

DINAMO ARENA : POLITICAL ARENA

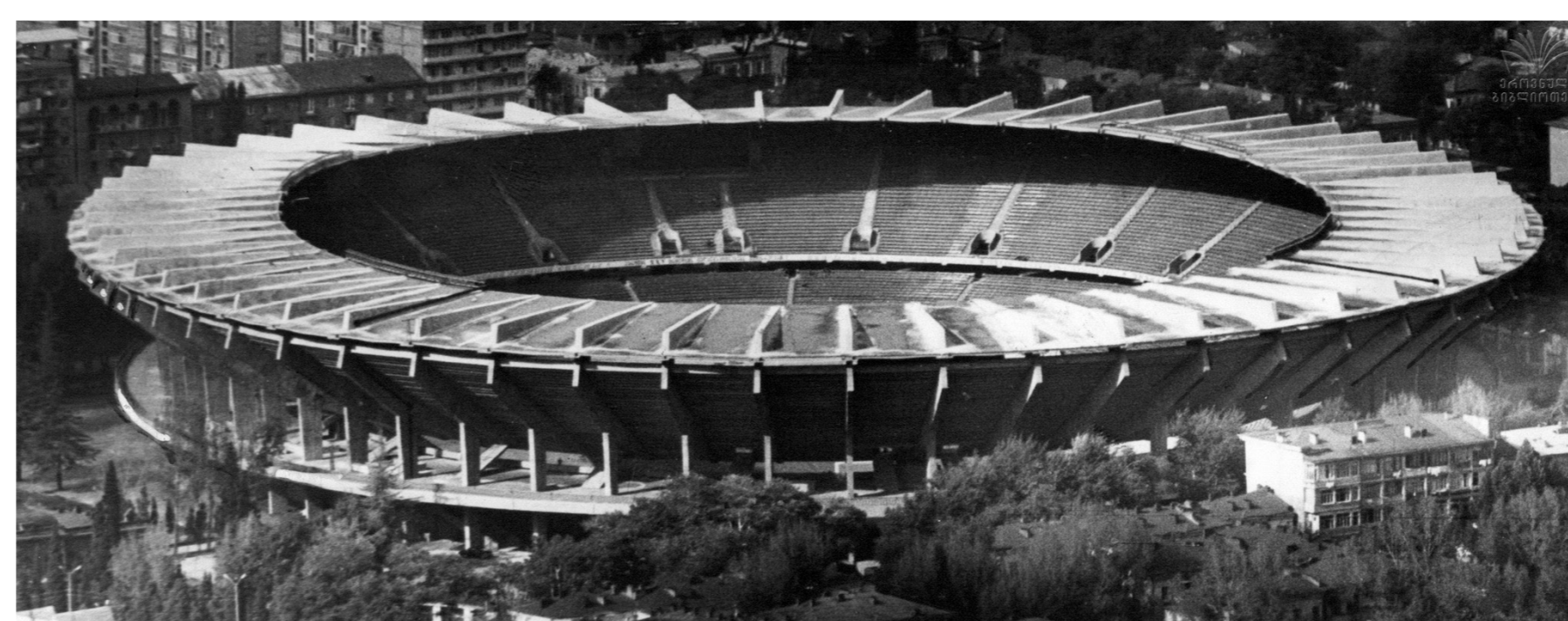
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Boris Paichadze Dinamo Arena is Georgia's most extensive and main stadium. The history of the stadium dates back to 1929, the first decade of the existence of the Soviet Union. Up until now, all changes throughout its history are closely related to the political system and conjuncture.

***Dynamo, also Dinamo is a sports and fitness society created in 1923 in the Soviet Union. The Sports Society was an association of multi-sport clubs of NKVD security forces and after the World War II, MVD and KGB. It is strange that societies affiliated to the USSR are still existing with the same titles**



View of the Dynamo Arena 2020
The building is the architectural dominant of the district
PC: Daily Record.



Dinamo Stadium 1976
The photo shows a view of the stadium after major reconstruction.
PC: National Parliamentary Library of Georgia



Dinamo Stadium 1936
The photo shows a view of the first building of the stadium
PC: Kurdiani's Archive www.dynasty.ge

(RE)CONSTRUCTION IS POLITICAL

The first construction of the stadium finished on October 12, 1935. The young chief architect of the project, Archil Kurdiani, dared to make a „small amendment“ to the order. Contrary to Moscow's demand that the stadium should have been designed for 10,000 spectators, it increased to 23,000.

The design of the building was made special by the triumphal arch and the open gallery. Archil Kurdiani created decorative capitals inspired by Georgian ornamentation, which was seen as a sign of national identity on a background of bare construction.

In 1953, when the stadium's reconstruction was to begin, Nikita Khrushchev came to power. The stadium with national signage proved unacceptable to the authorities of that period; however, due to a large number of spectators, the stadium still had to be expanded.

During the Soviet period, the stadium underwent a major reconstruction in 1969-1976. The project was led by Archil Kurdiani and his son Gia Kurdiani. They wanted to build a stadium for 100,000 spectators, but the government only allowed the stand to be created for 75,000 people. There was also an order to erase national symbols. In the end, the old stadium

was almost demolished and rebuilt, which caused severe damage to the health of Archil Kurdiani. In Tbilisi, people said that the son would demolish the stadium built by his father. However, Kurdians still managed to save part of the decorative arch. Most importantly, the author's approach for calculating and designing the visual angle for the II tier was original, thus ensuring complete visibility of the stadium for any spectator from any seat which made the stadium unique! The roof was also used as a site for the placement of lightning and sonification.

The final reconstruction of the stadium began two years after the Rose Revolution. In 2006, a renovated stadium was opened. The project was traditionally led by Kurdians Gia Kurdiani and Archil Kurdiani Jr. The number of spectators was reduced to 55,000, although the stadium was planned according to international standards.

(RE)NAMING IS POLITICAL

1935 - 1936 Dinamo Stadium - The leader of the USSR is Joseph Stalin.

1937 - 1953 Beria Dinamo Stadium - Lavrentiy Beria was Stalin's right-hand until they both died in 1953.

1954 - 1968 Dinamo Stadium - The leader of

the USSR is Nikita Khrushchev, who begins the De-Stalinization process.

1976 - 1990 Lenin Dinamo Stadium - „Return to Lenin's principles“.

1990 - 2011 Boris Paichadze National Stadium - At the end of the Soviet Union and increased national movement, the stadium's name was changed to the National Stadium.

From 2011 - Boris Paichadze Dinamo Arena - On August 25, 2011, the National Stadium was transferred to Dinamo Tbilisi for 49 years and renamed Dinamo Arena.

DANCE IS POLITICAL

„At This Techno Club, the Party Is Political“ - writes The New York Times about Bassiani - a nightclub founded in 2014. It is located in the building of the Dinamo Arena and utilizes a disused swimming pool as the main dancefloor. Bassiani takes an active role in human rights demands, especially against homophobia, creating a safe place for the LGBTQ+ community; and the country's narco-politics. The largest demonstration of thousands of people Bassiani spurred in May 2018, after police officers stormed the club in a drug raid. Protest expressed in the dance brought fundamental changes for many people.



„We dance together, we fight together“ banner from the May 2018 protests outside the Georgian parliament building
PC: Bassiani