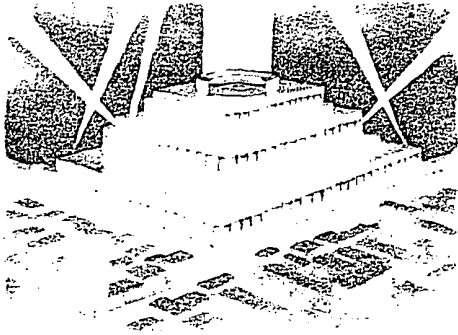
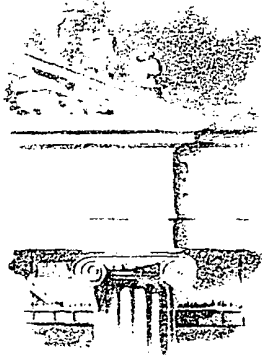


BASEBALL

The Stadium We Deserve



The guiding spirits behind our proposal for a New Yankee Superstadium (left) are two famously assertive New Yorkers: George Steinbrenner and the late Robert Moses. As Yankee fans know, Steinbrenner intends to jilt the Bronx and build a new ball park elsewhere, but he has been vague about how fans might benefit from this gut-wrenching move. The N.Y.S.S.T. vision (henceforth, "Nisty") answers this question with the classic Gotham response: Big Is Best. In so doing, it borrows a page from Moses, the fabled master builder who scoffed at mere human-scale structures. Indeed, if Moses still controlled the city's map, he would want the new pin-stripe palace to be clearly visible from Mars. Nisty isn't quite that grandiose, but it does, we believe, match the grandeur, scale and — yes, arbitrariness, eccentricity and even madness — of the Yankees, their owner and their fans.

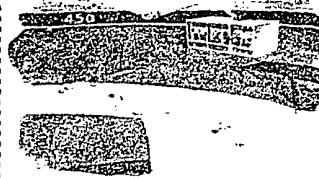
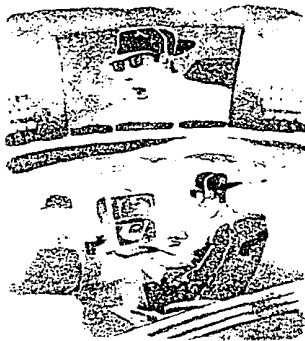


A Diamond on a Hill

Budgeted at \$7 billion (a billion multiplied by Mickey Mantle's number), Nisty will rest atop a ziggurat that rises 714 feet (matching the Babe's home-run total). Moving sidewalks will carry fans "to the summit" — the park itself, a neo-classical coliseum whose fencelless outfield opens onto skyline infinity. Inside the zig's huge lower expanse: 100,000 parking spots, restaurants, "period" baseball villages, malls and more. As fans file into the ball yard itself, they will perceive a distant *tink tink*. From? Italian stone carvers, chiseling for 56 years (in honor of DiMaggio's hitting streak) on a stadium-ringing frieze that depicts Yankee tragedies ("Pennant Lost") and triumphs ("Pennant Regained").

Every Fan a King

Be he skinny-necked kid praying for a foul ball or beer-addled slob, every fan deserves the best. At Nisty, each seat will be a throne, featuring a retractable bigbrella, cool-air-and-mist rheostats, a high-definition TV monitor and a console keyboard that allows choice of custom replays and classic footage. Food and drink will be delivered via pneumatic tube, with V-chip technology protecting tots from beery temptation. The entire family can share the fun when it's time to don U.N.-style headphones and eavesdrop on real-life dugout chatter. (Watch your tongues, players!) Miffed about a bad call? Type in comments from your seat. If sufficiently witty, your "E-pithets" might get displayed on Yankee Vision.

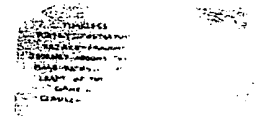


Midas's Catbird Seat

Too often, fandom is "about" passive perception, but Nisty's luxury skyboxes will add a kineticism that is worth any price. Each sumptuous interior will be housed in a modular, detachable "sky unit" that can be plucked from its architectural slot by a gargantuan cherry picker. Nine lucky sky parties — chosen by lot — will spend one inning each perched directly behind second base. Such splendor comes at a price, of course. The skyboxes will sell for a princely \$1 million per season (with invested rake-off helping deflate general-admission ticket prices to 75 cents), and every passenger must sign an iron-clad liability waiver. Why? Because when a 475-foot blast rockets toward a box's front window, the crane operator's instructions are clear: jerk hard and fast — straight up.

Six Flags Under Home Plate

Sadly, kids can get bored by baseball. When whining starts, send them to the New Yankee Playway, a giant funatorium beneath the field. In the star attraction, "Baseball: A Ride by Ken Burns," they'll thrill to the eerie Hall of Holograms, where the game's essence comes to life. (Hear the Iron Man's farewell! See Billy Martin shove a Cub Scout!) Of course, kids may get frightened here, especially when they round a corner and confront George Will lecturing on "the Baserunner as Odysseus." When they return to your arms, terrified and wailing, use the moment to underscore Will's gassy but worthwhile point. Hug them, dry their pie-shaped faces, gesture expansively at Nisty's splendor and say: See what a wonderful thing it is to come home?



EDITED BY ALEX HEARD. Contributors: Lunch Box Collecting, E. Thomas Wood; Unabomber Buffs, James Romenesko; Montana's Rat Man, Lynette Dodson; Good Hair, Stephen Williams; New Yankee Superstadium, Richard Chenoweth and Charles C. Euchner.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RICHARD CHENOWETH

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