Dyche Stadium (Ryan Field) 1501 Central Street Evanston Cook County Illinois

HIBS No. CK-2024-2

# PHOTOGRAPHS WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC ILLINOIS BUILDING SURVEY
State Historic Preservation Office
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

## HISTORIC ILLINOIS BUILDING SURVEY

# Dyche Stadium (Ryan Field) 1501 Central Street Evanston, IL

HIBS No. CK-2024-2

Location: 1501 Central Street, Evanston, Cook County, Illinois

The building is located at latitude: 42.06549, longitude: -87.69271. This point was obtained on February 1, 2024, using Google Earth (WGS84).

There is no restriction on its release.

Present Owner: Northwestern University

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Dyche Stadium (Ryan Field) is a 47,000-seat football stadium designed by

architect James Gamble Rogers with engineer Gavin Hadden and completed in 1927 for Northwestern University. In 2006, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined that the stadium is individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion A for its function as an athletic complex at Northwestern University and under National Register Criterion C in the area of

architecture for its Collegiate Gothic design.

Historians: Emily Ramsey, Lara Ramsey, and John Cramer of Ramsey Historic

Consultants, Inc. - March 2024

<u>Project Information</u>: This project was undertaken in compliance with Section 707 of the Illinois

State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act (20 ILCS 3420) and its implementing rules (17 IAC 4180). The stadium was recorded as a stipulation of the Memorandum of Agreement among Northwestern University, The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office regarding the demolition of Dyche

Stadium (Ryan Field) and construction of a new stadium.

# **Part I: Historical Information**

# A. Physical History:

- 1. Date of construction: 1926-1927
- 2. *Architect*: James Gamble Rogers, architect (1867-1947); Gavin Hadden, engineer (1888-1956)
- 3. *Original and subsequent owners, occupants, and uses*: Northwestern University (1926-present), athletic stadium
- 4. *Builder, contractor, suppliers*: J.B. French Co.(General Contractor); G. F. Baker (Resident Supervision); C. A. Fuller (Heating Plant Design)<sup>1</sup>
- 5. Original plans and construction:

Plan, elevations, and cross sections included in *The American Architect* (January 5, 1928), including proposed third seating deck and matching towers for the east grandstand, which were never constructed.

6. Alterations and additions:

In 1949, a horseshoe enclosure was constructed at the south end of the stadium, increasing capacity from approximately 45,000 to approximately 56,000. Additional seating was also constructed north of the east grandstand.<sup>2</sup>

In 1961, an elevator was installed to provide accessibility to the upper deck and press box, and the press box was expanded.<sup>3</sup>

In 1997, Northwestern University completed a \$30 million renovation that included a new end zone facility housing locker rooms, sports medicine center and equipment room, replacement of artificial turf with natural grass, new aluminum seating, enclosed three-tier enclosure at center of west grandstand to house Stadium Club, and new press box, remodeled concourses with new restrooms and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Dyche Stadium, Northwestern University, Evanston, ILL.," The American Architect, January 5, 1928, 68.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Dyche Stadium's New Look," *The Evanston Review* January 1951, Dyche Stadium File, Northwestern University Archives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Dyche Stadium" N. U. Media Guide, 1970, Dyche Stadium File, Northwestern University Archives

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concessions.<sup>4</sup> Griskelis & Smith were the architects of record for the renovation. When work was completed, the stadium was renamed Ryan Field in honor of Patrick Ryan, chief of AON Insurance and chairman of Northwestern's board of trustees.

## B. Historical Context:

Dyche Stadium (later renamed Ryan Field) was constructed on the Northwestern University campus during what was known as the "golden age" of college football, when the sport reached new heights of popularity in the United States. To accommodate the evergrowing audience of football spectators, universities across the country either constructed new stadiums or expanded their existing facilities, ushering in a stadium building boom that continued through the 1920s. The construction of Dyche Stadium was part of Northwestern's efforts to build up its football program in the 1920s, and to provide an upto-date facility that could accommodate the growing crowds attending its football games.

Designed by architect James Gamble Rogers and engineer Gavin Hadden, Dyche Stadium features distinctive crescent-shaped stands that were developed by Hadden in the early 1920s to maximize seating along the center of the gridiron. The stadium's arcaded exterior references the Classical stadiums of Ancient Greece and Rome, while its subtly Gothic corner towers visually connect it to other Gothic-Revival buildings on campus.

## The Rise of Intercollegiate Football in the United States

The Development of Intercollegiate Athletics at American Colleges and Universities

The construction of athletic stadiums on college campuses throughout the United States in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries followed the rise of intercollegiate athletics, which evolved out of physical activity and intermural sports programs established at East Coast Ivy League universities in the 1820s and 1830s. Prior to this period, campus life at American colleges was largely "dull, Spartan, well-regulated and academically rigorous," and students were expected to spend most of their time on intellectual pursuits or moral improvement.<sup>5</sup> Secret societies, debating societies, and other clubs were the primary social outlets for students, and although informal "pick-up" games or "class rushes" involving various sports were played on many college campuses, organized athletics was generally "regarded as a waste of time by the faculty, and the athlete was not respected by the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Construction drawings dated 10-18-1996, provided by Northwestern University.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Guy Lewis, "The Beginning of Organized Collegiate Sport," *American Quarterly*, Vol. 22, No. 2, Part 1 (Summer 1970), 222.

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student."<sup>6</sup> In the 1820s, several universities—including Harvard, Yale, Amherst, and the University of Virginia—established gymnasiums on campus to provide a physical outlet for students and allow for a productive channeling of the their sometimes unruly "excess energies."<sup>7</sup> While these formal physical training programs failed to gain much traction on campus, by the 1840s an increasing number of students were participating in a variety of games--including elementary forms of football and baseball—as recreation.

Formal athletic competitions between universities in the US began in the early 1850s and helped to spur interest in student athletics. The first organized inter-collegiate competition in the country was the Harvard-Yale Regatta, which was held at Lake Winnipesauke in New Hampshire in 1852, and became an annual event by the mid-1860s. Other colleges were eager to participate, and in 1871 representatives from Harvard, Brown, Massachusetts Agricultural College and Bowdoin formed the Rowing Association of American Colleges and established an annual union regatta. The popularity of these crew competitions increased through the 1870s, and races often received front-page coverage in leading newspapers. The regattas also helped to develop the "intense spirit of athletic rivalry" that became the hallmark of intercollegiate sport, and students, alumni, and the public began to "regard victory as a measure of an institution's prestige."

With the success of organized intercollegiate crew competitions, other sports soon followed course. Princeton University established its baseball society in 1859, and the first intercollegiate baseball game took place between Amhurst and Williams that same year; however, baseball only advanced as an intercollegiate sport after it was tied to the regatta program in the mid-1860s. By 1879, the growing popularity of organized baseball on eastern college campuses led to the establishment of the first intercollegiate league among Harvard, Amherst College, Dartmouth College, Yale, and Brown. Track and field also developed into an organized intercollegiate sport in the 1870s after being included as part of the regatta. <sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Henry D. Sheldon, *Student Life and Customs*, International Education Series Volume LI (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1901), *145* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Lewis, 223.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Ibid, 227.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ibid, 228-229.

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## Intercollegiate Football in the United States

As with baseball, students at East Coast universities had been playing an early form of association football<sup>11</sup> since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Princeton students began playing a version of football called "ballown" in 1820, and in 1827 students at Harvard began the custom of "Bloody Monday," during which the two lower classes competed against each other in a football game on the first Monday of the new college year. These early games were often brutish and rough and were played without established rules or a specific number of players. According to New York Times sports reporter Allison Danzig, "Anyone who felt like joining in and agitating a blown-up pig's bladder and getting his shins barked, and maybe his eyes blacked or his teeth knocked out, was free to exercise his democratic prerogative and do so. The game consisted of kicking, pushing, slugging, and getting angry."<sup>12</sup> By the late 1860s, both Princeton and nearby Rutgers had established nearly identical rules of play for their teams, and on November 6, 1869, the schools participated in the country's first intercollegiate football game at Rutgers' College Field, using rules modified from the London Football Association. 13 Two years later, Princeton formed the first college football organization, the Princeton Football Association; other colleges in the northeast, including Columbia, Yale, and Cornell, soon followed suite. In 1873, representatives from Princeton, Rutgers, and Yale met in New York City to establish the Intercollegiate Football Association, which adopted a common set of rules of play for all members. 14

While most East Coast schools, including members of the Intercollegiate Football Association, established rules that hewed closer to association football/soccer, Harvard's football team remained an outlier for its insistence on playing a cross between rugby and soccer called the "Boston Game," which it had adopted in 1871. Harvard's adherence to their form of the game essentially precluded the team from playing colleges in the Intercollegiate Football Association, and when McGill University in Montreal challenged the team to a game in 1874, they accepted. While the first of the matches between the two teams were played by Harvard's "Boston Game" rules, the second adhered to the rugby rules favored by McGill. Harvard was "so charmed" with the rugby rules that they adopted

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "Association football," in which the ball is advanced by players primarily with their feet, is also commonly known in the United States as "soccer" to distinguish it from the American version of the game that evolved out of rugby and soccer.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Allison Danzig, *The History of American Football: Its Great Teams, Players, and Coaches* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1956), 7.

<sup>13</sup> Ihid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> "American Football," Encyclopedia Brittanica website (accessed February 13, 2024 at <a href="https://www.britannica.com/sports/American-football">https://www.britannica.com/sports/American-football</a>).

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them.<sup>15</sup> In a game between Harvard and Yale the next year, the teams agreed to "concessionary rules" that were essentially Harvard's new rugby rules, and Yale was also won over by this new style of play. Princeton adopted rugby rules in 1876, and that same year representatives of Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Columbia met to form a new Intercollegiate Football Association, which adopted new common rules of play based largely on rugby.<sup>16</sup>

In the decades following the formation of the Intercollegiate Football Association in 1876, the rules of the game would continue to evolve away from rugby toward what is now recognized as American football. Many of these innovations to the game—including reducing the number of players from 15 to 11 and replacing rugby's scrummage with scrimmage (passing the ball back with the heel to put the ball in play)—were proposed by Walter Camp, who served as captain of Yale's football team in the late 1870s and early 1880s and later became its coach. The institution of downs came in 1882, and along with it the lime lines marking yardage on the field, which came to be known as the 'gridiron.' Other changes, including the legalization of blocking and tackling below the waist and above the knees, were made throughout the 1880s and 1890s as intercollegiate football spread through the Midwest and South.

# Intercollegiate Athletics at Northwestern University

As at other colleges and universities in the Midwest, intercollegiate athletics developed slowly at Northwestern University through the 1870s and 1880s, and by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century two sports—baseball and football—dominated its program. Although baseball had been played on campus as an intramural sport since the founding of the university in the mid-1850s, the first team was not organized until 1869, and the first intercollegiate baseball game was played in 1871. For a brief period in the 1880s and 1890s, tug-of-war also rose to prominence as an intercollegiate sport at Northwestern, rivaling baseball in popularity. The university's tug-of-war team competed against other colleges and universities, as well as local athletic clubs, and their winning streak in the late 1880s led *The Northwestern* to declare "Our Tug-of-War team is the only athletic elements we have that does credit to the institution." <sup>18</sup>

While football remained solely the domain of East Coast colleges through most of the 1870s, interest in the sport grew at Midwestern colleges through the decade, and the first intercollegiate game in the Midwest was held between the University of Michigan and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Danzig, 10.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Ibid. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Walter Paulison, *The Tale of the Wildcats: A Centennial History of the Northwestern University Athletics* (United States: Walter Paulison, 1951), 79.

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Racine College in 1879.<sup>19</sup> Intramural football had begun at Northwestern as early as the mid-1870s, and the school's first football association was formed with 25 students in 1879, but games were informal and drew few spectators. Captain Harry Hamill, who later served as captain of Northwestern's football team, recalled that in the early 1880s members of the football association "gathered three or four afternoons a week to practice and play informal games. . . Occasionally students would stop by and watch us practice, but the principal interest was baseball, which was played both spring and fall."<sup>20</sup>

The Northwestern football team played its first intercollegiate match against Lake Forest in 1882, but games with other colleges remained few and far between until 1888. Once a regular schedule of intercollegiate play had been established, however, football's popularity at the university skyrocketed, leading *The Northwestern* to predict in December of 1889 that "next year we may expect it to be fully as popular as a fall game as base ball is a sport for spring and summer." <sup>21</sup>

Dr. Henry Wade Rogers, who was appointed President of Northwestern University in 1891, was broadly supportive of expanding the school's athletic program, and oversaw the development of a new athletic field at the north end of campus that could accommodate baseball, football, and track in the first years of his tenure. In his dedication speech for the field's recently-completed grandstands in 1892, Rogers lauded student athletics for "promoting health, sound morality and self-mastery." 22

While he supported athletics on campus, President Rogers also heeded the concerns of some faculty and administrators about the place of sport within the university by convening a committee to "consider the entire question of the conduct and control of athletics at Northwestern" in 1891.<sup>23</sup> Rules adopted by the committee the following year included a ban on competition with professional teams and minimum academic standards for student athletes. The committee also shifted regulatory control of sports teams on campus to a newly-created Committee on the Regulation of Athletic Sports.<sup>24</sup>

To create more consistency in regulation among the intercollegiate athletic programs in the Midwest, the presidents of six universities—including Northwestern, Chicago, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Purdue—held a conference in Chicago to adopt common rules for intercollegiate athletics in 1895. Known as the Presidents' Rules, these regulations stated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Robert Leckie, *The Story of Football* (New York: Random House, 1965), 20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Paulison, 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Harold F. Williamson and Payson S. Wild, *Northwestern University: A History 1850-1975* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University, 1976), 62.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Paulison, 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Williamson & Wild, 92.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Ibid.

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that athletics at each school would be supervised by an athletic committee, that players had to meet certain academic and residency requirements, that no professional coaches, trainers, or players could compete, and that all games would be played on grounds owned by the schools. The following year, the same group formed the Intercollegiate Conference of Faculty Representatives, a permanent organization made up of faculty from member schools that was tasked with supervising intercollegiate athletics. The organization subsequently expanded to become the Western Conference and later became The Big Ten.<sup>25</sup>

Although the Intercollegiate Conference was created in large part to quell growing concerns about the encroachment of professionalism within intercollegiate athletics, the image of football as a brutish, violent game was also on the minds of many college administrators, students, and the public, even as the sport continued to draw bigger and bigger crowds to college campuses across the country. Northwestern President Henry Rogers was so troubled by these issues that, in 1894, he reached out to presidents at several colleges, including Harvard, Purdue, and the University of Chicago, to ask whether they believed "an institution acting alone could reasonably expect to abolish football." After William Harper, president of Northwestern rivals the University of Chicago, indicated that "Chicago would continue to play as long as two or three institutions remained to compete against it," Rogers quietly shelved the idea. 27

Rising public attention on football injuries and blatant unsportsmanlike behavior, particularly at Eastern schools, reached a crescendo in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; the focus on violence in the game, combined with multiple allegations of corruption and broader concerns about the overt commercialism and semi-professional nature of football programs, created an existential crisis within college football. Columbia suspended its football program, and Stanford and the University of California replaced football with rugby. <sup>28</sup> In 1905, Northwestern University trustees voted to suspend competitive football for five years on the recommendation of a special investigating committee, although the suspension was lifted after only two years. <sup>29</sup>

In 1906, a joint rules committee that would subsequently organize to form the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States (later known as the National Collegiate Athletic Association or NCAA) succeeded in adopting a number of changes to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Ibid, 91.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> John Sayle Watterson, *College Football: History, Spectacle, Controversy* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press),48.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Leckie, 31.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Williamson & Wild, 127.

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the rules of play that were intended to reduce injuries, including legalizing the forward pass, creating a 'neutral zone' that separated both lines by the length of the ball, setting a minimum of six players on the offensive line, and raising the yardage required for a first down. In particular, the forward pass and neutral zone helped to prevent the mass pile-ups and slugging matches that had led to many of the injuries in the game. The introduction of additional regulations in 1910 and 1912, including prohibition of interlocking interference and removal of restrictions on forward passing, further reduced injuries.<sup>30</sup>

That same year, the Western Conference met to adopt changes to their own regulations in response to accusations of unsavory recruiting practices in the press and rising criticism from faculty of football's outsized place in campus culture. The new regulations—which included more stringent eligibility requirements and academic standards for student-athletes, a shortened playing season, and a 50-cent ticket price for games—were aimed at reigning in the "big-time culture" around football at its member universities. <sup>31</sup>

Upon returning to intercollegiate play in 1908, Northwestern's football program found itself profoundly disadvantaged within its conference—many of the team's former players had graduated, and the new team had to adjust to new techniques and styles of play brought on by the rule changes. The team was also hampered by a revolving door of temporary coaches—between 1908 and 1921 Northwestern cycled through 14 coaches, with eight serving only a single year. In 1922, the university entered into a five-year contract with Glenn Thistlethwaite, its first full-time football coach. Thistlethwaite's hiring was part of a broader effort at Northwestern to strengthen its intercollegiate athletics program, which as a whole had maintained a mediocre reputation among Midwestern universities. Thistlethwaite's success in his first season as coach buoyed students and the administration, and he and his successor Dick Hanley became campus celebrities in the 1920s, along with the team's most notable players. With the football program on the upswing and enthusiasm for the sport at an all-time high, Northwestern turned its attention to constructing its first athletic stadium.

## Early Athletic Fields at Northwestern

Through much of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Northwestern did not have a formal recreation ground or athletic field for its students. A rudimentary baseball diamond was laid out on a meadow at what is now the south end of campus east of Sheridan Road in the 1850s or early 1860s and was later moved near the intersection of Davis Street and Hinman Avenue

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Lecki, 32; Watterson, 100-104.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Watterson, 90-91.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Paulison, 37; Williamson & Wild, 172.

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in the mid-1860s.<sup>33</sup> Harry Hamill, who attended Northwestern in the 1880s, also recalled that football games were usually played in the meadow in front of what is now Deering Library.<sup>34</sup>

## Sheppard's Field

With interest in intercollegiate sports growing, in 1891 President Henry Wade Rogers and the university trustees earmarked \$7,000 to build an athletic field east of Sheridan Road near Colfax Street that could accommodate track and field, baseball, and football. George Muir, whose bookstore on Davis Street was considered a social hub by Northwestern students, collected an additional \$2,500 from students, alumni, and residents to fund a grandstand for the new field, which was dedicated in October 1892. The following year, students constructed a fence around the field with lumber donated by Northwestern treasurer Dr. Rober Sheppard—the field would later be christened Sheppard's Field in recognition for Dr. Sheppard's support of the athletics program.<sup>35</sup>

In 1893, President Rogers reported that, although Sheppard's Field had been graded and prepared for baseball, "So much more money than was supposed necessary at the start was spent on the base ball ground that the committee found itself without funds to complete a foot ball ground and running track." In 1893, a quarter-mile cinder track—funded largely through the previous year's football tickets--was installed by students and faculty, and additional bleachers were constructed along the east and west sides of the field between 1896 and 1898.

In her history of Northwestern University, Estelle Frances Ward describes early football games at Sheppard Field as "gay affairs:"

Smart tallyho coaches, with jangling harness of the four-in-hand team, drove out along the shore from Chicago to see the game. The coaches were drawn up in bright array on the open side of the athletic field. Many of the fraternities entertained coaching parties on these days, while the grandstand was as multicolored as it is today. The setting of the field, against the waters of Lake Michigan, added a vivid background.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Paulison, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Ibid, 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Robert D. Sheppard, D.D. and Harvey B. Hurd, L.L.D, ed., *History of Northwestern University and Evanston* (Chicago: Munsell Publishing Company, 1906), 161-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Northwestern University: President's Annual Report, 1892-93 (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1893), 9-10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Sheppard & Hurd, ed., 162.

<sup>38</sup> Estelle Frances Ward, The Story of Northwestern (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1924) 221-2.

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## Northwestern Athletic Field

In 1902, university trustees began to explore the possibility of constructing a new athletic field on a site farther away from the center of campus. The following year, the University announced its plans to build the new field along the north side of Central Street and west of the Milwaukee electric line. The land had formerly been part of the Ouilmette Reserve, a 1280-acre plot owned by Archange Ouilmette, a woman of Potawatomi and French heritage and wife of fur trader Antoine Ouilmette. Archange Ouilmette was given the land by the U.S. government after the signing of the 1829 Treaty of Prairie du Chien, which resulted in the forced expulsion of the Potawatomi from the area. After Ouilmette and her family relocated to Council Bluff, Iowa, land in the reserve was sold off for development. In 1865, Orrington Lunt, who was one of the founders of Northwestern University, donated 157 acres of the former reserve to the university.<sup>39</sup>

The new site would allow for larger grandstands on both sides of the new field, with plenty of room left over to accommodate a separate baseball diamond and changing rooms. The site also had the advantage of being close to the Central Street stop of the Chicago & North Western Railway, which would allow easy access for competing teams and out-of-town visitors. Although some students complained that the Central Street site was too far from campus, *The Evanston Index* argued that placing the new field farther from the lake allowed for better "climatic conditions" for sports events, reporting that "The track and baseball men especially have been hampered in their practice by the cold winds that sweep down over Sheppard Field in the early spring."

Leading the push for the new field was William Andrew Dyche (1861-1836), a graduate of Northwestern and former mayor of Evanston. Dyche had succeeded Robert Sheppard as the university's business manager and shared Sheppard's passion for collegiate athletics. Evanston Mayor John Thomas Barker also proved instrumental in acting as a booster for the project and helping Northwestern raise the projected \$20,000 needed to complete the project.

