

# HUSKY STADIUM

**AFFILIATION:** UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HUSKIES  
**LEAGUE:** NCAA (DIVISION I)  
**LOCATION:** SEATTLE, WA

By Kate West



PHOTOS: DOUG SCOTT

One of the best pieces of real estate in Seattle, Washington, might be the location of the **University of Washington's** football stadium. **Husky Stadium** has prime views of Lake Washington and the Cascade Mountains, but prior to 2011, the building itself did not hold the grandeur to match its views. Concrete crumbled due to constant exposure to the moist weather, rebar was exposed, and golf carts often transported fans to their seats. **360 Architecture** (which was acquired by **HOK** in 2015) took the challenge of redesigning the 1920's stadium, which had already gone through four major remodels over the years, to a state-of-the-art facility.

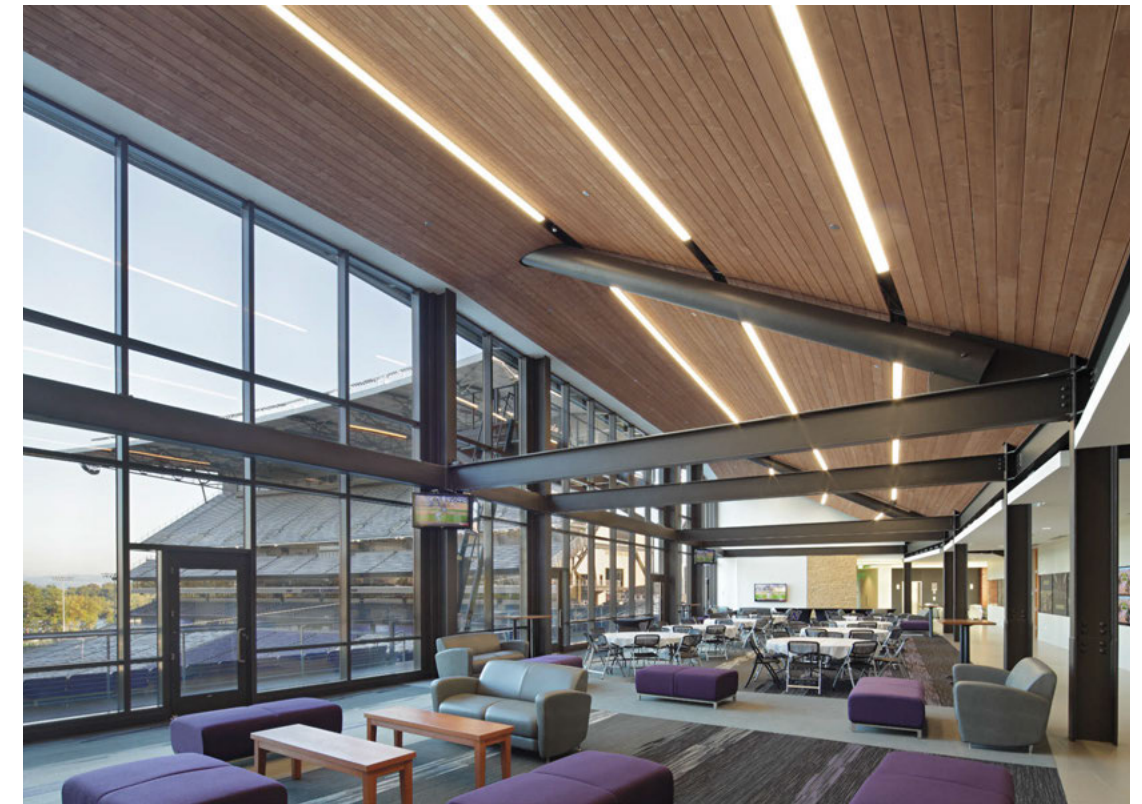
Protecting the environment during the \$280 million remodel started with two retention ponds that filtered construction wastewater before it entered Lake Washington. "Even the trucks that drove off went through a washing cycle," says **Karen Baebler**, assistant athletic director for the university. "We are a salmon safe university, which is probably unique—water that comes from the stadium goes into the lake, so it was important none of the construction waste wound up there." In fact, 95% of the construction waste was either reused or recycled. For example, during the demolition of the lower bowl of the stadium, a concrete crusher was brought onsite to utilize the original materials as filler under the new structure. Some of the metal bleachers that once filled the student section are now used as a decorative design feature on the northwest and southwest entrances.

And, knowing that the largest amount of waste would occur once fans returned to the stadium, recycling and compost was obviously a huge part of the plan. It started with changing out the containers used to serve food to nearly 100% recyclable and compostable materials. Onsite compactors were installed on the loading docks, and



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RIGHT The remodel included the addition of suites with windows that allow fans to open and close—reducing the amount of heat or air conditioning the stadium consumes.



planners created a two-stream recycling system. During the 2014 football season, nearly 80% of all waste from the stadium was recycled or composted using the new system.

But that was just one way architects wanted to reduce the stadium's carbon footprint. In an effort to take advantage of Washington's climate, the architectural team brought the outside air and beauty inside. The remodel included the addition of suites with windows that allow fans to open and close—reducing the amount of heat or air conditioning the stadium consumes. The restrooms and locker rooms now have motion-activated LED lights; low-flow water fixtures that reduce the amount of water consumed; and elevators instead of spiral ramps, which eliminated vehicle traffic inside the stadium. "Before golf carts had to shuttle fans to their seats on the upper levels," says Baebler. "It feels much more like an indoor building now."

It's also now a building that can be utilized for more than just football games and practice. The new two-story, 83,000-square-foot football operations center, built as an addition to the west end of the stadium, offers players and coaches training and study space as well as a relaxation area that includes a barber's chair. For players and the public, a 30,000-square-foot **UW Sports Medicine Center** opened. "What makes this special is everything is in one area now—players are not traveling between the locker rooms in another section of the university to get

to the stadium and the public can take advantage of the sports medicine clinic," Baebler says.

In mid-March, the light rail system added a stop in front of Husky Stadium—adding easy access to the stadium and sports medicine clinic.

The remodel of Husky Stadium took less than two years to complete and was ready for the 2013 football season. It now seats 71,500 fans and is the largest stadium in the Pacific Northwest. **gb&d**

**95%**

Percentage of construction waste that was recycled or reused

**78%**

Percentage of waste from food that is composted or recycled

**71,500**

Number of fans that can now be seated in the stadium (the largest stadium in the Pacific Northwest)