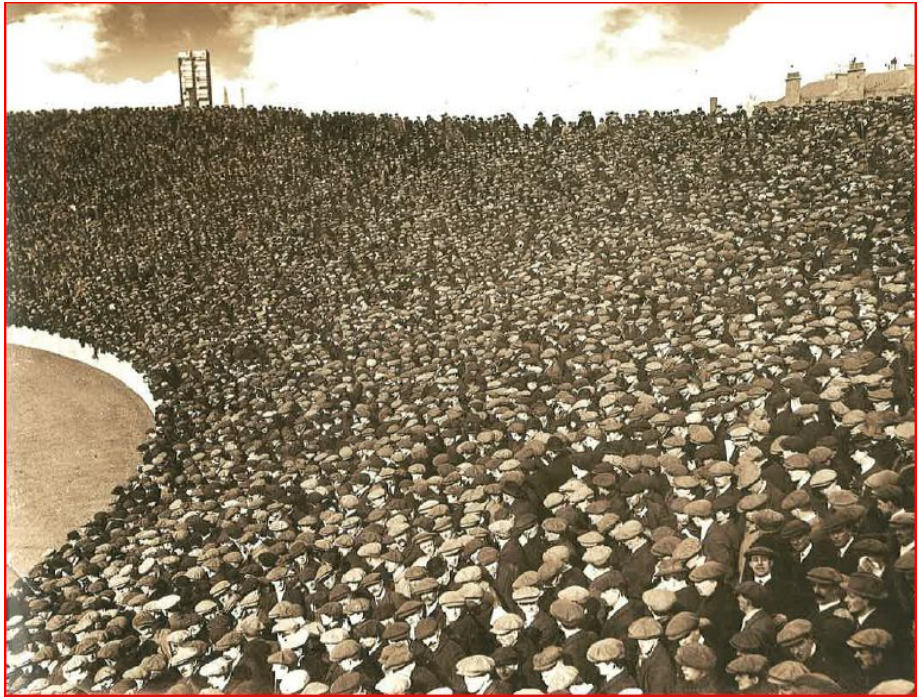
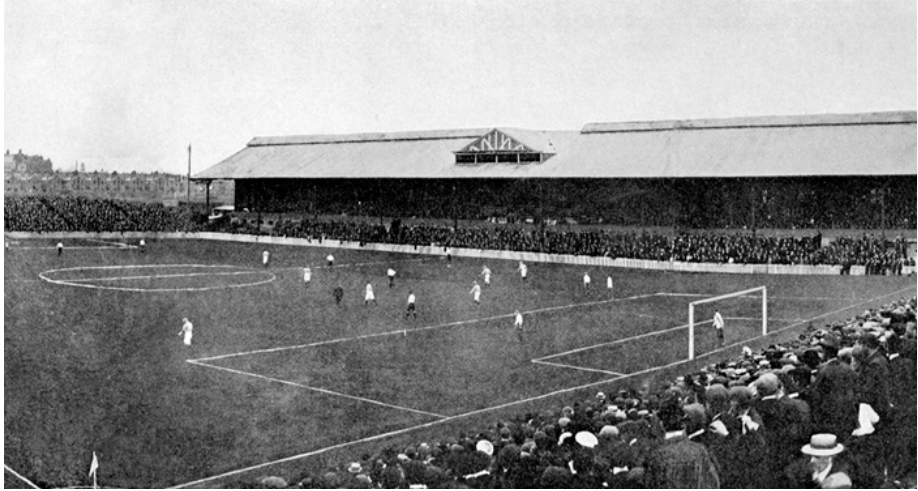
Craven Cottage (1904)

- Henry Norris,
Fulham Club
Chairman
 - Ambitious, wanted
to grow club into top
flight contender
- Only Problem,
Craven Cottage's
location



Planning







The Field House

- Unusual, going out of style
- Housed locker rooms, offices and caretakers flat
- Connection to old Craven Cottage
- Grade II Protected Building



Connection with the Neighborhood

- Oldest Stadium in League
- Strong ties with the neighborhood
 - Architecture
 - load bearing brick, string courses, mullioned windows, cartouches and Dutch gables.
 - Social hub
 - Represents the area and its people
- Groups such as Fulham 2000, Fulham Alliance, Back to the Cottage and Fulham United have all voiced support for the Cottage



Hillsborough Stadium Disaster



- Incident during 1989 Liverpool vs. Nottingham Forest game
- 96 deaths and 766 injuries due to stampede
- Police's lack of control and over selling tickets to blame
- Resulted in Taylor Report which banned standing terraces in stadiums
 - At this point, the Cottage's Riverside stand had been replaced in 1972, but standing terraces still existed on either end of the field

The Cottage Today and Uncertainty of the Future

- 1998, Stadium given \$1,165,575 refurbishment
- Seats 25,000
 - One of the smallest ground in league
 - Stadium sells out consistently, 98% attendance
 - Team consistently in top half of standings
- 2003, Plans revealed to do further \$12,408,800 worth of refurbishment
 - Eliminated the final standing terraces
- 2013, Club announces plans to increase capacity to 30,000 with an addition to the Riverside Stands

His Legacy

- Terraces with concrete footing, sunken gangways and crush barriers formed the backdrop of English soccer through the 80s
- Safety Regulations such as the 1975 and 1996 publication of *The Green Guide to Safety at Sport Grounds* both specified seating specifications similar to the dimensions laid out in Leitch's 1905 design for Craven Cottage
- England Hosted the 1966 World Cup
 - Of 7 stadiums featured, 6 were Leitch designed