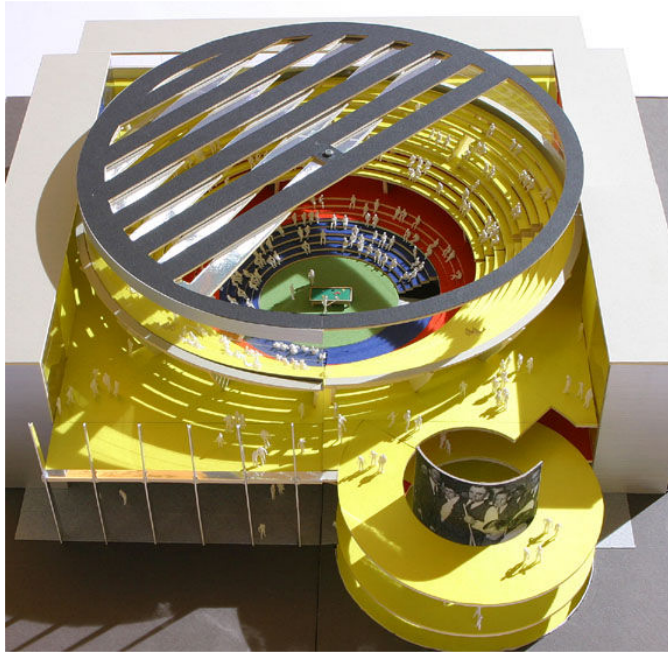
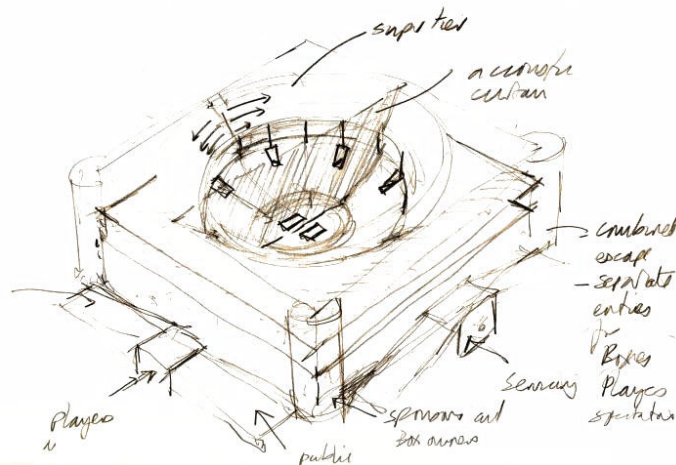


What is a Billiardrome™?

Peter Bainbridge and James Burland Summer 2009

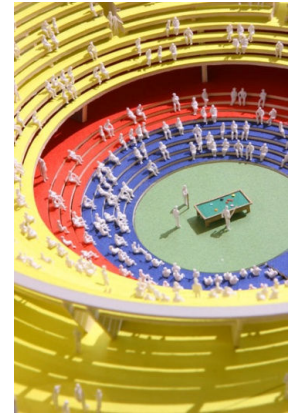


The Billiardrome™ is a purpose-designed arena for all forms of billiardsport – snooker, pool, billiards, carom and pyramids. It was conceived as and has been designed to be the optimum building for the exhibition of these competitive billiardsports which, together, are one of the largest participant games in the world, second only to football. It will provide the optimum experience for players, spectators, officials, media and all other visitors. And yet, as far as we know there has never before been an arena designed specifically for the purpose of showing billiardsports off at their best.



Early concept sketch

We have used the best principles of arena design but in a smaller context. The Billiardrome™ will hold around 3,000 people in a completely circular space. “Theatre-in-the-round” is a very special and intimate experience and in our space the audience can and will engage with their opposite number across the other side. The scale of the Billiardrome™ makes that possible. From the point of view of the players (or Gladiators) the atmosphere of competition will again be a unique experience. The tension in a close run contest will be electric and barely tolerable!