By late 1904, the university had garnered sufficient funds for the new field. In an announcement at Sheppard Field in November, Mayor Barker declared, "Northwestern's new athletic field has at last passed the dream stage. . . . We are not talking any longer of our hopes, but of our detailed plans. The hardest work of securing the necessary funds has

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Jenny Thompson, Ph.D, "A Brief History of Northwestern University's Athletic Fields, Part 1," *The Evanston RoundTable*, January 14, 2024 (accessed March 10, 2024 at <a href="https://evanstonroundtable.com/2024/01/14/a-brief-history-of-northwestern-universitys-athletic-fields-part-i/#">https://evanstonroundtable.com/2024/01/14/a-brief-history-of-northwestern-universitys-athletic-fields-part-i/#</a> ednref22).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> "Old Field Passes," The Evanston Index, June 30, 1905, 2.

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been done. We are now nearly through talking. We are ready to begin work on definite lines."<sup>41</sup>

Construction began in the spring of 1905, and in June Sheppard Field was demolished. The official dedication for the new field was held on October 14, 1905, during a game between Northwestern and Beloit. Mayor Barker was joined in the dedication by newly-elected mayor of Chicago Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne, Northwestern interim president Thomas Franklin Holgate, and William Dyche.<sup>42</sup>

Soon after the dedication of Northwestern Athletic Field, the university announced that it would suspend intercollegiate football for a period of five years in response to the current controversies around professionalism and injuries. With the intercollegiate program on hold, Northwestern Athletic Director Louis Gillesby organized an inter-class football program that kept the new field in use. Even with this effort, "the feeling gradually developed that the system of home football could not be maintained without the interest and inspiration of some intercollegiate competition," and in 1907 a petition signed by nearly 90 percent of the student body demanded that the Board of Trustees allow for three intercollegiate football games to be played in the 1908 season. <sup>43</sup> Citing the recent reforms to the game made by the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States and the Western Conference, the trustees agreed, and intercollegiate football returned to Northwestern.

Northwestern intercollegiate football struggled through the 1910s, and the United State's entry into World War I later in the decade brought further destabilization to the athletics program. By 1921, football at the university had reached a nadir, with the team failing to win a single conference game during the season. In their report on the state of Northwestern athletics, a joint committee of members of the Alumni Association, the Northwestern University Club of Chicago, and the Board of Trustees linked the fate of the university's intercollegiate program inextricably with football, "the sport in which the greatest interest naturally centers." *The Alumni Journal* put it more bluntly, stating pointedly that "Because of the recent unsuccessful football seasons the opinion seems to prevail that athletics at Northwestern are dead."

With the arrival of Glenn Thistlethwaite as head coach in 1922, however, Northwestern's football program improved significantly. Hoping to capitalize on the momentum brought on by the team's recent success, the Board of Trustees announced at the annual banquet of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> "Evanston's Mayor Calls New Field a Certainty," The Inter Ocean (Chicago, IL), November 18, 1904, 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> "Scenes at Yesterday's Game Dedicating Northwestern Athletic Field," Chicago Tribune, October 15, 1905, 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Paulison, 132-3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Ibid, 134; Dr. William V. Pooley, "The Athletic Situation," *The Alumni Journal*, May 1915, 10.

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the Chicago Club of Northwestern University Men in December of 1924 that the university planned to build its first outdoor stadium on the site of Northwestern Athletic Field.<sup>45</sup>

# **College Athletic Stadiums in the United States**

Although enthusiasm for all intercollegiate sports were continually growing at Northwestern and other universities throughout the country, by the time the university had completed its new athletic field on Center Street in 1905, football had eclipsed baseball as the most popular spectator sport on college campuses, drawing large and boisterous crowds of students, alumni, and residents. Even with the continued controversies surrounding the game, the public's appetite for college football was seemingly limitless--games were widely and breathlessly covered in the media, and campus social life increasingly revolved around football games. University administrators understood that building a successful football program could bring in revenues and increase enrollment.

With an initial capacity of around 13,000, Northwestern Athletic Field was in keeping with other fields constructed for football programs around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, in the following decades, colleges and universities around the country invested substantial sums of money to construct more impressive facilities that would accommodate the growing crowds of fans and increase publicity and revenues. Beginning in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, all-purpose athletic fields flanked by wooden bleachers and grandstands were replaced by more permanent stadiums made of fireproof materials. The development of reinforced concrete helped to facilitate the construction of larger and larger stadiums through the 1920s, which was considered a 'golden age' of collegiate sport and stadium building in the United States. By 1930, eighteen stadiums had been built with a capacity at or above 50,000, and most of these were constructed for collegiate football.<sup>46</sup>

Stadium building in the first two decades of the  $20^{th}$  century was largely concentrated among East Coast schools, which at the time boasted the strongest football programs and drew the biggest crowds. Many of these early stadiums emulated the ancient stadiums of Greece or Rome, with bowl or U-shaped plans and Classical detailing.

Harvard Stadium, designed by Charles F. McKim of McKim, Meade & White and completed in 1903, was modeled after Classical stadiums, and was likely inspired by the recent revival of the Olympic games in 1896. The U-shaped stadium featured two tiers of Roman arches and piers, with the lower arches serving as entrances to the facility. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> George S. Dalgety, "Dyche Stadium," Syllabus 1928, 211.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> J. R. Schleppi, "Architecture and Sport," *Physical Educator*, Volume 23, Issue 3 (October 1966), 123.

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stadium was the first free-standing concrete stadium in the United States and remains the oldest extant stadium in the country.<sup>47</sup>

The Yale Bowl, built in 1914 and from designs by Charles A. Ferry, was modeled after the Roman amphitheater in Pompeii and consisted of an elliptical plan, with a sunken playing field surrounded by continuous seating supported largely by an earthen embankment. Reinforced concrete tunnels cut through the embankment provided access to the stadium. At the time of its construction, Yale's stadium was the largest in the country and could accommodate over 70,000 spectators.<sup>48</sup>

Harvard Stadium and the Yale Bowl illustrate two of the most common types of stadium layouts used by colleges and universities in the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century—the U-shape and the bowl shape. U-shaped stadiums, which feature three sides of seating and a single open end, were generally constructed for both football and track, and accommodated longer straightaway tracks for dashes that could extend along the open end of the structure.

Bowl-shaped stadiums, which provided continuous seating in a closed oval or elliptical shape around the field, were generally considered best for "crowd psychology"—the unrestricted view of the entire crowd of spectators afforded in bowl stadiums created a "holiday spirit" that led to a more exciting experience for fans.<sup>49</sup> The closed shape of the bowl stadiums, particularly earthen bowls like the structure at Yale, eliminated the possibility of the straightaway, limiting its use for track and field events. Bowl-shaped stadiums were also more vulnerable to issues with ventilation.<sup>50</sup>

Ohio State University's Ohio Stadium, designed by Howard Dwight Smith and completed in 1922, was an early example of a variation of the U-shape stadium layout that featured curving stands along the long sides of the field. This innovation improved the site lines and spectator experience of a bowl stadium, while retaining the flexibility and better air circulation of the traditional U-shaped design.<sup>51</sup> Ohio Stadium was also one of the first stadiums in the country to include double-deck seating. With the upper deck placed forward

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Harvard Stadium, Cambridge, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, National Register No. 87000757, Section 8, Page 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> National Register of Historic Places, The Yale Bowl, New Haven, New Haven County, Connecticut, National Register No. 87000756, Section 7, Page 1; Section 8, Page 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Howard B. Peare, "Notes on Modern American Stadia," unpublished manuscript dated January 28, 1925, Dyche Stadium File, Northwestern University Archives, 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Myron W. Serby, *The Stadium: A Treatise on the Design of Stadiums and their Equipment* (New York: American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc., 1930), 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Howard Dwight Smith, "The Ohio Stadium at Ohio State University," *Architectural Record*, Volume 48 Issue 5 (November 1920), 391-2.

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over the lower seating deck, more capacity could be added without moving spectators too far from the playing field, and fans seated below the upper deck were sheltered from the elements.

As football crowds swelled through the 1920s, architects and engineers developed new stadium layouts that could increase capacity and improve the spectator experience. Some universities opted to construct taller, rectangular stands along the sides and ends of the field instead of connecting the stands in a U or bowl shape to maximize seating with straight site lines to the field. Other universities opted for crescent-shaped stands, which curved upward near the center to allow for a greater number of seats near the 50-yard line at the center of the gridiron. Architect and civil engineer Gavin Hadden, who developed the crescent design, noted in 1925 that "With the development, particularly during the last decade, of the more open style of play as influenced by the revised rules of the game, and with the increased size and consequent increased height of seating structures all over the country, it has been found and definitely proved by experience that the modern spectator prefers a seat high up in the stands, provided it is near the center line and not too far away from the field of play."52 Cornell University's Schoellkopf Field (known as the "Cornell Crescent"), constructed in 1924 and designed by Hadden, was the first stadium to employ a single crescent-shaped stand along one side of its new football stadium. Hadden also designed a similar stadium for the University of Denver in 1926, as well as a trapezoidal-shaped stand at Brown University's stadium in 1925, which was required to accommodate the unusual shape of the site.<sup>53</sup>

With the expectation that football attendance would continue to rise, stadium designers began to consider future expansion in their stadium plans, including additional decks and stands that could be built as required at a later date. Gavin Hadden's initial designs for Schoellkopf Field and Brown University Stadium, for example, included only single stands on one long side of the field, but also included plans for additional stands if needed. At the University of Denver, construction of the stadium was planned to occur in two stages, with a single stand constructed in each stage, to allow for continued use of the stadium during football season. For all three of these stadiums, these planned expansions never materialized, an early indicator that not all colleges and universities were destined to have—or could support—the monumental stadiums that became the crown jewels of the top-tier football schools.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Gavin Hadden, "Cornell Crescent," *The Architectural Record*, Volume 57, Issue 3 (March 1925), 197.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> "The Brown University Stadium," *The American Architect* Volume 129, Number 2491 (February 20, 1926), 285-88

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> J. L. Bingham, "The University of Denver Stadium," *The Athletic Journal*, Volume 7, Number 5 (January 1927), 19.

## Planning and Construction of Dyche Stadium

With the announcement of their plans for a new stadium, Northwestern officially entered the 'stadium race' of the 1920s. The need for an expanded facility for football was evident in the capacity and over-capacity crowds at Northwestern Athletic Field in the early 1920s. Soon after his appointment in 1921, University President Walter Gill Scott had also called out the erection of a new stadium a priority, largely because the project could be self-supporting through the revenues collected from ticket sales. <sup>55</sup>

In December of 1924, a special committee headed by Board of Trustees President Robert W. Campbell and William Dyche began work with architect James Gamble Rogers on the stadium's design. Rogers, who was best-known for his Gothic-Revival designs for the Memorial Quadrangle and Harkness Tower at Yale University, had been appointed as campus architect in 1922, largely to help the university design its planned Chicago campus. <sup>56</sup> Assisting Rogers was Gavin Hadden, an architect and civil engineer from New York who was known as one of the most prolific designers of college stadiums and athletic facilities in the country. <sup>57</sup>

Through the early months of 1925, Hadden and Rogers conceived an ambitious plan for the new stadium, which would be "the first three-decked solid concrete football stadium to be built in the United States." Early renderings of the stadium released in the spring of that year showed a modified bowl-shaped design, with three-decked, crescent-style stands along the east and west sides of the stadium and single-decked stands at the shorter north and south ends. Marking the corners of the stadium were four Gothic-style towers, each with monumental arched openings. Narrower Gothic towers were placed along the east and west stands to provide access to the upper decks. In a letter to Dyche dated March 5, Rogers explained that these large corner openings were meant to act as air intakes, which "will give a complete ventilation directly through the diagonals" and prevent the "trouble with dampness near the goal posts" that had plagued the Yale Bowl. The ground level of the stands featured arched openings like those seen on other Classically-inspired stadiums. Total capacity for the new stadium was estimated at 74,000. 60

<sup>55</sup> Williamson & Wild, 161.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Jay Pridmore, *Northwestern University: An Architectural Tour* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2009), 13-14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> "Gavin Hadden, 67, Engineer, is Dead," New York Times, March 10, 1956, 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> "Northwestern Plans New Grid Stadium" *Chicago Tribune*, March 22, 1925, 28. Initial drawings for the University of Illinois' Memorial Stadium, which completed in 1923, also included three decks, although the third deck was never built. *Journal of the Western Society of Engineers*, Volume 26, Number 12 (December 1921), 221.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> James Gamble Rogers to William A. Dyche, March 5, 1925.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Chicago Tribune, March 22, 1925, 28.

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In October of 1925, the committee reported that the stadium would cost an estimated \$975,000. To fund the project without having to rely on traditional fundraising through the university, Campbell and Dyche formed the Northwestern University Stadium Corporation, a non-profit entity that would issue bonds valued at over \$1.2 million to be retired over a 15-year period. Northwestern agreed to lease the stadium from the organization for an amount that would cover the sinking fund requirements and interest on the bonds.<sup>61</sup>

Although university officials hoped to begin construction on the new stadium as soon as possible, issues quickly arose with the Evanston Zoning Board. Evanston's building commissioner, Frank Anderson, refused to issue a permit due to the height of the proposed structure. Northwestern pushed for an amendment to the zoning code; meanwhile, some residents who lived close to the field, who were already concerned with Northwestern's proposal to move Ashland Avenue west of its current location beside the field, now voiced objections to the effect the "sky-piercing" stadium would have on the neighborhood. 62

On November 2, 1925, members of the Zoning Board of Appeals met to hear arguments on both sides. While a number of residents spoke against the plan, supporters of the new stadium, including local business owners and students, voiced their opinion that the stadium would be a benefit to the city. <sup>63</sup>

After several subsequent meetings, the Board of Appeals sent the issue to the City Council, who formed a special committee to gather information and meet with representatives from the university. The City Council subsequently approved an amendment to the ordinance permitting the erection of stadiums in the city. The Board of Appeals was then instructed by the council to draft a recommendation on whether the stadium was required to meet building height limits, and the council would then make its final decision at a meeting on December 15.<sup>64</sup>

Prior to the meeting, Northwestern officials submitted new plans for a two-tiered, 80-foot stadium, and subsequently the City Council passed an ordinance that "lifted restrictions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Williamson and Wild, 161. The Stadium Corporation was dissolved in January of 1927, and Northwestern University took full control over the stadium.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> "N.U. Plans Call for the Highest Stadium in the U.S.," *Chicago Tribune*, November 10, 1925, 27; Jenny Thompson, Ph.D., "A Brief History of Northwestern University's Athletic Fields, Part 3," Evanston Roundtable Website (accessed March 13, 2024 at <a href="https://evanstonroundtable.com/2024/01/16/dyche-stadium-history-of-northwestern-universitys-athletic-fields-part-3/">https://evanstonroundtable.com/2024/01/16/dyche-stadium-history-of-northwestern-universitys-athletic-fields-part-3/</a>).

 $<sup>^{63}</sup>$  Thompson, "A Brief History of Northwestern University's Athletic Fields, Part 3."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> Ibid.

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governing the building of the structure" at the December 15 meeting, paving the way for the ultimate approval of the revised plans in March of 1926.<sup>65</sup>

A rendering of the stadium released in January 1926 showed that other changes had been made to the proposed stadium in the intervening year of planning—the north and south stands had been removed, as had the large corner air intake towers. The revised plan was now more in keeping with Hadden's crescent-plan stadiums at Cornell and The University of Denver, although Northwestern's stadium featured two crescent-shaped stands instead of one. Although university officials had eliminated the third decks, plans for the east and west stands included foundations that would support the weight of an additional deck if it was needed in the future.<sup>66</sup>

With plans for the new stadium finally approved, Northwestern rushed to begin work. The building contract for the project was awarded to J. B. French Construction Company in May, and work on the west stands began soon after, with over 400 men working in two shifts through the summer. <sup>67</sup> In July, the *Chicago Tribune* reported that "The gridiron is finished. Several weeks ago the last grass seed was sown, the field completely fenced in, and the key turned over to school officials." <sup>68</sup> By mid-August, 14,000 seats in the west stands had been finished, and forms had been erected for the concrete arcade on the outer wall of the stands. <sup>69</sup>

With work on the stadium continuing, Northwestern hosted its first home football game of the 1926 season on October 2 against the South Dakota Coyotes. On October 23, a capacity crowd of 40,000 spectators descended on the unfinished stadium to watch the team play Notre Dame. Although Northwestern's newly-nicknamed Wildcats lost the game, enthusiasm surrounding the new stadium was palpable. Newspapers reported in the days before the game that "demand for tickets is unprecedented in Northwestern's history. There are 39,920 seats available, but more than three times that number have applied for tickets. Spectators into whose hands a few tickets had fallen are getting \$40 for a pair near the center of the field."

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> "N.U. Satisfied with Evanston, Council Verdict," *Chicago Tribune*, December 17, 1925, 25; "Plan of Proposed New Northwestern Stadium," *Freeport Journal-Standard*, January 12, 1926, 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> "A Brief History of Northwestern University's Athletic Fields, Part 3"; "14,000 Seats in Purple Stadium are Complete," *Chicago Tribune*, August 15, 1926, 32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> "Northwestern Stadium Ready Oct. 2 – Wilson," Chicago Tribune, July 11, 1926, 26.

<sup>69 &</sup>quot;14,000 Seats in Purple Stadium are Completed," Chicago Tribune, August 15, 1926, 32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> "40,000 to See N. U. Play Notre Dame: Scalpers Get \$20 for Seats; Purple Gloomy," *Chicago Tribune*, October 22, 1926, 23.

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The formal dedication of the stadium took place November 13, and coincided with Northwestern's matchup with long-time rivals the University of Chicago. A crowd of 47,000 occupied the stadium's east and west stands and the temporary bleachers set up at the north and south ends of the field. In his remarks to the crowd, board president Robert Campbell announced that the stadium would be named for William Dyche, declaring "No man living has done more to develop the resources of Northwestern University. To him more than any other one we owe the initiation of the plan to develop here a great stadium and athletic field."

Work continued on Dyche Stadium through 1927, when the north and south end towers and press box were completed on the west stands. Although the university had originally planned to create two identical, double-deck stands on both the east and west sides, only the west stands were fully completed, and only the lower deck of the east stands built. A likely reason for this reduction of scope was cost—original estimates for construction originally hovered around \$1 million, but by 1927 the total cost for the stadium had ballooned to nearly \$1.5 million, and additional money had to be advanced from university educational funds for work not covered under the initial bond issue.<sup>72</sup>

Even though the completed stadium was much more modest than the original three-deck structure first envisioned by Rogers and Hadden, there was no question that Dyche Stadium was a vast improvement over Northwestern Field. In addition to its football facilities, the new stadium boasted an eight-lane running track with 220-yard straightaway, as well as locations for pole vault, high jump, and weight throwing. The area beneath the lower decks housed locker and shower rooms for home and visiting teams, as well as a laundry, supply rooms, offices, training and lecture rooms, handball courts, and an indoor practice area that could be used during inclement weather.

Beyond its facilities for athletes, Dyche stadium also allowed for a vastly improved gameday experience for spectators. In place of the cramped wood bleachers of Northwestern Athletic Field, new three-board wooden benches were installed, which provided "ample foot room" and "plenty of space" to spectators. <sup>75</sup> The crescent-shaped east and west stands were carefully designed to maximize seating at the 50-yard line, and the curve of the stands toward the center of the field ensured clear views of the field from any seat. The enclosed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Ceremonies Attending the Formal Dedication of the Dyche Stadium and Athletic Field of Northwestern University, November 13, 1926, Dyche Stadium Vertical File, Northwestern University Archives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Dyche Stadium Financial Summary (undated), Dyche Stadium File, Northwestern University Archives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> "Facts About Dyche Stadium," 1926 Northwestern Football Program, Dyche Stadium Vertical File, Northwestern University Archives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> Walter M. Paulison, "Northwestern University Stadium," *The Athletic Journal*, Volume 7, No. 4 (December 1926), 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Ibid, 10.

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arcaded areas behind the stands provided restroom facilities and concessions, and the corner towers concealed wide-gently sloping ramps that allowed for easy access to the upper deck. The combination of ramps and vomitories throughout the stadium facilitated efficient movement of crowds through the structure—an article in the December 1926 edition of the *Athletic Journal* reported that the stadium could be "emptied of a capacity crowd in less than six minutes."

In keeping with other college stadiums erected in the 1920s, Dyche stadium also featured a press box, a necessity in the early era of widespread sports reporting. The press box was located above the second deck at the center of the west stands and enclosed on three sides by plate glass to allow for uninterrupted views of the field. Telephones and telegraph machinery connected reporters to their outside news outlets, and a private phone line connected them to the player's box in front of the lower deck. Radio broadcasting booths were located within the tops of unused elevator shafts that were originally installed to provide access to the unbuilt third seating deck.<sup>77</sup>

## **Later History of Dyche Stadium**

In building Dyche Stadium, Northwestern University had elevated its athletic program and ensured that the university kept pace with other Big Ten schools in the coming decades. Although primarily used for football games, the stadium also served the school's outdoor track team, and hosted the United States Olympic Trials for men's track and field in 1948. The stadium was also an ideal outdoor venue for non-athletic events. Northwestern's commencement ceremonies were held in the stadium, and a wide variety of other events-Fourth of July celebrations, Boy Scout jamborees, religious services, and student protest meetings—took place within its stands through the decades.

Northwestern's football program's record in the years following its construction was among the best in its history—the team shared the Big Ten conference title with Michigan in 1930 and had several successful seasons through the 1930s. However, the team flagged in the 1940s. World War II had a severe effect on intercollegiate sports, and universities struggled to retain athletes as students were drawn into the war effort. The situation became so dire that, in 1943, the Western Conference waived nearly all eligibility rules for student athletes for the remainder of the war.<sup>78</sup> A high note at the end of the decade was Northwestern's defeat of California in the 1949 Rose Bowl.

Northwestern also made some modest improvements to Dyche Stadium in the 1940s. In 1947, the press box was modernized, and two years later permanent steel bleachers were

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> The Athletic Journal, Volume 7, No. 4 (December 1926), 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> The American Architect, Volume 133, Number 2536 (January 5, 1928), 67.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Williamson & Wild, 246.

