



Beijing National Stadium, China

Location in the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Olympic Green (Olympic Park), 1 National Stadium South Road, Beijing, China
History of Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started: December 2003, opened: June 2008 • Designed: the Basel architecture team Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, project architect Stefan Marbach, Leading Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, and CADG, chief architect Li Xinggang • Cost: \$428 mln with the budget of \$290 mln.
Peculiarities of Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nickname: "The Bird's Nest". The chief architect: "In China, a bird's nest is very expensive, something you eat on special occasions." • Idea originated from the Chinese ceramics: steel beams were to hide supports for the retractable roof • Consists of 2 structures 50 feet apart: a red concrete seating bowl and the outer steel frame around it • The “random-looking additional steel” blends the supports into the rest of the stadium. 24 trussed columns (each 1,000 tons) encase the inner bowl, despite the random appearance of the stadium, each half is nearly symmetrical.
Cultural Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tourist attraction, hosting sports and entertainment events, the most important public space in Beijing: for sports, musical performances, local and international pageant events. • Multi-use sports venue - National Stadium, the Bird's Nest, constructed for Summer Olympics and Paralympics 2008 to be used in 2022 • A Monument of New China, visited by millions of tourists • The stadium is quite profitable, drawing some 20,000 to 30,000 people a day at the price of 50 yuan admission. • 2010: a snow theme park. The venue costs approximately \$9 million to maintain per year.