

# Brazil's football temple to host World Cup

Built as the flagship venue for the 1950 World Cup, Rio's iconic Maracana Stadium has undergone a massive redevelopment to play host to the World Cup Final and the opening ceremony of the 2016 Olympics

**RECONSTRUCTION:** Original two-tier configuration demolished – replaced by new one-tier seating bowl

**Old roof:**  
Reinforced concrete

**New roof:** Teflon-coated glass fabric built on cable structure. Covers 95% of seats

**Seats:** Blue and yellow, plus green of pitch, reproduce national colours. Capacity reduced to 78,000 but still Brazil's biggest football ground

VIP

Standard

Sand  
Gravel

**Grass:** Deep blue-green *Bermuda Celebration*, grows even in shade and recovers quickly after match

Distance from first row to pitch reduced

**Estádio Jornalista Mário Filho:**  
Nicknamed *Maracana* – derived from indigenous name for *Blue-winged Macaw*

**Solar energy:**  
Over 1,500 photovoltaic rooftop panels power stadium

**VIP boxes:**  
110

**Press:**  
Eight TV studios plus four more on ground floor

**Museum**

**Top levels:**  
60 bars

**Ground level:** Offices, changing rooms, parking

**Recycled water:**  
Rainwater collected on roof used in toilets

**Access:**  
Four new ramps allow evacuation of stadium in eight minutes

**Renovation cost:** \$500m