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added to the south end of the stadium, adding over 4,200 seats. More substantial renovations were made to the press box in 1961, and an exterior elevator shaft was added to the west grandstand. New buildings to house other athletic activities—including McGaw Memorial Hall directly north of the stadium in 1953—also helped to cement the area around the stadium as a permanent athletic complex.

The 1950s began a long period of disappointment for Northwestern football. When the team finished the 1955 season in last place, there were calls for the university to withdraw from the Big Ten Conference, but President Roscoe Miller decided against the move. Northwestern's stringent academic standards for athletes no doubt hampered its recruitment efforts and placed it at a distinct disadvantage with other schools in the conference, but the high graduation rate of student athletes at the university was also a point of pride.<sup>79</sup>

The Wildcat's slump deepened through the 1960s and 1970s. To offset revenues lost from flagging attendance, in 1971 President Miller negotiated a five-year lease with the Chicago Bears to allow the team to use Dyche Stadium as a temporary home. Residents in Evanston pushed back against the agreement, and the Big Ten ultimately barred the Bears from using Dyche Stadium, prompting the team to move to Soldier Field. <sup>80</sup>

Northwestern's football program hit rock bottom in the 1980 and 1981 seasons, when the team failed to win a single game. <sup>81</sup> Game attendance also fell dramatically during this period, averaging just 20,000 per game in the late 1970s and early 1980s. <sup>82</sup>

Amid a resurgence of its football program in the mid-1990s, Northwestern University embarked on an ambitious fundraising initiative, which raised \$37 million for the university's athletics program. In 1997, the university completed a \$30 million renovation that included a new end-zone facility, aluminum seating, and three-tier enclosure at the center of the west grandstand to house an expanded press box. Upon completion of the renovation, the stadium was re-named Ryan Field in honor of Patrick Ryan, chief of AON Insurance and chairman of Northwestern's Board of Trustees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> Ibid, 345.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> Roy Damer, "Big Ten Closes Dyche to Bears; Allows N.I.T.," Chicago Tribune, March 9, 1971, 35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>81</sup> "Northwestern Wildcats School History," Sports Reference website (accessed March 15, 2024 at <a href="https://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/schools/northwestern/">https://www.sports-reference.com/cfb/schools/northwestern/</a>).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>82</sup> Ben Pope, "Football: Northwestern and Ryan Field's Near-Ascendency into College Football Glory," *Daily Northwestern,* November 22, 2016 (accessed March 15, 2024 at <a href="https://dailynorthwestern.com/2016/11/22/sports/football-northwestern-and-ryan-fields-near-ascendency-into-college-football-glory/">https://dailynorthwestern.com/2016/11/22/sports/football-northwestern-and-ryan-fields-near-ascendency-into-college-football-glory/</a>).

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In 2022, Northwestern University announced plans to replace Ryan Field with a new, 35,000-seat facility. Demolition of the existing stadium commenced in early 2024.

# **Part II: Architectural Information**

## A. General Statement:

## 1. Architectural Character:

Dyche Stadium (Ryan Field) is a football stadium designed by noted architect James Gamble Rogers and Gavin Hadden, a preeminent designer of athletic stadiums in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The stadium was constructed in 1926-1927 for Northwestern University. The crescent-shaped grandstands flanking the field are constructed of reinforced concrete and structural steel, with large, round-arched openings that reference the classical arcades of the Colosseum and prominent, Collegiate Gothic-inspired towers that visually connect the stadium to the larger Northwestern campus. Although architectural ornamentation is minimal, Dyche Stadium exemplifies early-twentieth century stadium design, which sought to maximize sight lines, seating capacity, and efficient means of circulation while providing modern amenities for spectators and players.

The most distinguishing features of the stadium are the sweeping curved grandstands east and west of the playing field and the large, rectangular ramp towers that rise from the north and south ends of the west grandstand. Although Rogers' ambitious plans for Dyche Stadium--matching triple-decker grandstands with ramp towers on both sides—were never realized, the west grandstand as constructed substantially reflects the original design intent. As *The American Architect* noted in January 1928, the "skyline curves" of Dyche Stadium followed "modern principles of design first exemplified by the Cornell Crescent in Ithaca, N.Y." and was unique among other university stadiums because the crescent curves were carried out on the upper-level deck as well as the lower deck of the grandstand. 83 The semi-circular formation assured that every seat in Dyche Stadium faced the center of the field.

The south grandstand, installed in 1949, was manufactured by the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company, which also served as the steel fabricators and erectors for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>83</sup> "Dyche Stadium, Northwestern University, Evanston, ILL.," *The American Architect*, January 5, 1928, 68.

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the St. Louis Arch. 84 The seating at the north end of the east grandstand appears to be of similar construction and was likely installed at the same time.

#### 2. Condition of Fabric:

The overall condition of Dyche Stadium is good, primarily due to upgrades that were completed as part of the 1997 renovation. The parging on the concrete walls is deteriorated in some places on the east and west grandstands. The steel grandstands installed in the mid-twentieth century are in fair condition, with significant rusting and deterioration evident on the stepped seating platforms.

## B. Description of Exterior:

Note: The outline format recommended in the HIBS-HIER Guidelines has been modified to better fit the unique architectural elements of the stadium. Because they were constructed in 1997 and are not physically attached to the historic stadium, the free-standing football facilities building north of the playing field and the athletic facility operations building to the northeast are not included in the detailed description below. However, the existing condition architectural drawings contained in this package include detailed plans and elevations of these facilities, and a general description of their locations relative to the historic stadium are included under D2.

## 1. Overall dimensions:

## West Grandstand

The crescent-shaped, double-deck west grandstand is approximately 702 feet long, 181 feet wide at the centerline, and 82 feet tall to the top of the upper deck at the centerline. The two ramp towers at the north and south ends of the west grandstand are approximately 97 feet tall, 73 feet long and 37.5 feet wide.

The press box/stadium club addition is approximately 166 feet long, 138 feet tall at its highest point, and projects approximately 22 feet out from the exterior west grandstand wall at its north and south ends.

East Grandstand

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> A plaque affixed to the west end of the south grandstand reads "Lambert Steel Grandstand, US Patent Nos. 2180986 and 2330365, Manufactured by Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company." National Park Service, Gateway Arch, <a href="https://www.nps.gov/jeff/planyourvisit/fabricating-the-steel.htm">https://www.nps.gov/jeff/planyourvisit/fabricating-the-steel.htm</a>, accessed February 28, 2024.

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The crescent shaped, single-deck east grandstand is approximately 368 feet long at its outer wall, 142 feet wide at the centerline and 48 feet tall at its highest point.

The additional seating on the north end of the east grandstands is approximately 117 feet long at its outer wall and 93 feet wide.

## South Grandstand

The horseshoe-shaped south grandstand extends south from the south wall of the east grandstand and curves west to nearly enclose the south end of the stadium. An open passageway between the west end of the south grandstand and the south end of the west grandstand provides an additional point of exit from the stadium.

The south grandstand consists of two sections, a smaller east section and a longer south section. The outer perimeter of the east section is approximately 178 feet long and approximately 97 feet wide at its centerline. The south section is approximately 258 feet long at the outer perimeter and approximately 76 feet wide at the centerline.

## 2. Foundations:

The foundations of the east and west grandstands are concrete. The south grandstand and northeast addition are primarily open steel structures with steel posts set on concrete bases.

## 3. Exterior Walls:

## West Grandstand

The exterior (west) wall of the west grandstand is painted concrete, 17 structural bays wide, symmetrical, and features a shallow arching roofline. The wall is vertically divided into two sections, a taller ground level and shorter upper level, which correspond to the lower and upper decks of the grandstand. The lower level features tall, round-arched openings separated by unornamented concrete piers. Above this arcade, a simple concrete stringcourse marks the top of the grandstand's lower deck. The upper deck level is similarly unadorned; rectangular punched openings in each bay provide light into the upper deck concourse.

The five center bays of the west grandstand are obscured by the large entrance pavilion/press box addition constructed in 1997. The exterior walls of the addition are painted concrete panels, and the west facing wall is symmetrical, with projecting end bays and a slightly projecting center bay. The exterior design of the addition references the architecture of the original grandstand, including three large round-arched openings at the lower level, a concrete stringcourse separating the

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lower and upper levels, and rectangular window openings at the upper deck level. The three-story press box on the east side of the addition is curtain-wall construction with aluminum panels and large expanses of glazing at each story. The structure is cantilevered over the upper deck of the west grandstand and curved along the east elevation to maximize views of the playing field.

The eight-story north and south ramp towers of the west grandstand are identical. Each tower is four bays long and two bays wide, with exterior walls of painted concrete. The east and west elevations feature projecting end bays with heraldic shield panels at the stepped parapet. A simple concrete string course above the third story marks the top of the lower deck and continues the line of the stringcourse on the main grandstand wall. The two-bay center section of the west elevation is seven stories tall and features a two-story arched opening above the third story. Above the seventh story on both the east and west elevations, an arcade of six smaller round-arched openings set on a dentiled cornice connects the projecting end bays.

The north and south end walls of the grandstand, extending east from the ramp towers, are unornamented painted concrete and follow the slope of the lower deck seating. A low concrete knee wall forms the east perimeter of the west grandstand, separating the seating from the playing field.

## East Grandstand

The exterior (east) wall of the east grandstand is painted concrete, 13 structural bays wide, symmetrical, and features a shallow arching roofline. Like the west grandstand, this wall features tall, round-arched openings separated by unornamented concrete piers. The center concrete ramp that provides access to the upper level of the grandstand is visible through these openings, and portions of the openings are infilled under the ramp with painted concrete block walls, corresponding to enclosed ticket booths and back-of-house concession areas on the ground floor and enclosed restrooms on the upper level.

The north and south elevations of the east grandstand are largely obscured by the later seating additions constructed in 1949. The seating addition to the north of the east grandstand consists of stepped steel risers supported by an open structure of steel girders, beams, and posts. A utilitarian one-story boiler room with painted concrete block walls is set under the seating platform.

## South Grandstand

Both the east and south sections of the horseshoe-shaped south grandstand are stepped steel risers supported by an open structure of steel girders, beams, and posts. A one-story building with curved east and west walls is set under the outermost structural bay of the south section. This building, which houses

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Northwestern University athletic offices, is clad in red face brick laid in running bond. Window openings on the south elevation are framed by simple stone surrounds, and the main entrance near the center of the south elevation is framed by limestone panels. The windows on the north elevation, facing the interior of the grandstand, feature limestone lintels and sills, and door openings have limestone lintels. A one-story brick addition was added to the west end of this one-story office building as part of the 1997 renovations.

## 4. Stadium Seating

## West Grandstand

The seating platforms of the lower and upper decks of the west grandstand, facing east, consist of stepped concrete risers with non-historic aluminum bench seats.

The lower deck is divided into 13 sections, separated by vertical aisles with painted metal pipe handrails. All but the outermost sections of seating are accessed via vomitories with concrete sidewalls and metal pipe handrails. Most of the vomitories are located at the bottom and mid-point of each aisle, connecting to the lower-level concourse and the mezzanine concourse, respectively. Additional vomitories are located in the middle sections of the lower deck and connect to the second-floor concourse.

The upper deck is also divided into 13 sections and separated by vertical aisles with painted metal pipe handrails. Each aisle contains a single vomitory that connects to the upper-level concourse along the west wall of the west grandstand. Metal pipe railings are located along the perimeter of the upper deck. The area of the upper deck below the cantilevered press box houses additional box seats on a raised concrete platform.

## East Grandstand

The seating platform of the east grandstand is similar to the lower deck of the west grandstand, with stepped concrete risers and aluminum bench seating. The seating is divided into 9 sections, each separated by vertical aisles with painted metal pipe handrails. Pairs of vomitories at each aisle connect to the interior ground floor concourse and the upper-level concourse, respectively. Additional vomitories connect to the second floor.

The seating platform of the north addition to the east grandstand features stepped steel risers and aluminum bench seating. Three vertical aisles extend from the base to the top of the platform, with painted metal pipe railings. Chain link fencing extends along the top and sides of the seating platform.

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## South Grandstand

The seating platforms of both the east and south sections of the south grandstand are stepped steel risers with aluminum bench seating. The east section contains four seating sections, separated by vertical aisles with metal pipe railings. At the east end of the south section, a large vomitory at the base of the platform serves as the main exit from this portion of the stadium. The south section is divided into six seating sections, separated by vertical aisles with metal pipe railings. At the base of the seating platform, two concrete risers have been installed with aluminum benches to provide additional seating. Chain link fencing extends along the top and sides of the seating platform in both sections.

A digital scoreboard is located at the top of the south grandstand, centered above the three central sections.

## 5. Structural system, framing:

## East and West Grandstands

The east and west grandstands are constructed of reinforced concrete and structural steel. Original non-structural interior walls are painted clay tile. Later interior walls are painted concrete block. The January 5, 1928 issue of *The American Architect* includes typical structural details for the stadium with the following detailed description:

"The slab seat deck close to the ground at the front is built on a cinder bed and is divided by through butt joints averaging 40' apart, doweled with smooth greased rods. In the framed structure there are four expansion joints from 80' to 130' apart. In the seat decks sliding joints are located midway between aisles on lines of girders radial to the riser curves except of the arcade at the rear. Through butt joints with double columns and split piers are carried through arcade walls, ramps, and passages, under the first deck, where concentrated loads occur. Second deck longitudinal girder is provided with a link joint. All expansion joints are formed by elastic bituminous joint filler except between sliding joint surfaces where two layers of waxed building paper are provided." 85

The article also includes a section detail for the ramp framing of the north and south towers of the west grandstand and noted that "The columns of the double line, in

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<sup>85</sup> The American Architect, January 5, 1928, 66-68.

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the upper part of the tower[s], are supported by heavy cantilever brackets at the tops of the lower columns."86

## South Grandstand

The south grandstand is constructed with a steel deck formed of sections of bolted steel plate supported by spaced, inclined steel girders and steel columns set on concrete foundations. A plaque on the west side of the south grandstand reads "Lambert Steel Grandstand, US Patent Nos. 2180986 and 2330365, Manufactured by Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company." The north addition to the east grandstand appears to be of the same construction.

## 6. Exterior Openings:

#### a. Entrances:

## West Grandstand

The arched openings along the west wall of the west grandstand lead directly into the outer concourse. Two of these openings (at column line 11 and column line 31) have been partially infilled to serve as ticket windows. The remaining openings house non-historic metal gates to control access to the interior of the stadium.

At the north ramp tower, large rectangular openings at the southwest corner are also controlled by non-historic metal gates. Identical openings are located at the northwest corner of the south ramp tower.

Rectangular openings are located at the north and south ends of the west grandstand lower deck to provide direct access to the lower level (east) concourse.

## East Grandstand

Four of the large arched openings on the east wall of the east grandstand serve as main entrances into the stadium, controlled by non-historic metal gates—shown in the attached plans as Gate 4 between column lines 28 and 29, Gate 6 at column line 23, Gate 8 at column line 19, and Gate 10 between

<sup>86</sup> Ihid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>87</sup> A search for US patents did not yield a result for a steel grandstand under Patent No. 2180986. However, US Patent No. 2636225, patented on April 28, 1953, is a patent for a steel deck grandstand submitted in 1950 by James O. Jackson of the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Company, and appears to be similar to the construction of the south grandstand. US Patent 2330365, also noted on the plaque, is another patent by Pittsburgh-Des Moines Company for an abrasion resistant steel coating. The patent was granted on September 28, 1943.

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column lines 13 and 14. 88 Additional secondary entrances to back of house spaces are located in the infilled areas under the main ramp—one at the south end of the central arched opening, two in the opening directly south of Gate 4, and at the south end of the arched opening directly north of Gate 10. All of these secondary entrances are non-historic and house flat metal doors in metal frames.

A chain link gate at the northeast corner of the east grandstand is labeled as Gate 3 in the attached plans and Gate C in the attached current photos.

A flat-panel metal door is located near the south end of the one-story boiler room enclosure under the north addition to the east grandstand.

## South Grandstand

A chain link fence with large chain link gates extends from the southeast corner of the east grandstand and continues along the perimeter of the east section of the south grandstand to control access to this portion of the stadium.

The main entrance to the one-story athletic office building under the south section of the south grandstand is located near the center of the south elevation. This entrance features a pair of anodized aluminum doors with top and bottom glass panels set in a minimal surround of flat limestone panels. Portions of the surround are covered by non-historic composite panels. The signboard above the entrance appears to be non-historic. The stone panel directly east of the doors is inscribed with the words "Athletic Offices."

A secondary entrance is located near the west end of the c. 1950s portion of the athletic office building. It includes a pair of glass doors with anodized aluminum frames set in a simple limestone surround.

Secondary entrances to the offices on the north side of the office building are single leaf hollow metal doors.

b. Windows:

West Grandstand

<sup>88</sup> In the current photographs included with this package, Gates 4, 6, 8, and 10 show as Gates D, E, F, and G.

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The north and south ramp towers of the west grandstand are regularly fenestrated on all elevations. With the exception of the openings on the eighth story of the north and south elevations, which are round arched, the window openings are rectangular. All openings house non-historic aluminum windows within the original openings. These windows are primarily six-over-three awning windows with operable top sash.

The east elevation of the press box addition features a variety of glazing systems. The first story (Stadium Club) houses a laminated glass butt glazed system set between metal spandrel panels. The second story (Media Level) houses a system of large, fixed windows with operable upper vents in anodized aluminum frames. The third story (Broadcast Level) houses aluminum sliding windows set between open camera deck areas.

## East Grandstand

There are no window openings on the east grandstand.

## South Grandstand

The one-story office building under the south grandstand is regularly fenestrated on the north and south elevations.

On the south elevation, east of the main entrance, there are four evenly spaced groupings of one-over-one aluminum windows framed by simple limestone surrounds. West of the main entrance, two groupings of three one-over-one aluminum windows and one grouping of two one-over-one aluminum windows are set in a limestone frame that connects to the secondary entrance surround. The window groupings are separated by wide limestone panels. The south elevation of the west addition to the office building houses six small ticket window openings with projecting metal sills. These openings have been infilled with red brick.

The secondary north elevation, facing the underside of the grandstand, houses primarily single one-over-one aluminum windows with limestone lintels and sills. A grouping of three one-over-one aluminum windows is situated near the east end of this elevation.

A single one-over-one aluminum window with limestone lintel and sill is located at the center of the east elevation.

## 7. Roofs:

a. Shape, covering:

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## West Grandstand

The roofs of the north and south ramp towers on the west grandstand are flat and covered with bitumen roofing membrane.

The roof of the press box addition at the center of the west grandstand is flat and covered with bitumen roofing membrane.

## East Grandstand

The roof of the one-story boiler room beneath the north seating addition to the east grandstand is flat and covered with bitumen roofing membrane.

## South Grandstand

The roof of the one-story office building beneath the south grandstand is flat and covered with bitumen roofing membrane.

## b. Cornice, eaves:

## West Grandstand

The concrete parapets on the north and south ramp towers are capped with aluminum coping.

The concrete parapets on the west side of the pavilion/press box addition are capped with aluminum coping. The roof of the three-story press box on the east side features aluminum fascia and copings.

## East Grandstand

The one-story boiler room beneath the north seating addition to the east grandstand features aluminum copings along the roof perimeter.

#### South Grandstand

The one-story office building beneath the south grandstand features limestone copings along the roof perimeter.

## C. Description of Interior:

## 1. Floor Plans:

## West Grandstand

The interior of the original west grandstand consists of three floors—the ground floor, the second floor, and the mezzanine floor. The footprint of the floors reduces

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as one proceeds up through the interior, reflecting the angle of the lower-level deck above.

The ground floor of the west grandstand is arranged around an outer concourse and an inner concourse, which run north-south and follow the curved plan of the west grandstand. The outer concourse is a dramatic, double-height space that runs along the west perimeter wall to the north and south towers. The east wall of this concourse houses tall arched openings that mirror the arcade on the exterior west wall. The inner (lower level) concourse is primarily two bays wide, with concession stands running along the west side. The two concourses are connected by six short passageways that run east-west through the center of the ground floor. The primary circulation between the ground floor and upper floors of the west grandstand is a central double ramp located just east of the outer concourse, which extends between column lines 14 and 28. Enclosed concession booths are located under the ramp in the center section of the ground floor, and enclosed restrooms and back of house spaces are located just east of the ramp. In the north section of the ground floor, the spaces between the concourses and passageways (column lines 29 to 34) house enclosed restrooms, concession areas, a media/golf room, and vendor spaces. Additional enclosed rooms are located east of the outer concourse and north ramp tower (column lines 35 to 41). In the south section of the ground floor, the spaces between the concourses and passageways (column line 8 through 13) house enclosed restrooms and concession spaces. The visiting locker rooms are located between column lines 1 and 7 just east of the south ramp tower.

The second floor of the west grandstand is a narrow crescent shape, situated between the open first-floor outer concourse and the lower bowl seating of the lower deck. The floor is divided into three sections—north, center, and south—by two short passageways. The center section of the second floor is largely taken up by the central ramp that connects the ground floor and upper levels, which features a large central landing with flanking up and down ramps. The spaces directly north and south of the ramp are open to the ground floor below. Enclosed concessions are located east of the ramp. The north section of the second floor (column lines 29-40) houses enclosed locker rooms, offices, and storage space. The south section (column lines 5-13) contains enclosed back-of-house spaces.

The mezzanine floor of the west grandstand is the narrowest level, with a concourse located just east of the center ramp. Concession stands project along the east wall of the concourse. A rectangular enclosure over the center of the ramp houses women's restrooms. Men's restrooms are located at the north and south end of the concourse. A metal "bridge" walkway, constructed during the 1997 renovations, provides access from the concourse to the elevator and stair lobby at the southwest corner tower of the entrance pavilion/press box addition.

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The upper deck concourse, which provides access to the upper deck seating, extends along the west wall of the west grandstand, and connects to the east and west towers.