3,000 people may not sound an enormous number for a major sporting event. In our opinion it is around the “optimum” number for all the spectators to be able to see what’s going on and be close enough to the action to feel genuinely involved. By comparison, the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield and home, to date, of the World Snooker Championships, holds just 980 people.

We want to emphasise that the Billiardrome™ is not, however, a multi-purpose sports hall – it has been specifically designed to showcase all forms of billiardsports. BUT, its unique geometry makes lots of other things work well within its space.

In sporting terms it would particularly suit numerous “close contact” sports such as table-tennis, glass-walled squash, weightlifting, martial arts, boxing and wrestling (including sumo), even chess and backgammon.

It is a very unusual space for music and there is no shortage of solo artists, bands and groups who could and would utilise such a venue.

It is an exceptionally versatile space for conferences, product-launches, presentations and exhibitions – small and large.

It is demonstrably a superb in-the-round theatre space. Use it in its entirety for suitable styles of production or halve it or quarter it to suit a production which demands a more substantial backstage area.

So, generally, it is an excellent space for anybody or any group of people who can “work” a stage and likes or needs to relate closely with the audience. Eric Clapton would be a fine example as would Anthony Robbins!!!

We plan to build an initial 6 “founding” Billiardromes around the world: UK, Europe, North America or Canada, Middle East, Far East and Australia.

“....as far as we know there has never been an arena designed specifically for the purpose of showing billiardsports off at their best.”

To build a number of Billiardromes is clearly an ambitious plan but the main attraction of that is that it makes the concept of a Series of events possible. In all forms of billiardsports this would enable World Series’s to develop with all players experiencing similar or identical arenas – almost impossible to achieve currently.

In theatre, it would encourage the development of purpose designed international touring productions of all types which could therefore travel very economically from one similar or identical venue to the next. In music similarly there could be significant economies of scale in touring.

In our view, the ideal “host city” of the very first Billiardrome™, is likely to possess the following :-

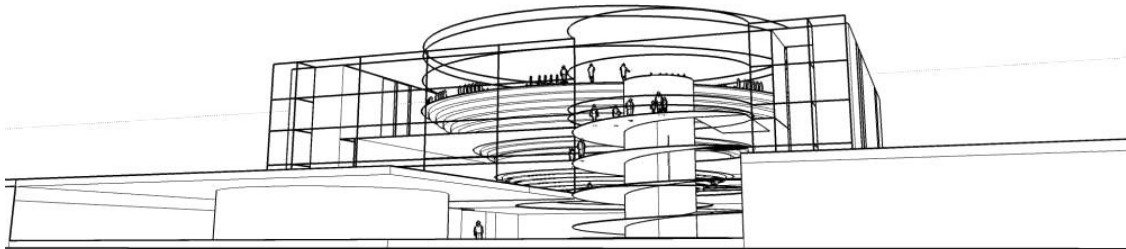
- Location
- History
- Sporting ambition
- Access to funding

And to such a city we can and will bring :-

- A unique and exclusive opportunity
- Numerous events in all categories including but not exclusively billiardsports
- Possible location for billiardsport Governing Bodies
- The opportunity to be part of a global network

Billiardrome’s particular interest is in the identification, acquisition and development of events suitable for Billiardrome(s). We fully recognise that any arena without a full and imaginative calendar of events is as much a liability as an asset.

The Billiardrome lends itself to development in conjunction with a hotel in that the hotel and the auditorium can promote each other and, in addition, they can share public areas. That is also true of using the arena as a conference facility and the combination of all three would be both economically viable and extremely unusual.



The space would also lend itself to live broadcast and could be permanently equipped for that function. That would dramatically affect average production costs and in a world where there are ever more broadcasters – cable, internet etc – that would represent another unique feature of the facility.

The Billiardrome, and in particular the first one to be built, can set the standard for subsequent versions in other places. We believe it has the credentials for an iconic piece of design and in a suitable City with corresponding enthusiasm and support, and the right content, it could, in publicity terms, punch far above its weight.

Peter Bainbridge and James Burland
July 2009

The very first Billiardrome™ host city will benefit from various opportunities