## East Grandstand

The interior of the original east grandstand consists of three levels—the ground floor, the second floor, and the mezzanine floor. The footprints of the floors reduce as one proceeds up through the interior, reflecting the angle of the seating deck above.

The ground floor of the east grandstand is arranged around an outer concourse and an inner concourse, which run north-south and follow the curved plan of the grandstand. Along the east perimeter wall, a central ramp connects the ground floor to the mezzanine floor. Under the ramp at the ground floor, between the open access gates, are enclosed concession and vendor spaces. The outer and inner concourses are connected by two-bay wide, east-west passageways, located between column lines 11-13, 17-19, 23-25, and 29-31. Between the passageways, separating the concourses, are enclosed restrooms and concession stands.

The second floor of the east grandstand is limited to two enclosed spaces in the three northernmost and southernmost bays.

The mezzanine floor is a narrow crescent shape. The center ramp rises from the north and south ends to a central landing. Curved end walls on the west side of the landing create a wide center opening to the mezzanine concourse, which runs north-south and terminates with restrooms at each end. Concession stands are located along the west wall of the concourse, and openings along the west wall connect to vomitories that provide access to the upper seating.

The one-story boiler room under the north seating addition to the east grandstand is partitioned into two rooms—a large boiler room to the north and a smaller band room to the south.

## South Grandstand

The office building under the south grandstand is partitioned into numerous offices.

## 2. Stairways/Ramps/Elevators:

## West Grandstand

Circulation through the west grandstand is accomplished primarily by a series of ramps. The central ramp, between column lines 14 and 28, connects the ground

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floor, second floor, and mezzanine concourses. The north and south towers house switchback ramps with landings at the north and south ends. These ramps extend from the first to the seventh story of each tower and were designed to provide access to the upper decks of the grandstand (including the third deck that was never constructed). The center and tower ramps both feature painted pipe metal railings.

Four open concrete stairs with solid concrete balustrades and metal pipe top rails are situated adjacent to the central restroom enclosures on the ground floor (evenly spaced along column line E), connecting the ground floor to the mid-level vomitories. An enclosed concrete stair with metal pipe railings is located at column F35 and provides circulation between the ground level and second floor back-of-house spaces.

Enclosed concrete stairs are located at the northwest and southwest towers of the entrance pavilion/press box addition—both extend from the ground floor to the top (Broadcast) level of the press box. Two elevators are located just north of the stair in the southwest tower and provide access to all levels of the grandstand and press box addition.

## East Grandstand

Circulation through the east grandstand is accomplished by the central ramp along the east perimeter and through open concrete stairs (four total) located in the east-west passageways that connect the outer and inner concourses. The ramp features painted metal pipe railings. The stairs feature concrete balustrades and painted metal top rails.

## 3. Flooring:

## West Grandstand

The flooring throughout the ground floor of the west grandstand is concrete pavers and asphalt paving. Finished flooring (carpet and vinyl tile) is limited to the visiting locker room spaces at the south section.

The flooring throughout the second floor and mezzanine floor is concrete.

The flooring in the three-story press box addition is carpet, with tile in restrooms and secondary spaces.

#### East Grandstand

The flooring throughout the ground floor of the east grandstand is asphalt paving. The flooring throughout the second floor and mezzanine floor is concrete.

## 4. Wall and Ceiling Finish:

## West Grandstand

The west grandstand is exposed and painted concrete structure throughout. Enclosed spaces have painted masonry walls, primarily clay tile and concrete block.

The walls throughout the three-story press-box addition are painted drywall. The ceilings are primarily dropped acoustical tile ceilings on the first and second floors and exposed steel deck on the third floor.

## East Grandstand

The east grandstand is exposed and painted concrete structure throughout. Enclosed spaces have painted masonry walls, primarily clay tile and concrete block.

## 5. Mechanical Equipment

#### West Grandstand

The mechanical equipment throughout the west grandstand is exposed.

## East Grandstand

The mechanical equipment throughout the east grandstand is exposed.

#### D. Site:

## 1. General Setting and Orientation:

The stadium is situated on a large rectangular lot at the northeast corner of Central Street and Ashland Avenue in Evanston. A rectangular parking lot is located directly east of the east grandstand. Triangular parking lots are located west of the north and south ends of the west grandstand.

# 2. Field and Adjacent Non-Historic Ancillary Structures

The football field is oriented north-south between the east and west grandstands and features grass turf. Historic photographs show that the playing field was originally rounded at the north and south ends, with an open space at the north end. The perimeter space around the football field was historically used as a running track and the open north space was also used for Northwestern track

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and field events. Historic photographs also indicate that the running track remained a dirt track until the 1970s, when a hard surface track was installed. As part of the 1997 renovations, the running track was removed and replaced with grass-covered berms and paved pathways connecting the various grandstands. A new football training facility was constructed on the former open space north of the football field, and a new free-standing electronic scoreboard was installed between the new training facility and the east grandstand. A bronze wildcat sculpture was also installed between the south endzone and the south grandstand, set on a curvilinear walkway of brick pavers. A one-story facility operations building was also constructed directly east of the north addition to the east grandstand.

### **Part III: Sources of Information**

## A. Original Architectural Drawings

A complete set of original architectural drawings was not identified during research. Original overall plan and elevation drawings, a cross section, and typical structural details of the stadium are included in an article from *The American Architect* (January 5, 1928), which is included in the field notes.

## B. Early Views

The American Architect (January 5, 1928) includes a rendering of the stadium as originally designed with identical triple-deck grandstands, a photograph of the completed west grandstand, photographs of the press box interior and outer concourse of the west grandstand, a photograph of the south ramp tower, and a photograph of the seating decks of the west grandstand.

Northwestern University archives photograph collection contains numerous historic photographs of the stadium from 1926 through the early 1980s.

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# HISTORIC ILLINOIS BUILDING SURVEY

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# HISTORIC ILLINOIS BUILDING SURVEY

## INDEX TO FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS

Dyche Stadium (Ryan Field) Evanston Cook County Illinois

HIBS No. CK-2024-2

## INDEX TO COLOR FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS

Emily Ramsey and Lara Ramsey, photographers, December 2023

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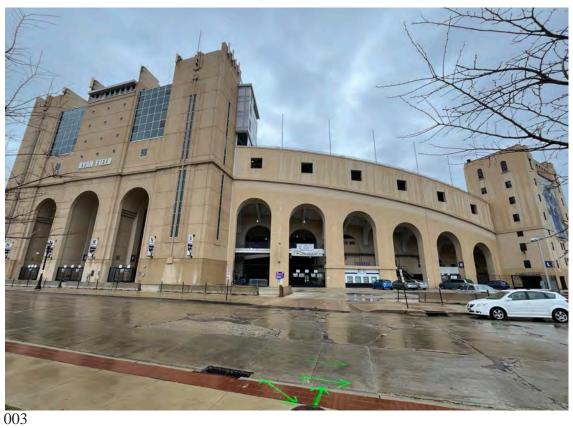
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East grandstand, view south at center ramp.





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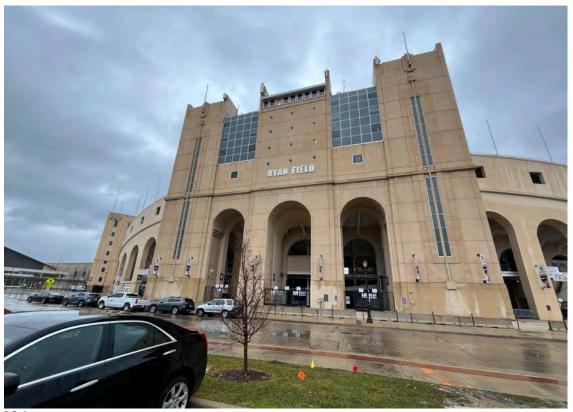




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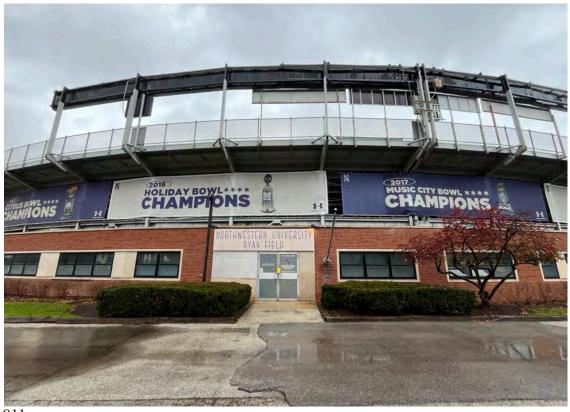


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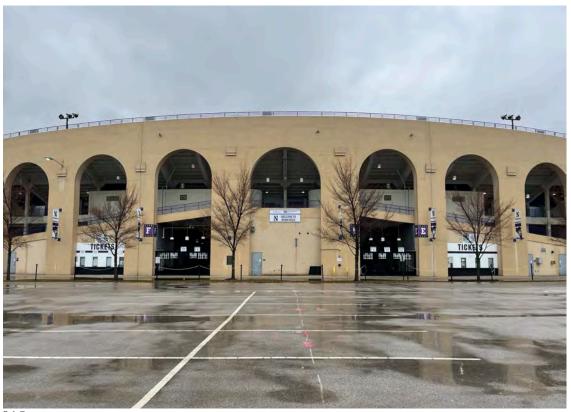








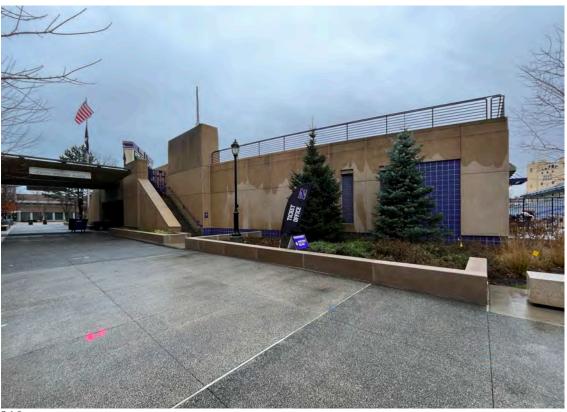














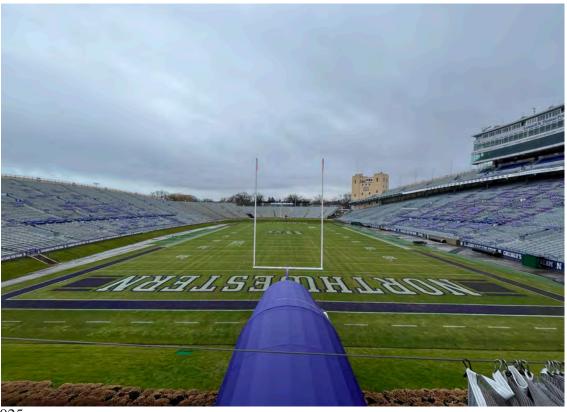








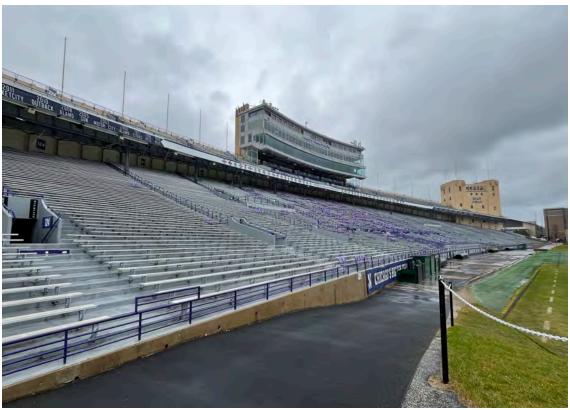
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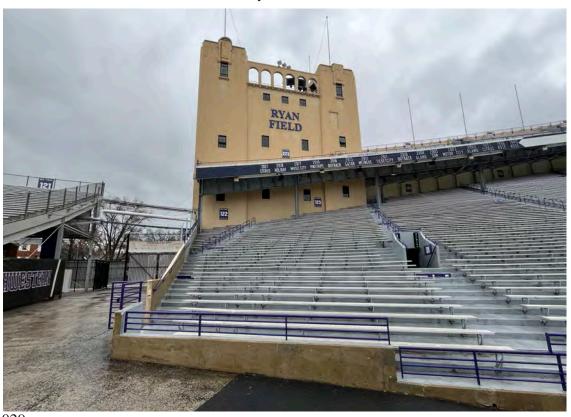




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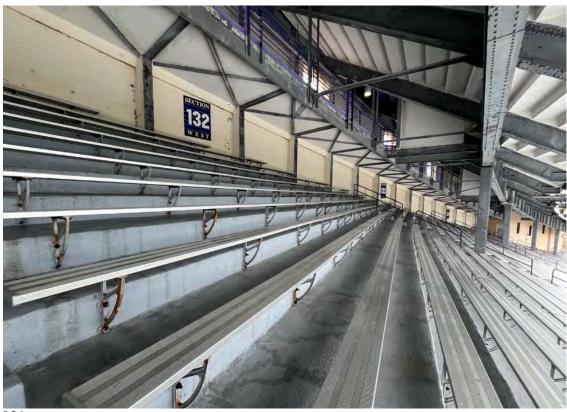




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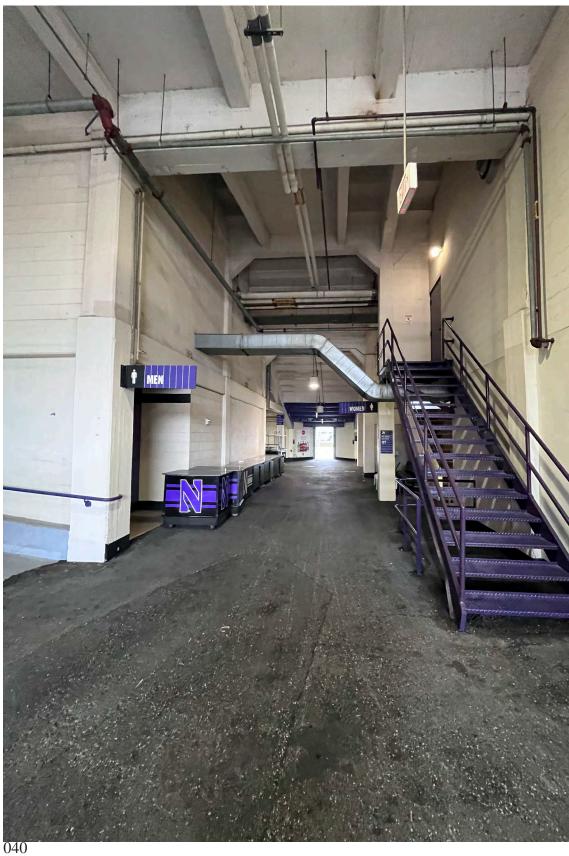




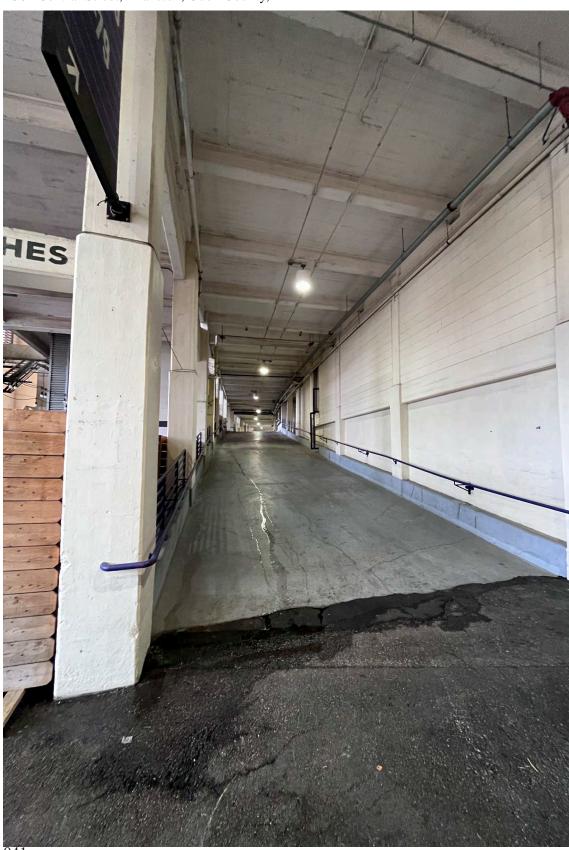
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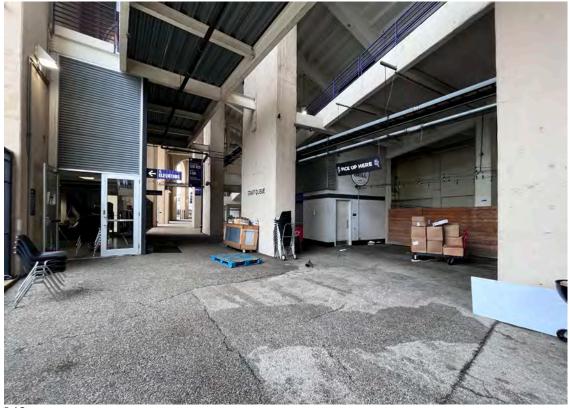


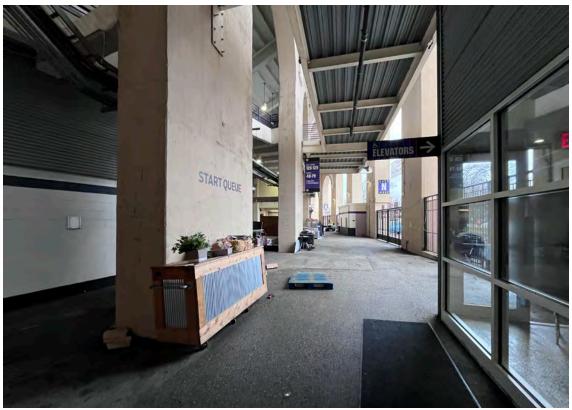
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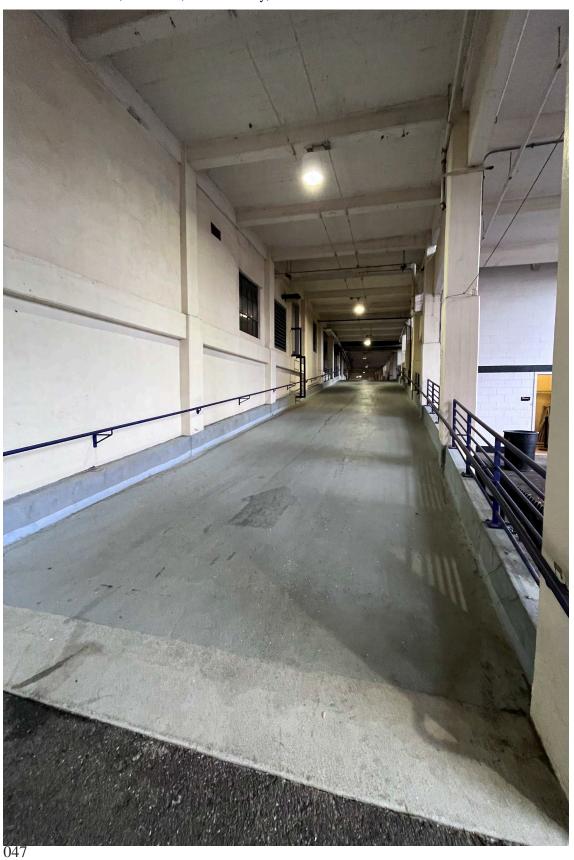
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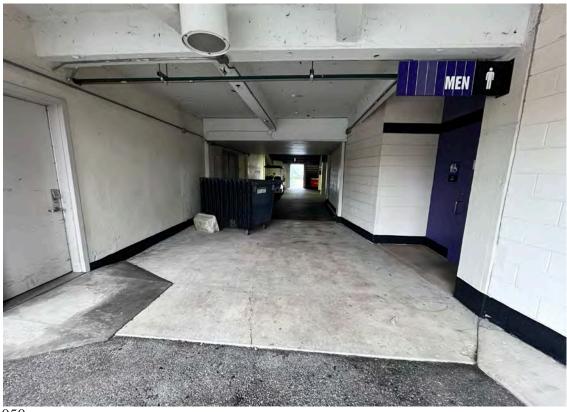
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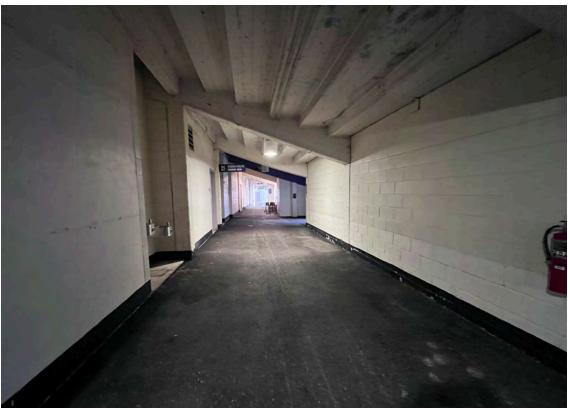


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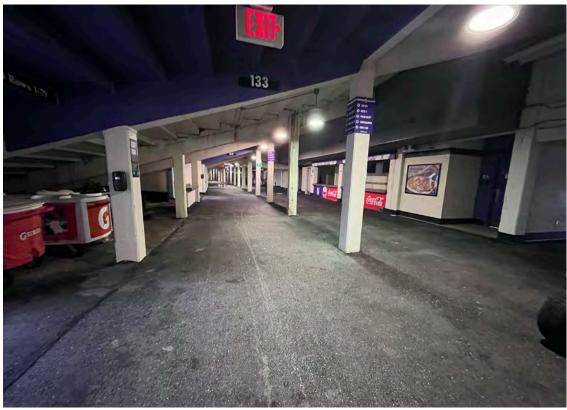


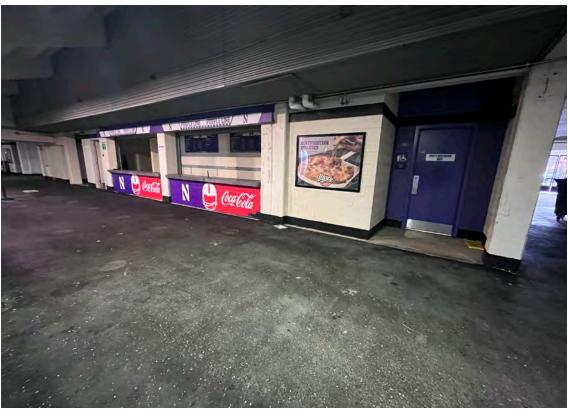
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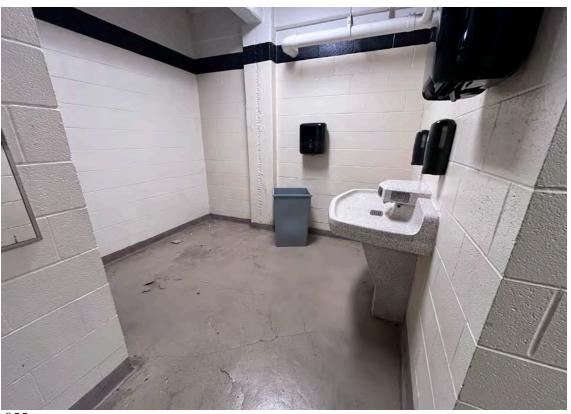
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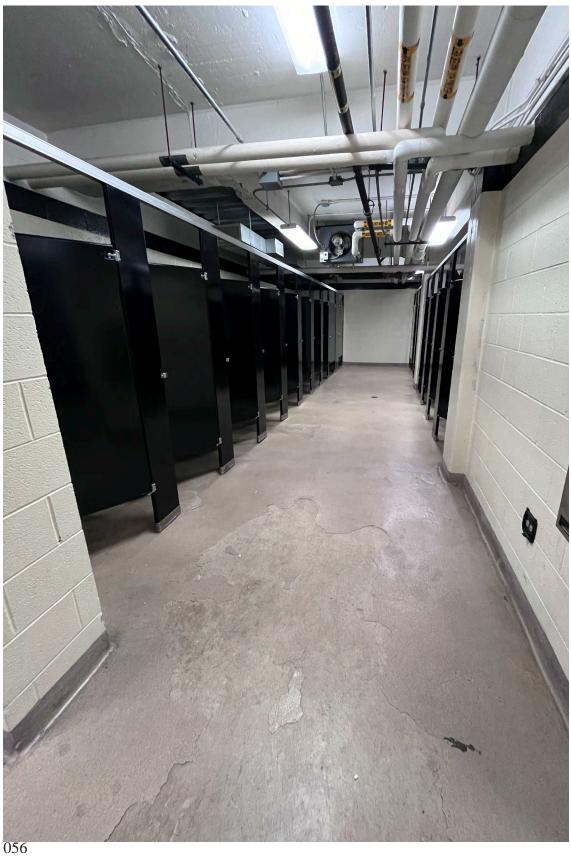




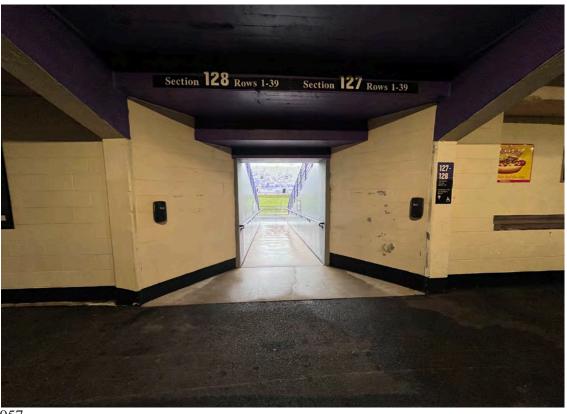
054 west stands, lower deck, lower level inner concourse, west end, women's restroom



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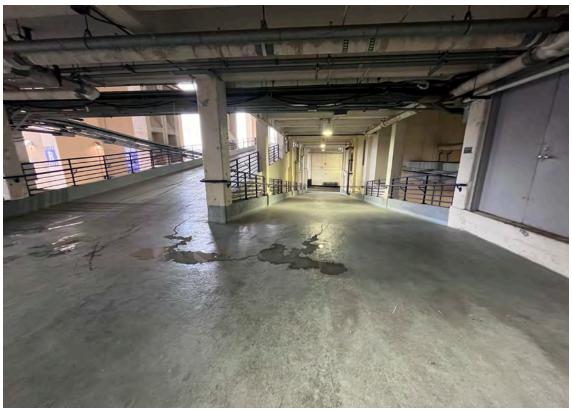
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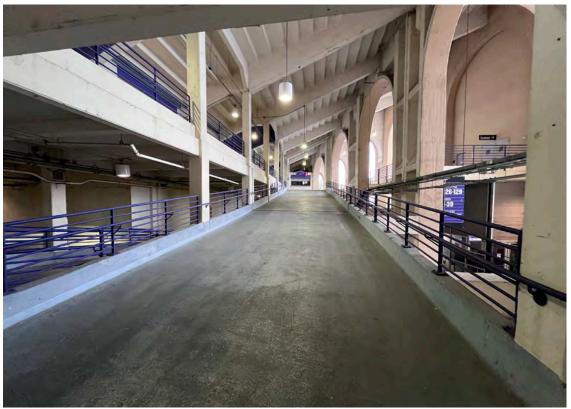


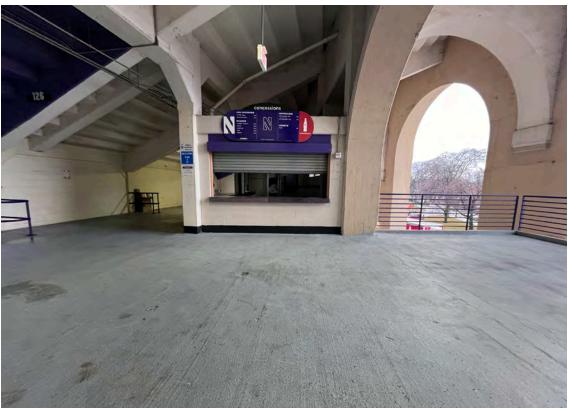
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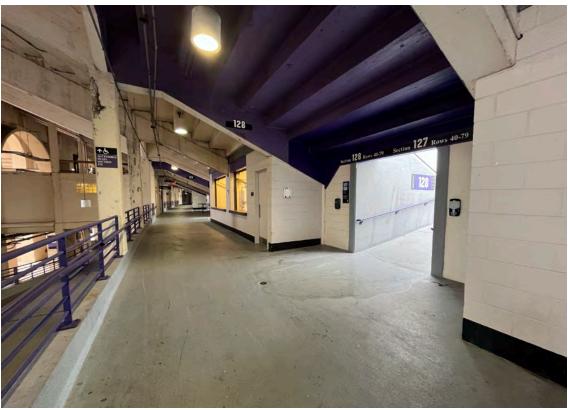


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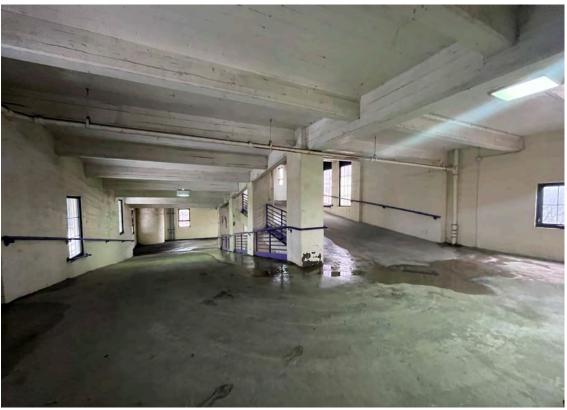


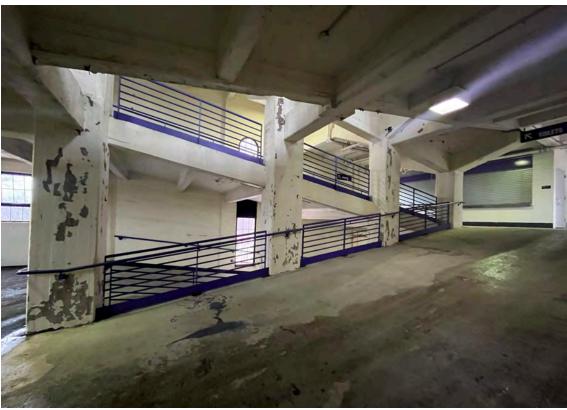






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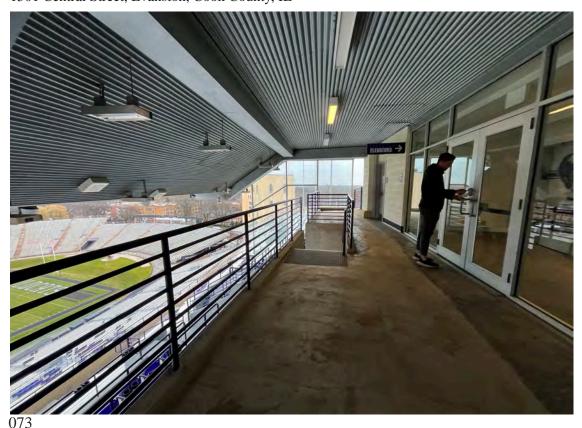
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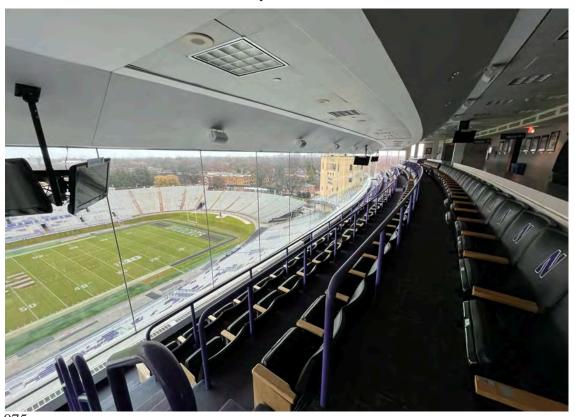




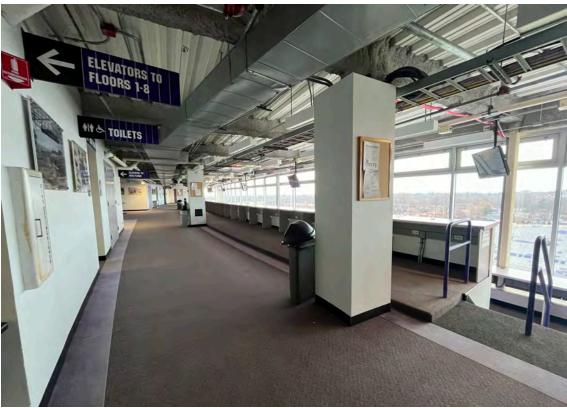








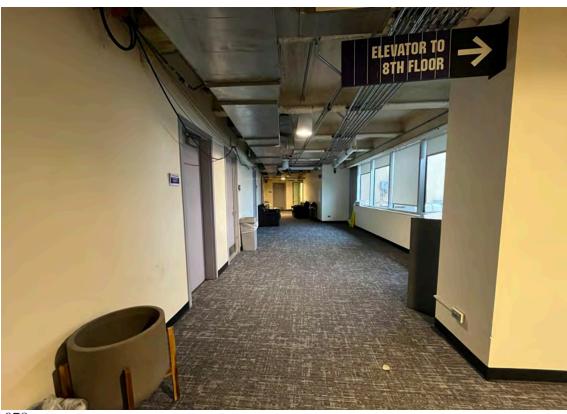




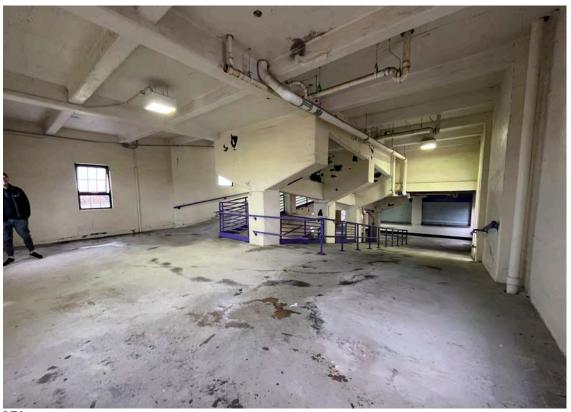
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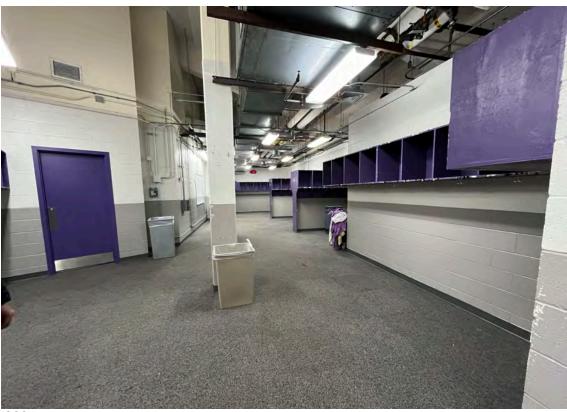
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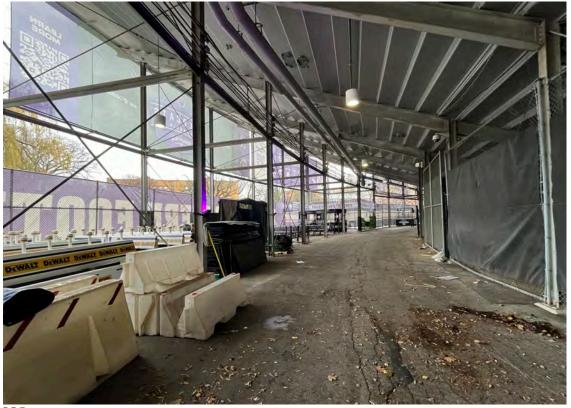
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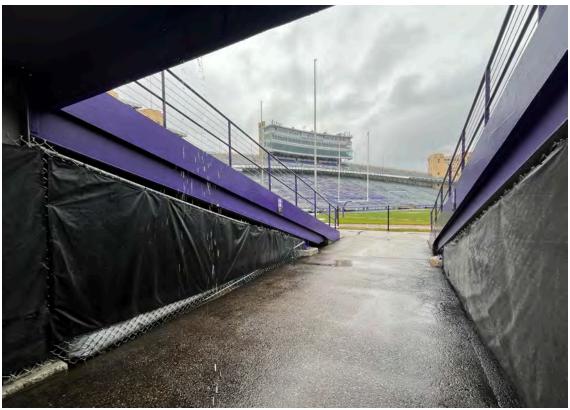






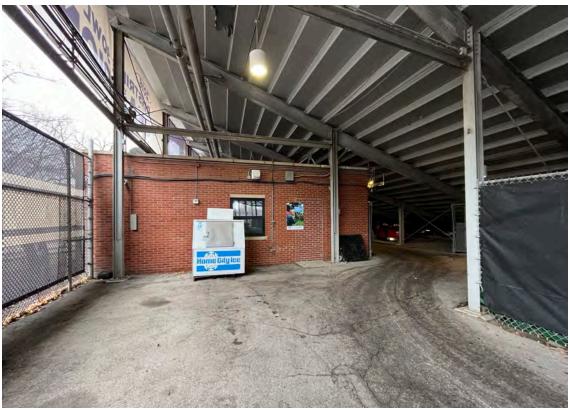




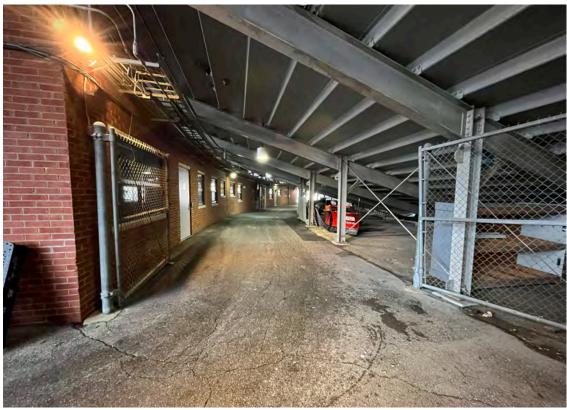


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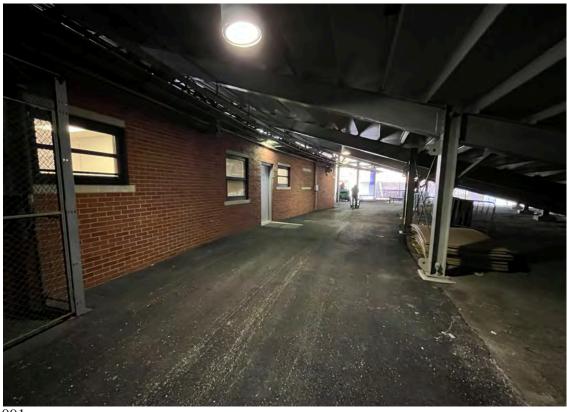


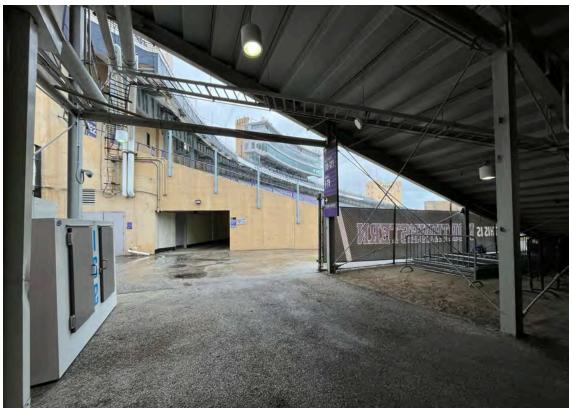
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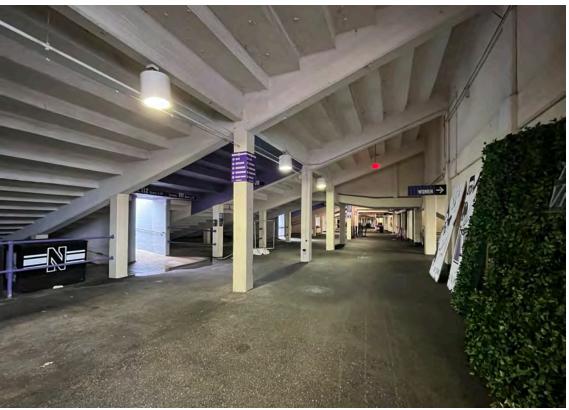


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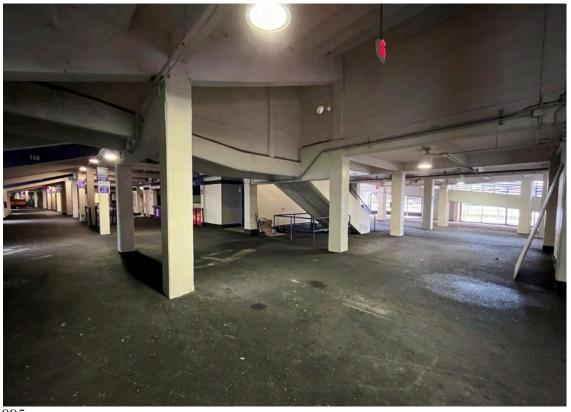


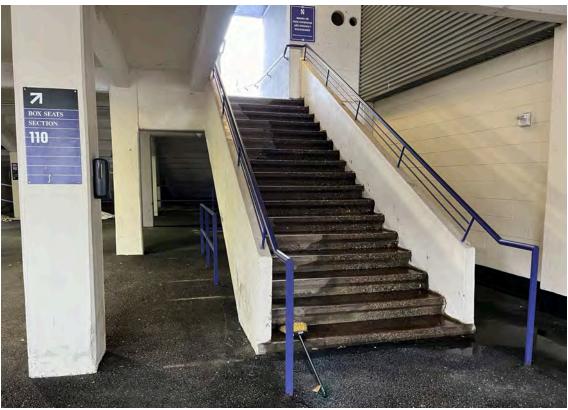


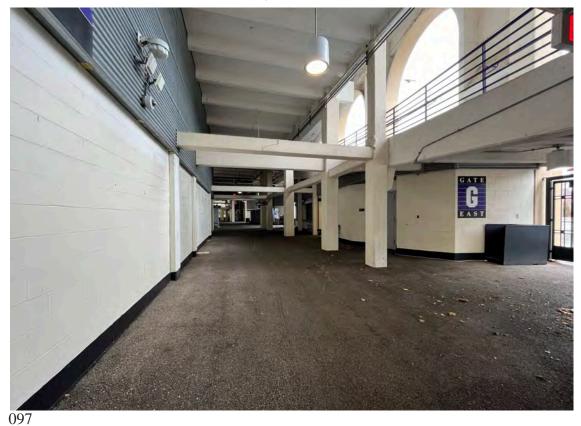


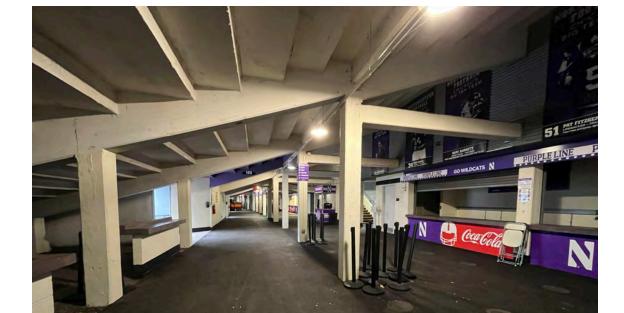


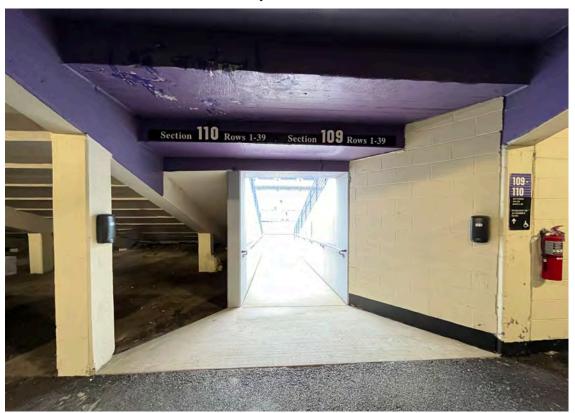
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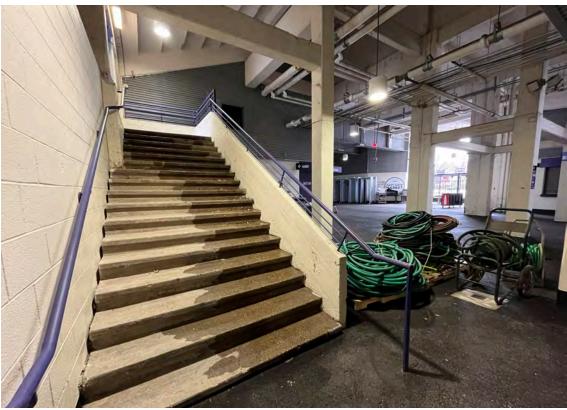


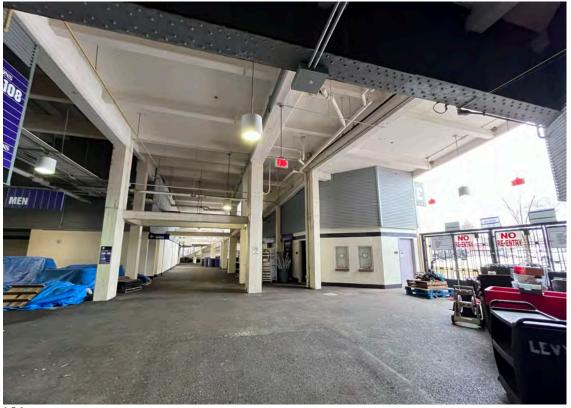


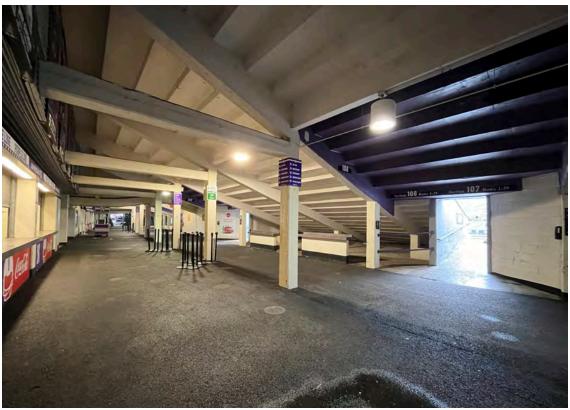




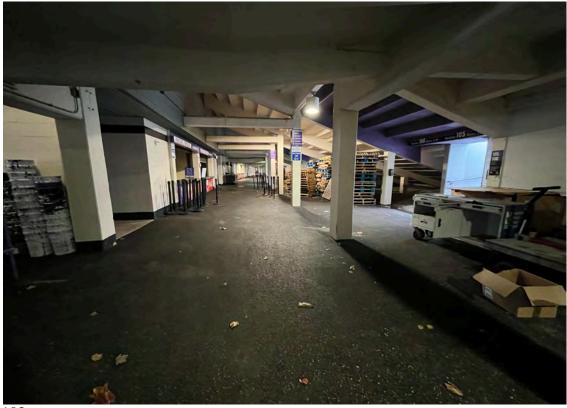
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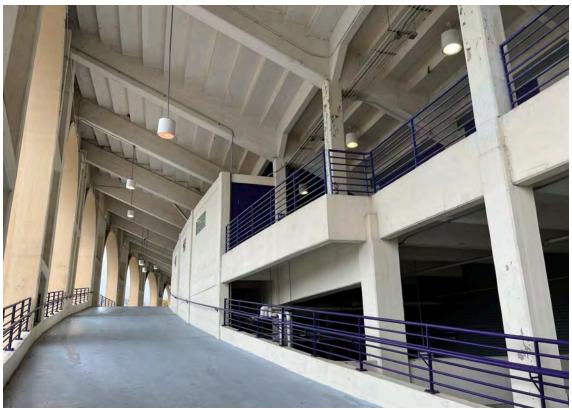


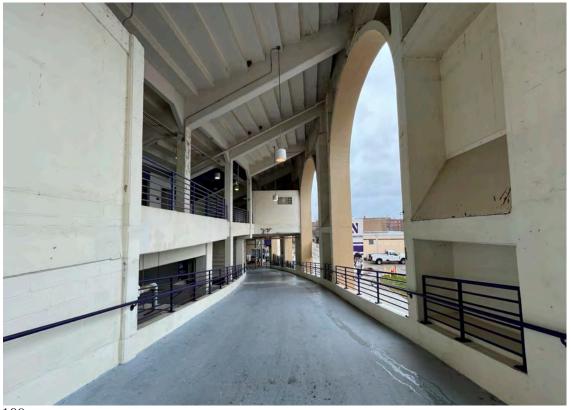


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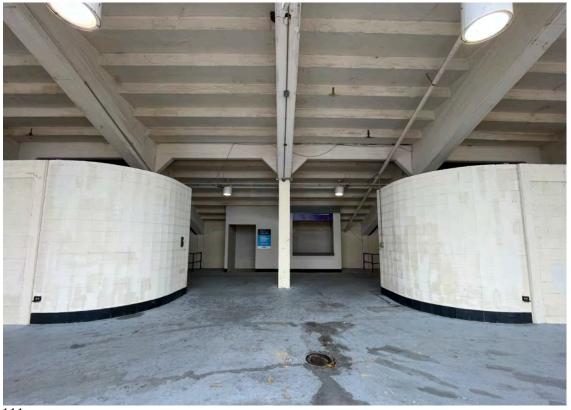




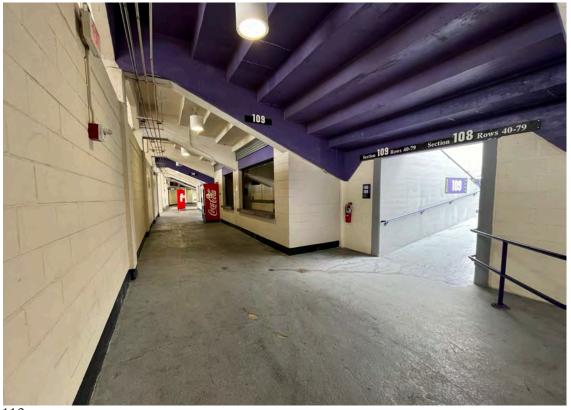


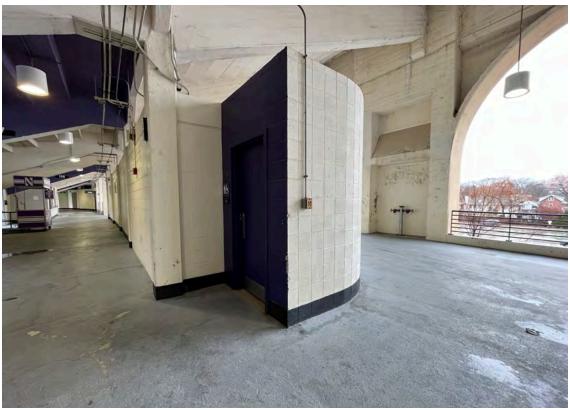








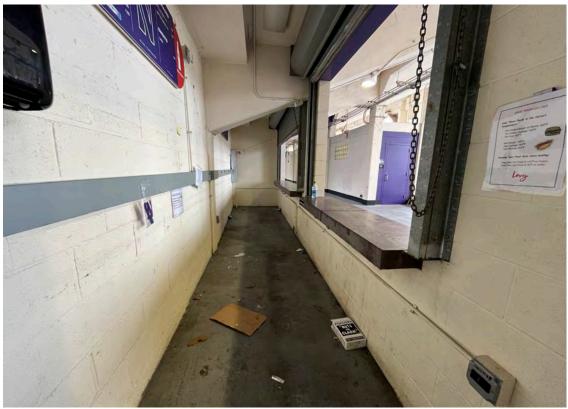




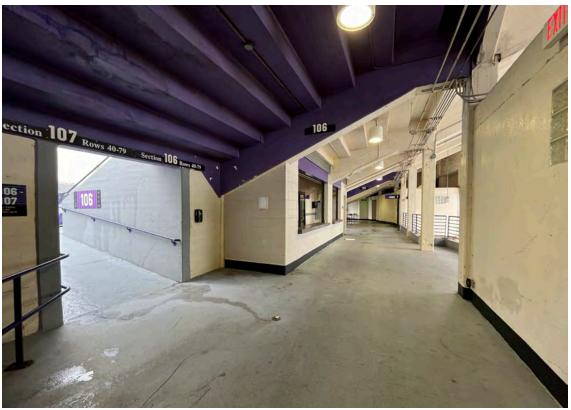


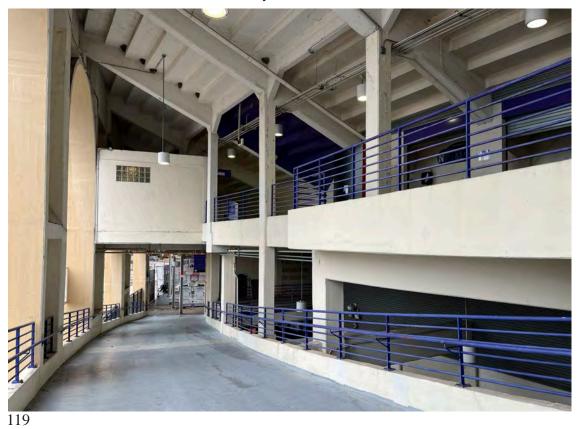


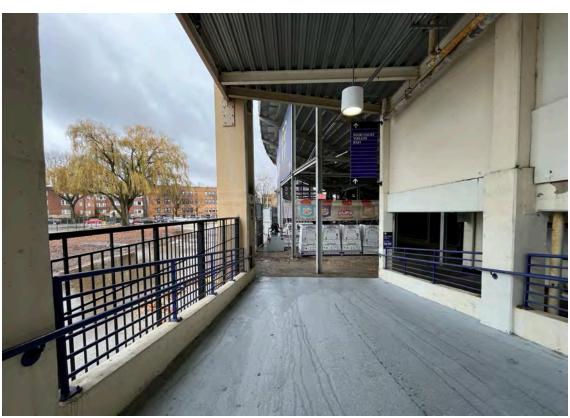
HIBS No. CK-2024-2 Field Photography Dyche Stadium (Ryan Field) 1501 Central Street, Evanston, Cook County, IL











HIBS No. CK-2024-2 Field Photography Dyche Stadium (Ryan Field) 1501 Central Street, Evanston, Cook County, IL





## ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

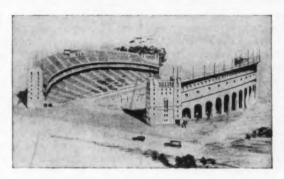


## DYCHE STADIUM, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, ILL.

JAMES GAMBLE ROGERS, Architect—GAVIN HADDEN, Engineer

DYCHE Stadium at Northwestern University was erected in 1926-27 on a site which had already been used for University athletics for a number of years. The initial construction program included the complete double deck structure on the west side of the field, together with the major portion of the first deck on the east side, providing a total capac-

ity of about 37,000 permanent seats for football and track games. With the completion later of the double deck structure on the east side, the seating capacity will be increased to about 50,000. Still further increases in seating capacity may be made by the erection of a third deck at each side above the second decks and also by additional construction at the south end of the arena, so that the total



portion of the first deck

DYCHE STADIUM AS IT WILL APPEAR WHEN COMPLETED

On the east side, pro
BY THE ADDITION OF THE THIRD DECK

seating capacity may readily be increased to 75,000 and more.

As designed, the two separate side stands are in plan approximately crescent - shaped and identical, and are symmetrical as a whole about the longitudinal and transverse axes of the football gridiron. Each side stand will be provided when completed with three seating decks rising one

above the other, so that all the seats will be placed as advantageously as possible for viewing the games. All three seating decks on each side of the field terminate at each end in a massive tower which houses a series of ramps by which the spectators in the upper decks obtain access to their proper levels. Access to the upper parts of the first or lowermost seating deck is afforded by ramps under this deck.



DYCHE STADIUM, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, ILL.

JAMES GAMBLE ROGERS, ARCHITECT—GAVIN HADDEN, ENGINEER

The skyline curves, resulting from the termination, in plan, of the outermost rows of seats by the sharply curving exterior walls result logically from placing the seats in their most advantageous locations, and follow modern principles of design first exemplified by the Cornell Crescent in Ithaca, N. Y., and later by other stadium structures such as those at Brown University in Providence, at the University of Denver, Colo., and at Asbury Park, N. J. The design of this structure is somewhat unique in that it carries out the crescent curves in the second and third decks as well as in the first deck. The conditions thus imposed upon the design, together with other influencing conditions. caused an unusual complexity in determining the curvature of the various parts of the structure. In the plan there are, for the triple deck side stands, twelve different major centers of circular curves, with large numbers of different major radii. Not one of these circular curves is compounded.

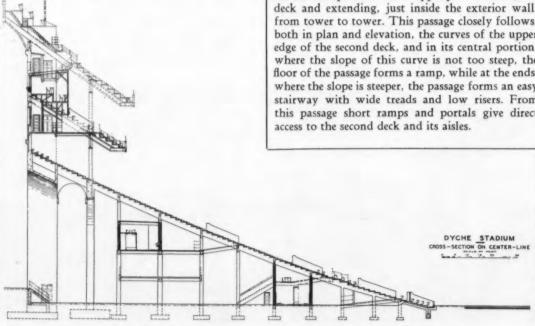
The resulting curves had their origin in a logical consideration dependent upon the purpose, use or appearance of the structure, involving such questions as efficient sight lines, economical, simple and cantilever spans, seat values, and circulation. These curves were followed accurately in the layout of structural steel members and their connections, of concrete surfaces, of steel reinforcement,

of wood seats and their connections.

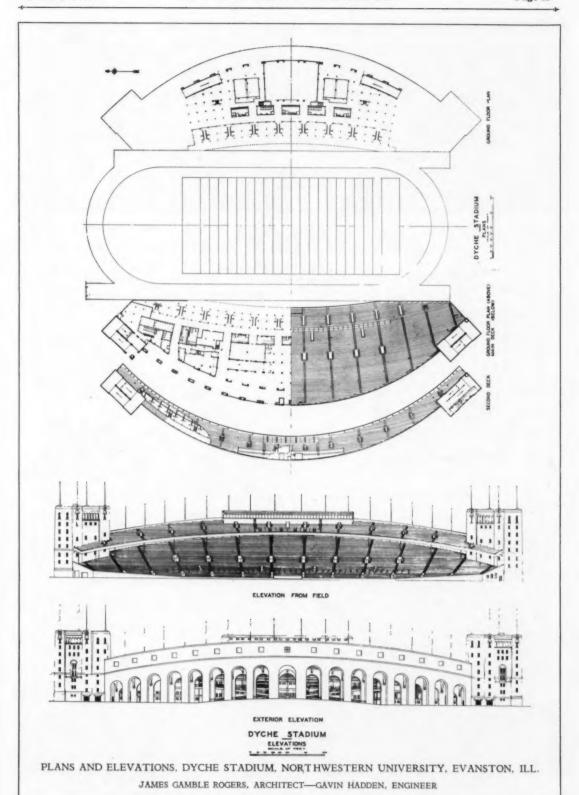
Three seating decks were adopted in the design to insure within reasonable limits not only the greatest number of advantageous and commanding seats but also the least number of seats subjected to the annovances of column interference.

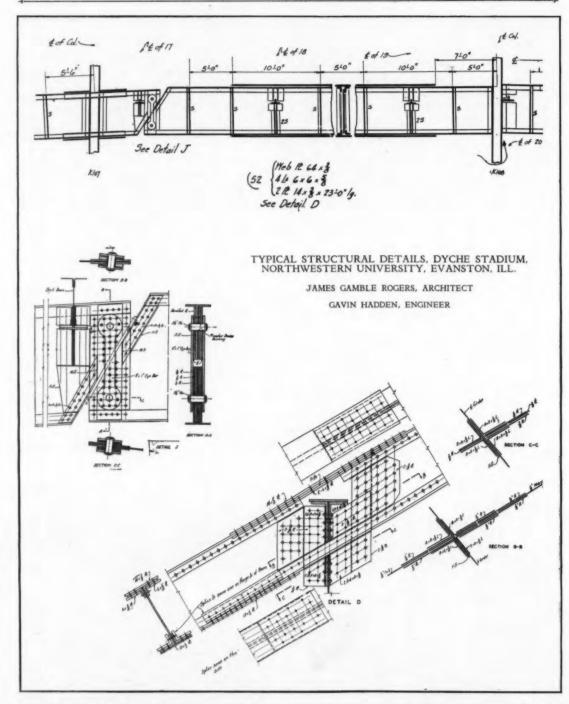
In addition to the toilet facilities for spectators which are located at various levels as may be most convenient for all the spectators) a large amount of the space under the lowermost seating deck is utilized for athletic purposes. A large dirt floor area, clear of columns or other restrictions, is provided under one side for indoor practice, and there are also provided, in convenient locations, team rooms, with lockers, showers, etc., for the home teams and for visiting teams, general locker rooms, supply rooms, laundry, heating plant, coaches' and officials' rooms, handball courts, lecture room, doctor's and trainer's room, etc. The extensions of the east side which will be constructed later will contain a complete housekeeping apartment for a caretaker and his family. The heating plant, located under one end of the first deck on the west side, contains two boilers of over 1,500 sq. ft. of heating surface each, and two large hot water heaters. The installation is unusual on account of the great distances to which heat must be carried through unheated spaces and the high peak hot water loads necessitated by the large number of shower baths. There are 60 showers under the west side alone.

The ramp tower at each end of each side stand gives access to a second deck passage, suspended in the unused space under the upper part of the second deck and extending, just inside the exterior wall, from tower to tower. This passage closely follows, both in plan and elevation, the curves of the upper edge of the second deck, and in its central portion, where the slope of this curve is not too steep, the floor of the passage forms a ramp, while at the ends, where the slope is steeper, the passage forms an easy stairway with wide treads and low risers. From this passage short ramps and portals give direct



CROSS SECTION ON CENTER LINE SHOWING POSITION OF THE THIRD DECK TO BE ADDED LATER. THE PRESS BOX ON THE SECOND DECK WILL BE MOVED TO THE THIRD DECK



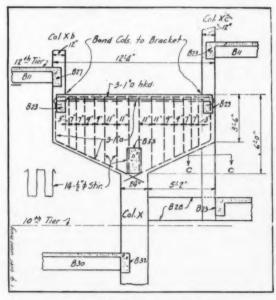


THE SLAB SEAT DECK CLOSE TO THE GROUND AT THE FRONT IS BUILT ON A CINDER BED AND IS DIVIDED BY THROUGH BUTT JOINTS AVERAGING 40' APART, DOWELED WITH SMOOTH GREASED RODS. IN THE FRAMED STRUCTURE THERE ARE FOUR EXPANSION JOINTS FROM 80' to 130' APART. IN THE SEAT DECKS SLIDING JOINTS ARE LOCATED MIDWAY BETWEEN AISLES ON LINES OF GIRDERS RADIAL TO THE RISER CURVES EXCEPT OVER THE ARCADE AT THE REAR. THROUGH BUTT JOINTS WITH DOUBLE COLUMNS AND SPLIT PIERS ARE CARRIED THROUGH ARCADE WALLS, RAMPS, AND PASSAGES, UNDER THE FIRST DECK, WHERE CONCENTRATED LOADS OCCUR. SECOND DECK LONGITUDINAL GIRDER IS PROVIDED WITH A LINK JOINT. ALL EXPANSION JOINTS ARE FORMED BY ELASTIC BITUMINOUS JOINT FILLER EXCEPT BETWEEN SLIDING SURFACES WHERE TWO LAYERS OF WAXED BUILDING PAPER ARE PROVIDED



THE PRESS BOX COMMANDS AN UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW OF THE ENTIRE FIELD. IT IS ENCLOSED, PROVIDED WITH DESKS, TELEPHONES AND TELEGRAPH, AND IS HEATED

The press box, located at the top of the second deck at the center of one side, will later be located in a corresponding position at the top of the third deck in order to furnish the most desirable and most commanding view of the gridiron. There is no possibility of obstruction of the view of the press, even if spectators stand up in front of the box. The entire box is enclosed, on three sides by plate glass, and is provided with artificial heat and light. Ample desk facilities are provided for instruments and for papers. There is a private telephone connection to the players' box at the front of the first deck. Outside telephone and telegraph connections are also provided. Entrance and exit and toilet facilities are provided for the press separate from the general spectators' facilities, and in the future



DETAIL OF RAMP FRAMING IN TOWER



FLOOR OF PASSAGE UNDER SECOND DECK FORMS A RAMP WITH STAIRWAYS AT ENDS WHERE THE SLOPE IS STEEPER. STEPS ARE ABOUT 4" X 22"

access to the private press portal in the third deck will be obtained by two elevators operating in shafts located inside the piers of the central arch in the exterior wall. At the present time the upper portions of these elevator shafts, inside the press box, are used for radio broadcasting. There are four of these radio booths, each separately enclosed to furnish sound privacy. The press elevators when installed may also be used for carrying a few spectators who occupy special box seats at the front of the second deck. These box seats, with the third deck furnishing weather protection above them, and without obstruction in front of them. will be second only to the press seats in desirability. Additional private boxes with separate entrances are also provided part way up the first deck.



RAMP TOWER OF THE DYCHE STADIUM

Each ramp tower has a single series of broad ramps about 16' wide leading from the ground to the second deck passage, with a single line of interior columns; above, the ramps continue, with width reduced to about 10', to the level of the future third deck passage, with a double line of interior columns. The space thus released is utilized for public toilet rooms to serve spectators on the upper decks. The columns of the double line, in the upper part of the tower, are supported by heavy double cantilever brackets at the tops of the lower columns. This detail is illustrated on page 67.

The entire structure is built in general of reinforced concrete and structural steel, and all conspicuous concrete wall surfaces have been given a rubbed finish.

The general contractor for the Dyche Stadium was J. B. French Co., Chicago, and the design and supervision of construction were carried out by James Gamble Rogers, architect; Gavin Hadden, engineer, associates, New York City, with C. A. Holden in charge of the detailed design, G. F. Baker in charge of the resident supervision and C. A. Fuller the design of the heating plant.



DYCHE STADIUM, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, ILL.

JAMES GAMBLE ROGERS, ARCHITECT—GAVIN HADDEN, ENGINEER

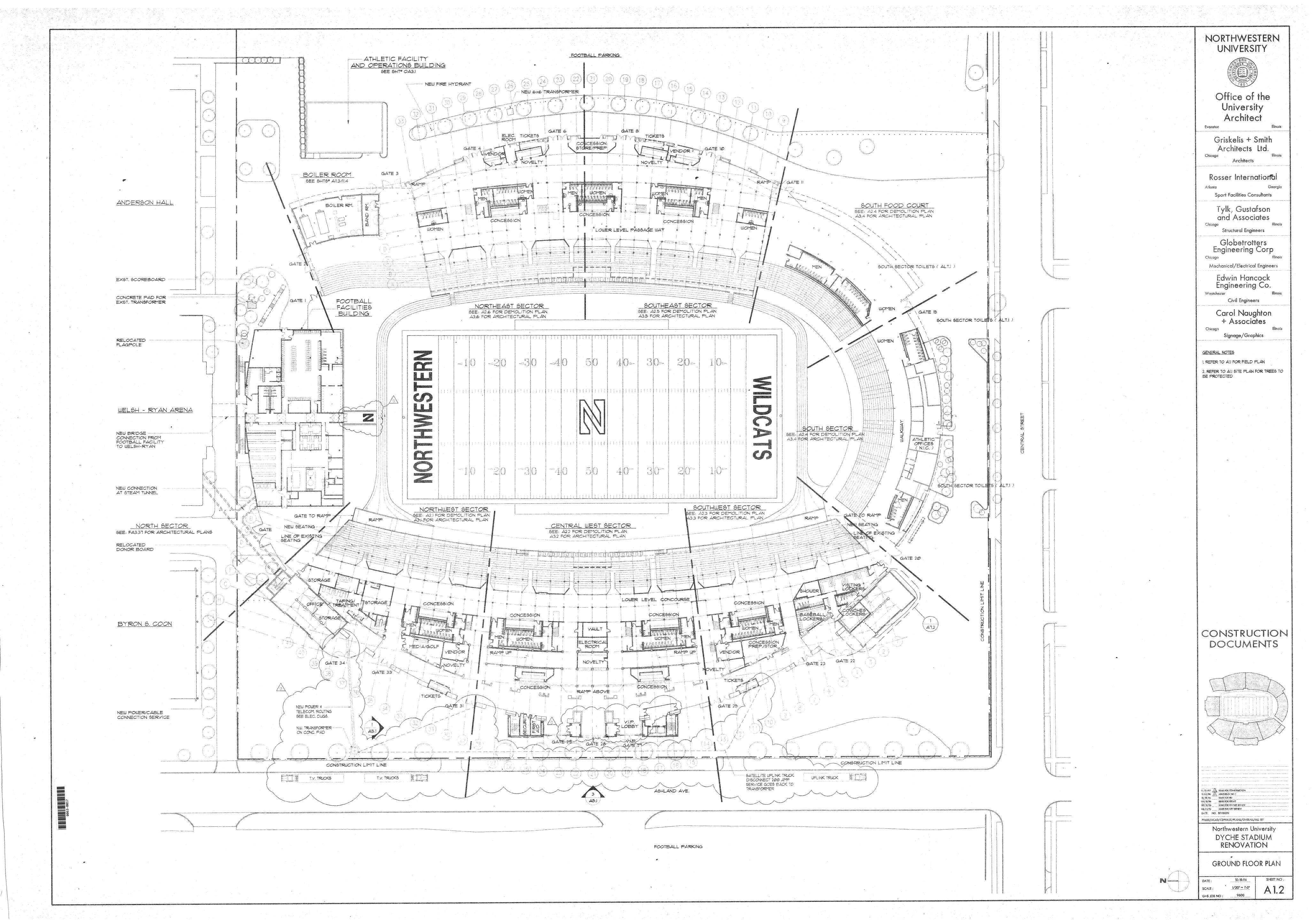
SPECIFICATIONS AND DATA ON A NEW INSULATING BOARD

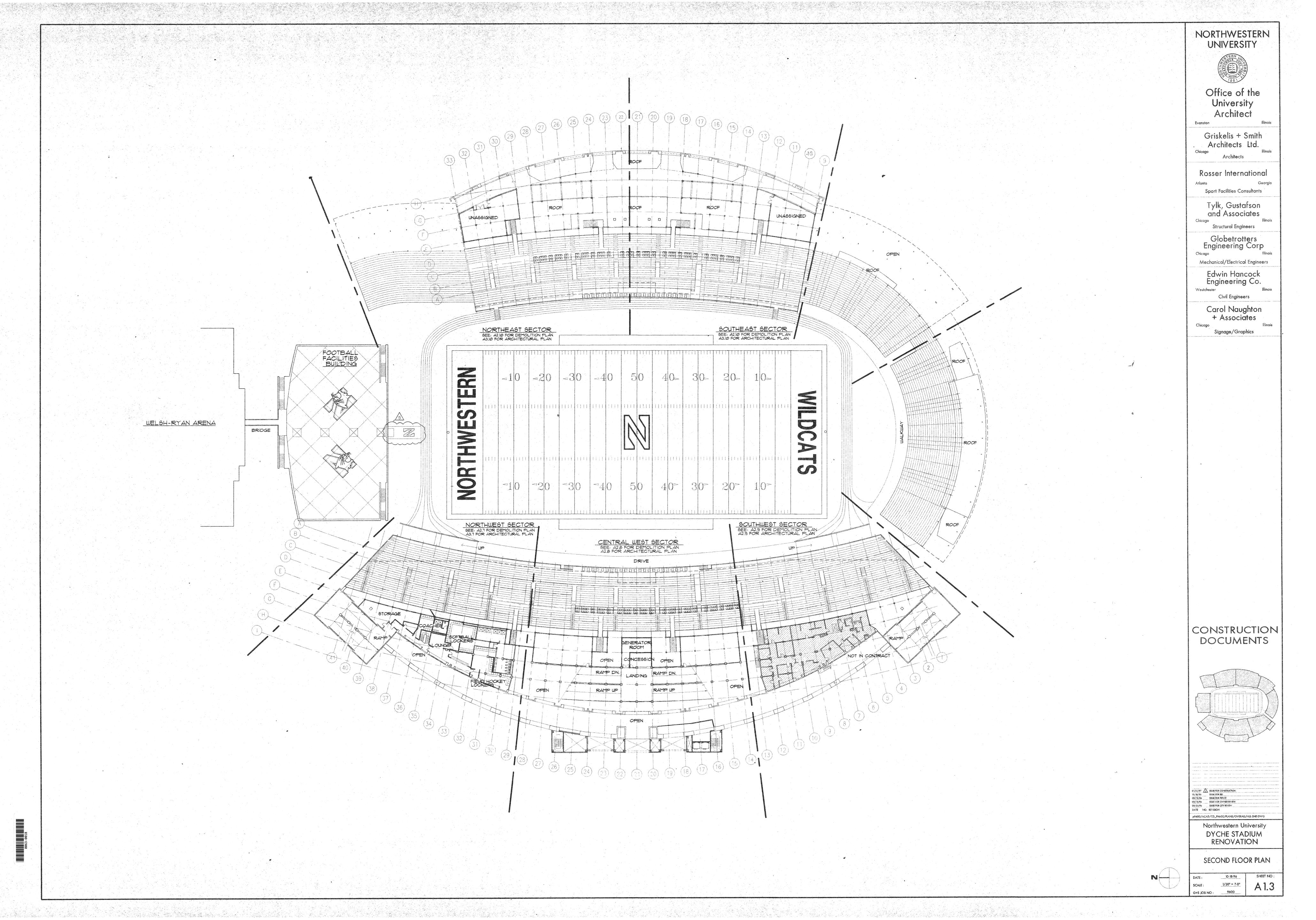
A FOLDER for filing has recently been received from the Cornell Wood Products Company, 190 North State Street, Chicago, Illinois. The index tab carries the A.I.A. file No. 37a1. One leaf of the folder forms a pocket and contains a sample of the insulating board. A booklet is included which contains typical installation details and specifications. This is an unusually well prepared piece of literature for filing. Practical data only has been included. The absence of "sales'talk" makes it unnecessary to wade through a large amount of material to locate the information of interest to archi-

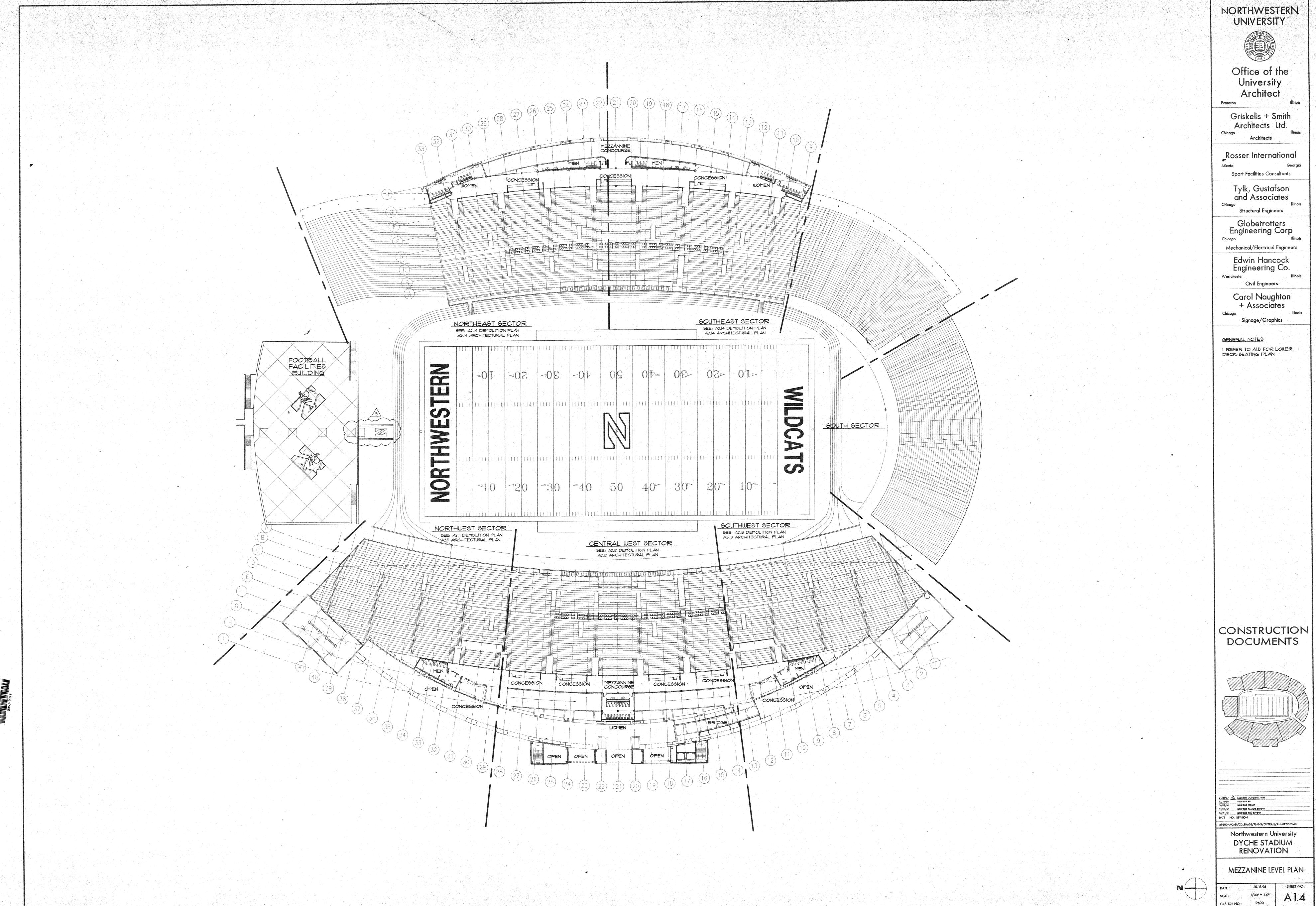
tects, draftsmen and specification writers. A copy of this valuable folder may be obtained by addressing the Cornell Wood Products Company or THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT Service Department.

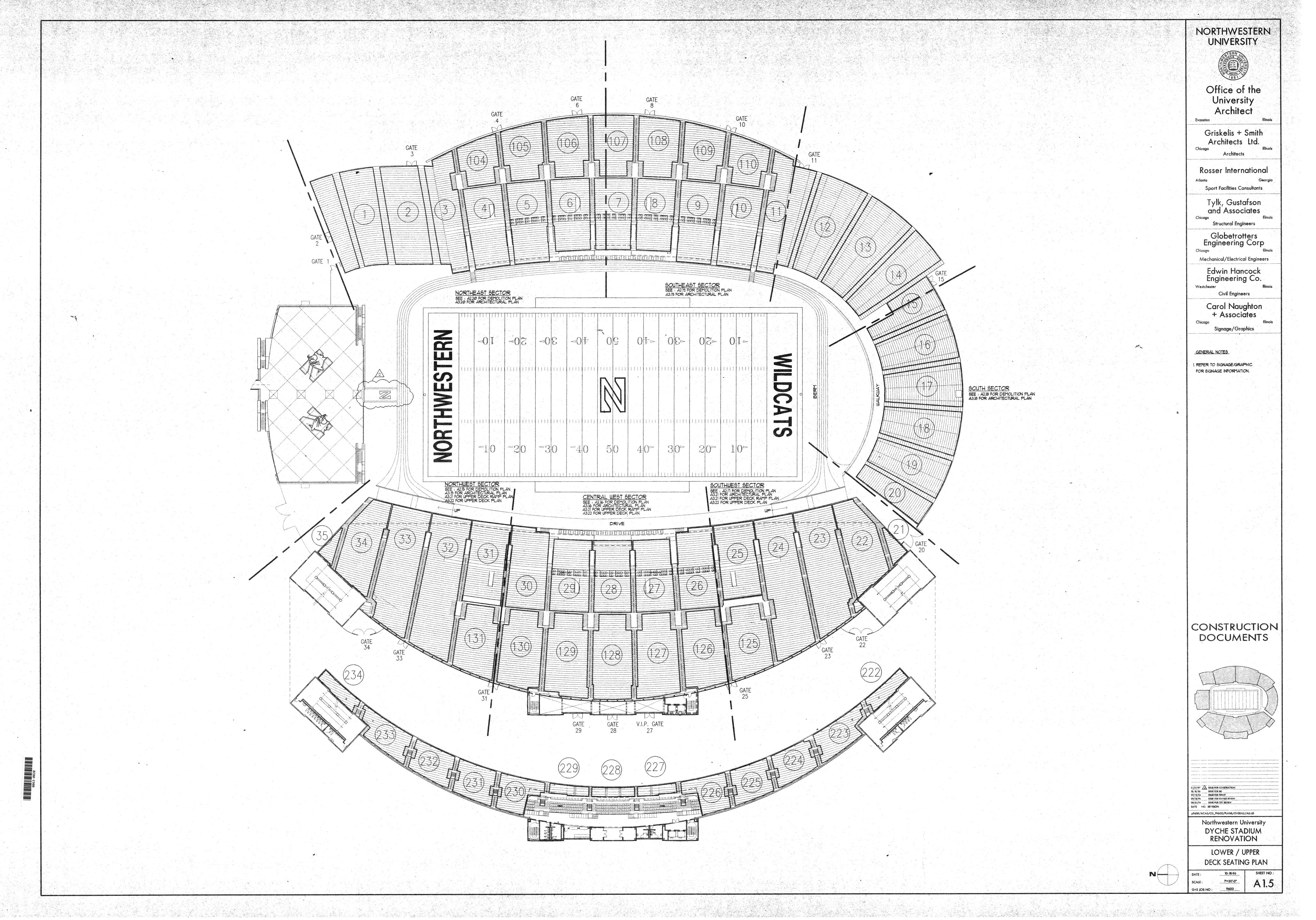
FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING, CONCRETE REINFORCING STEEL INSTITUTE

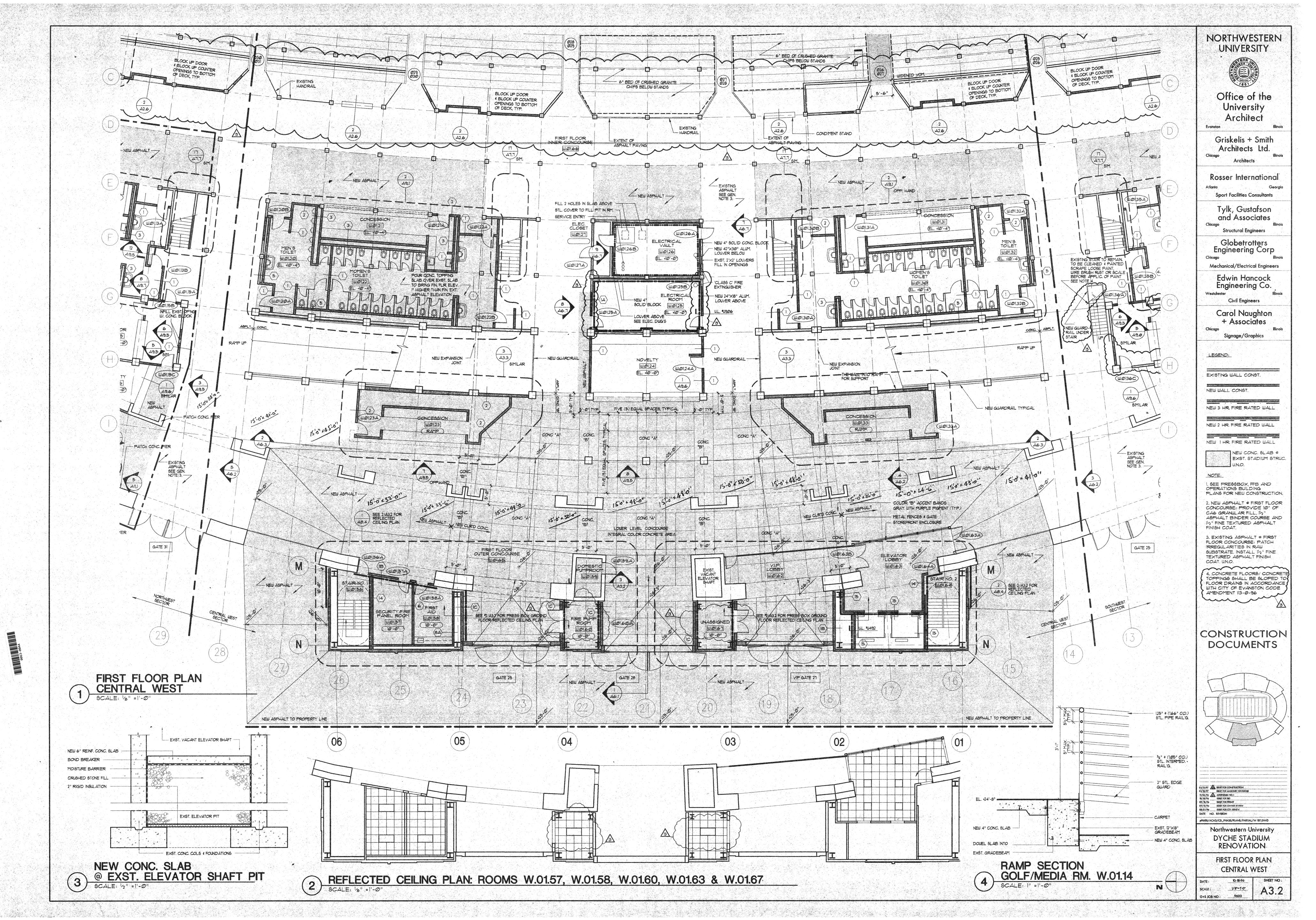
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, has been selected by the Directors of the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute as the place for holding the fourth annual meeting of the Institute. The meeting will be held March 19th to 21st, 1928, at the Edgerton Golf Hotel. Details of the meeting will be announced in the near future.



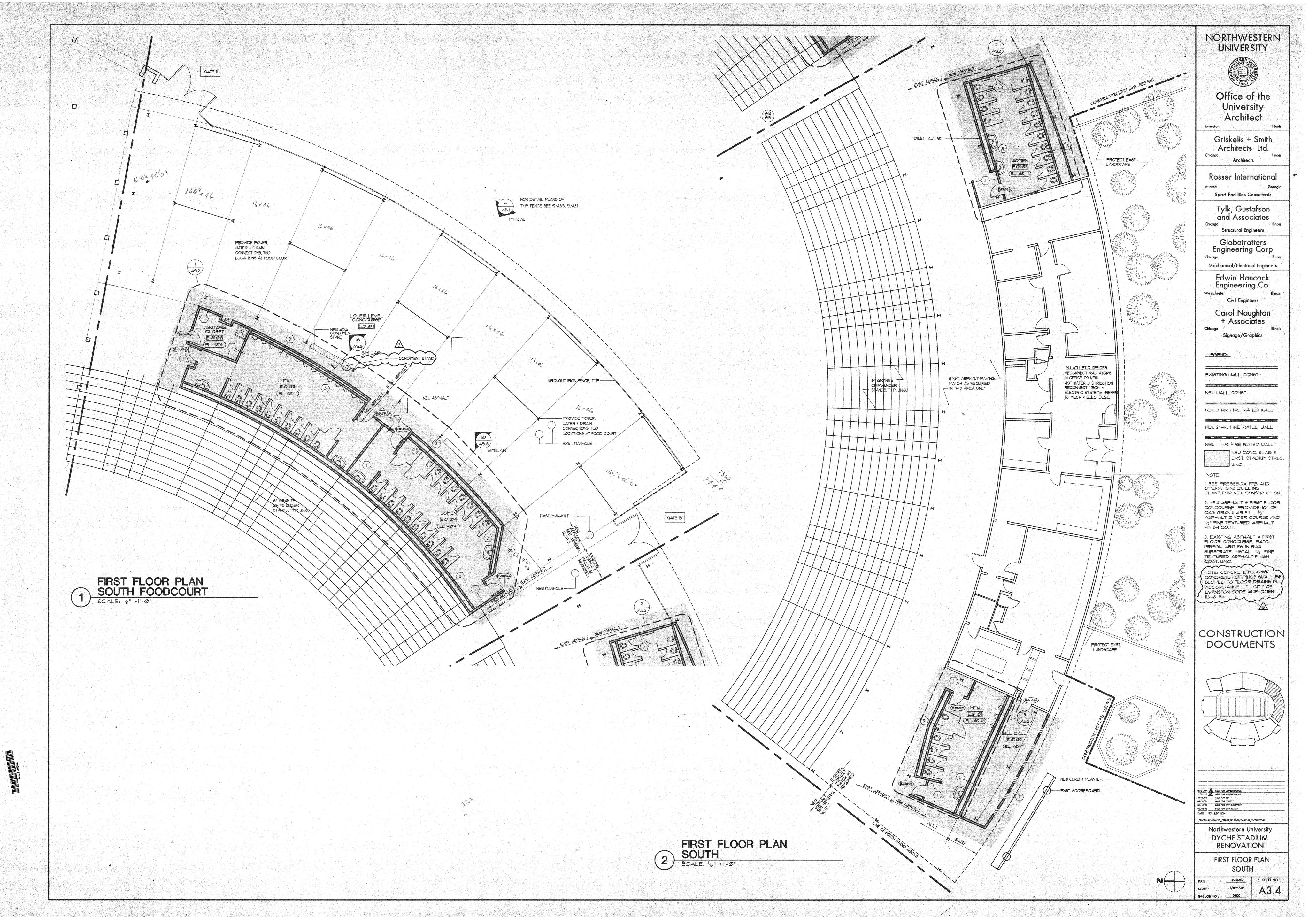


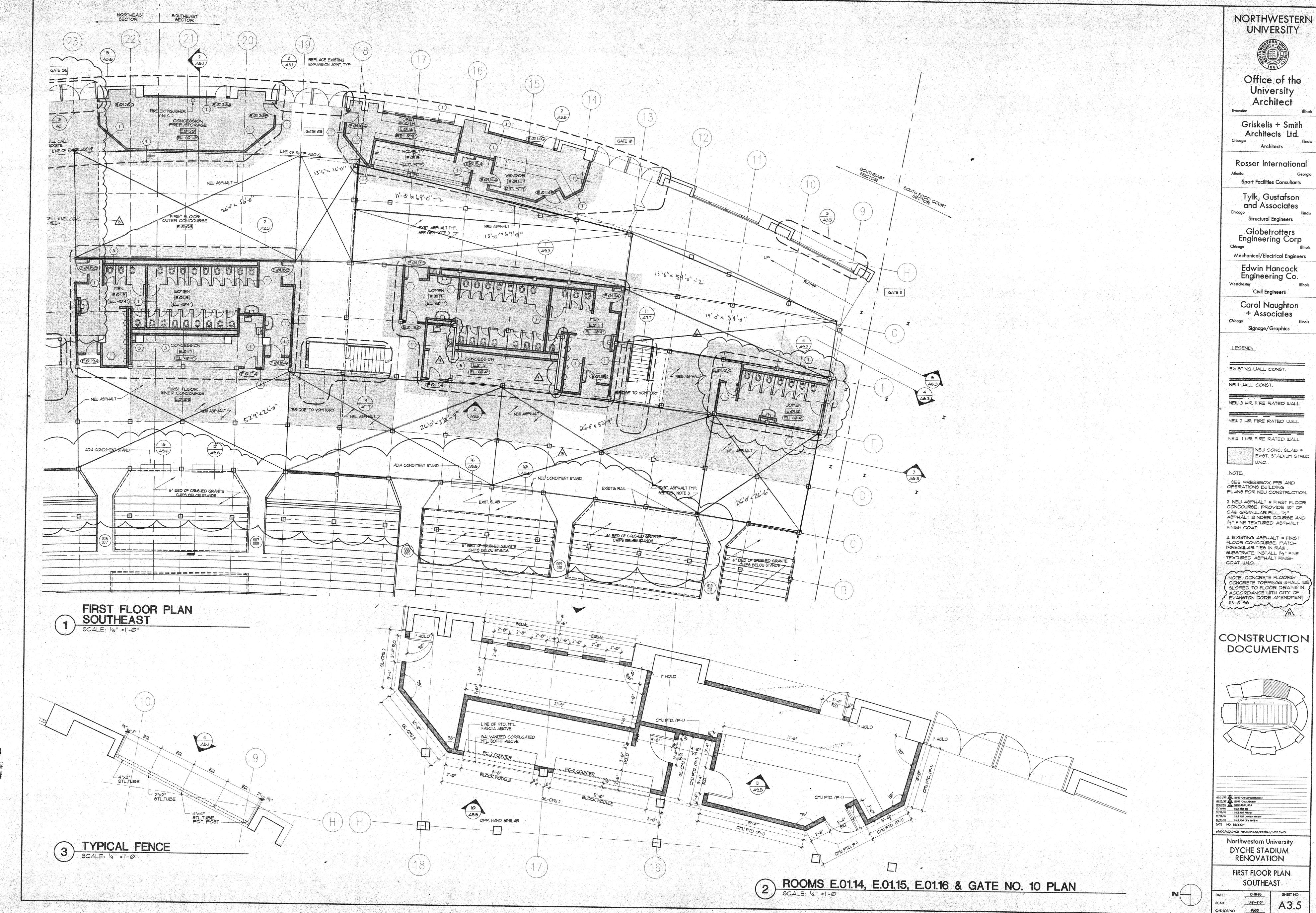


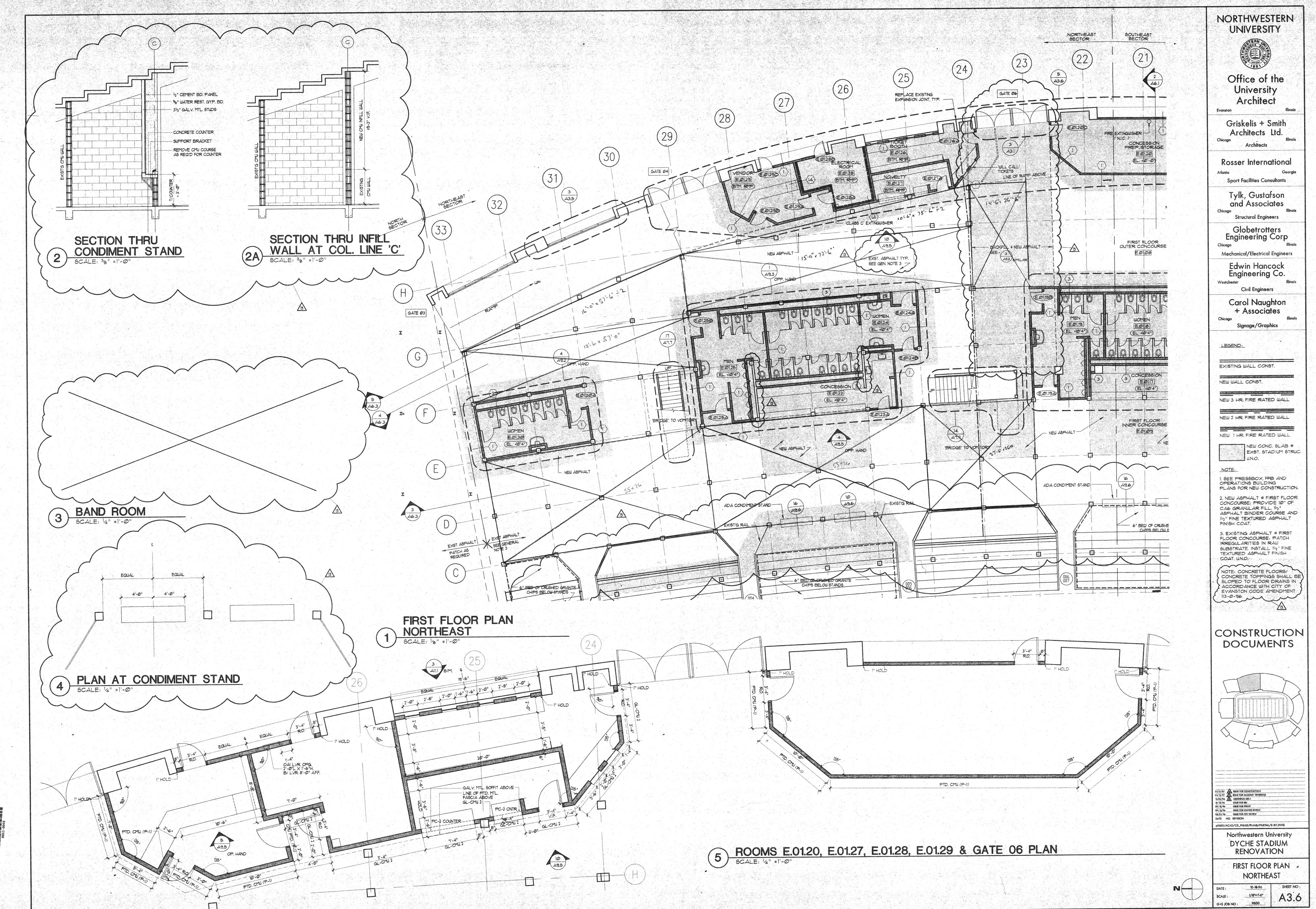


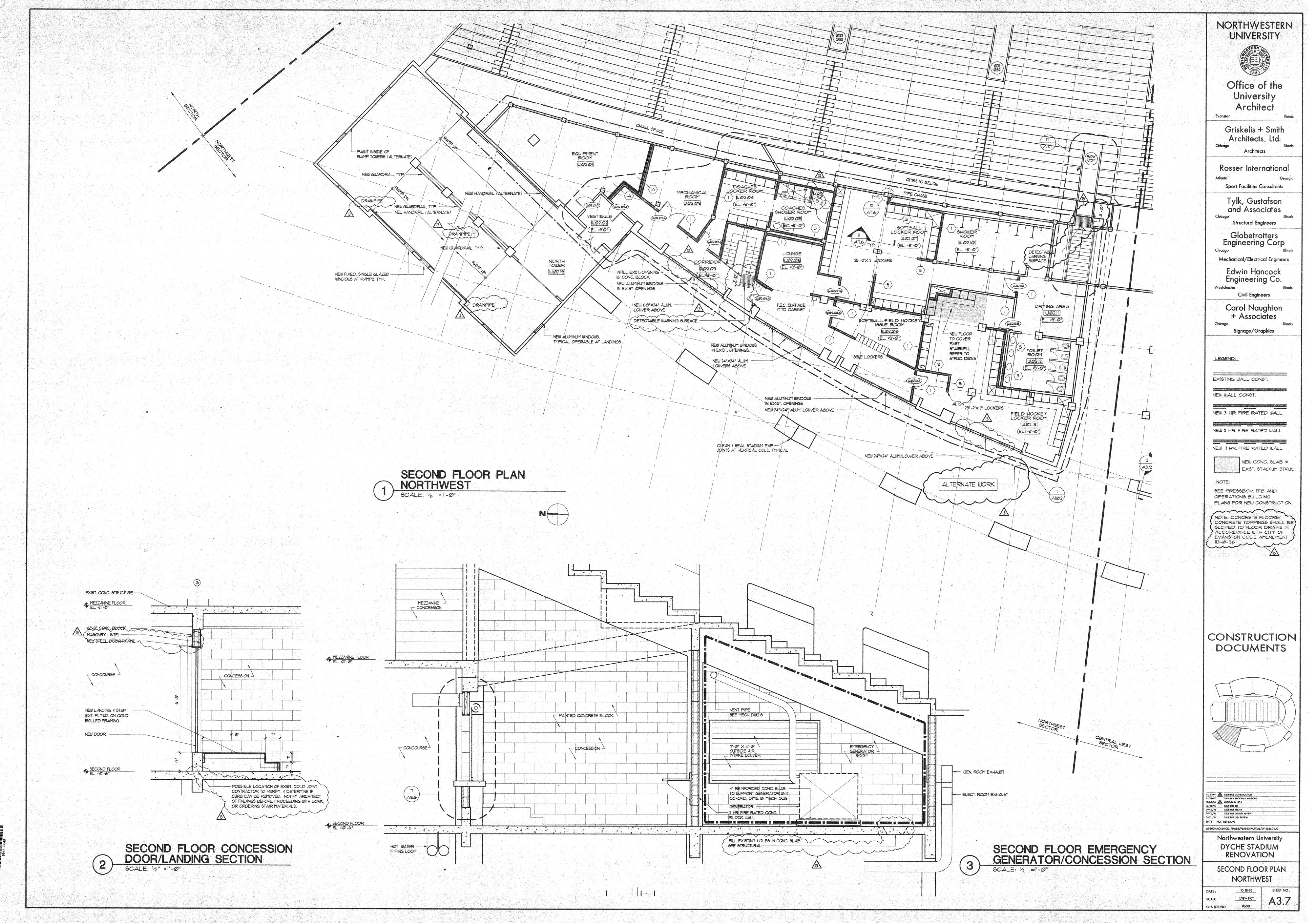


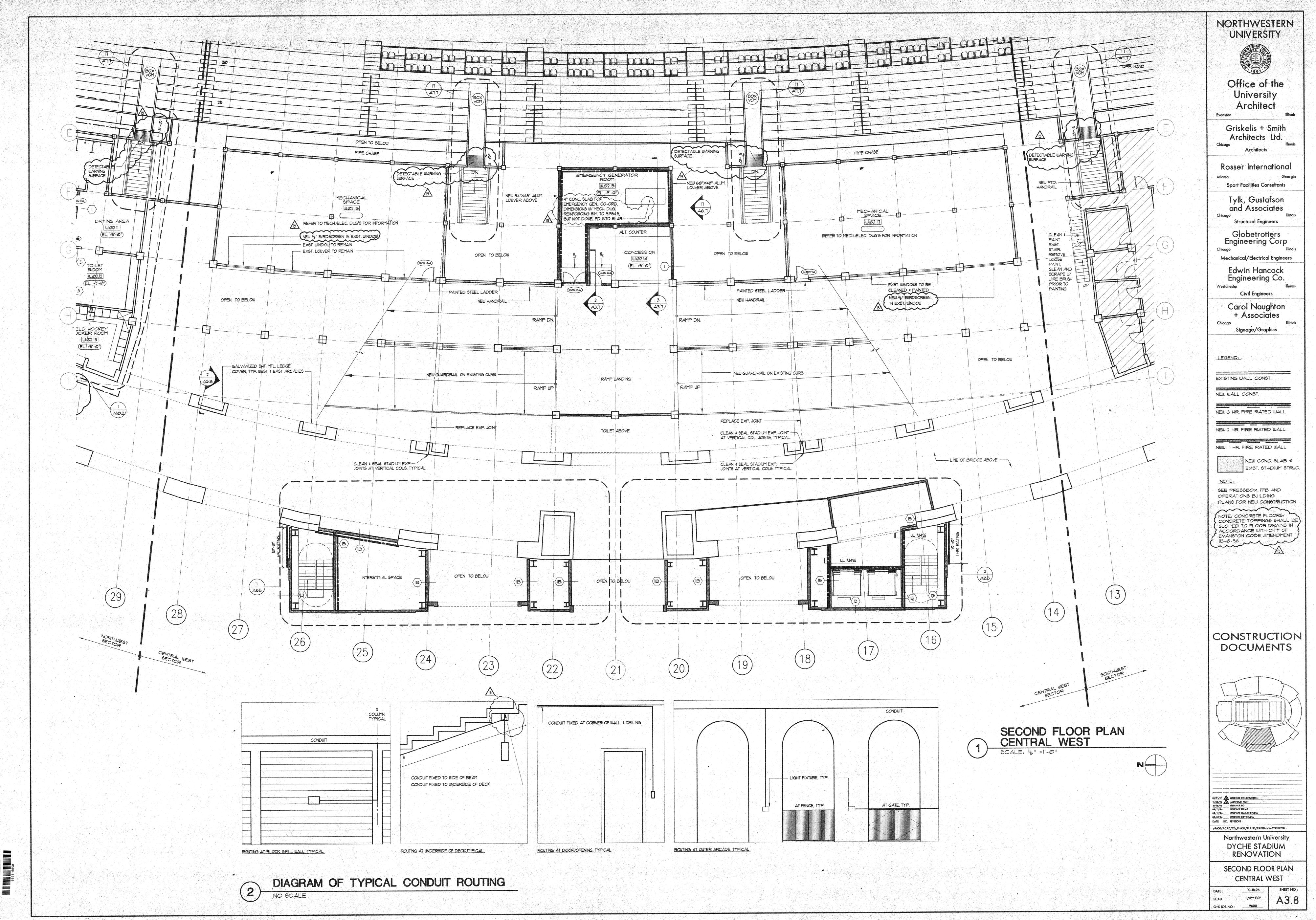
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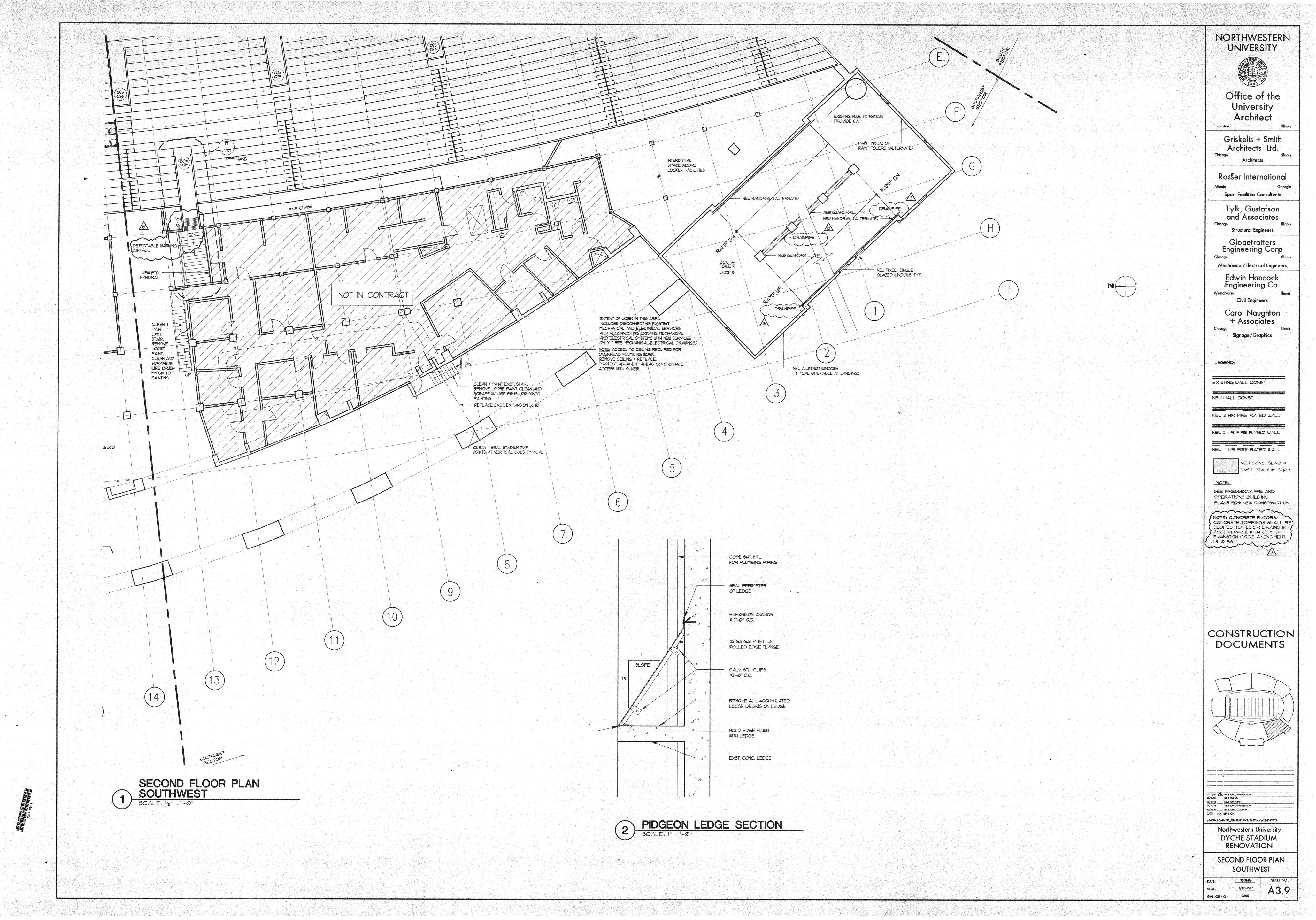


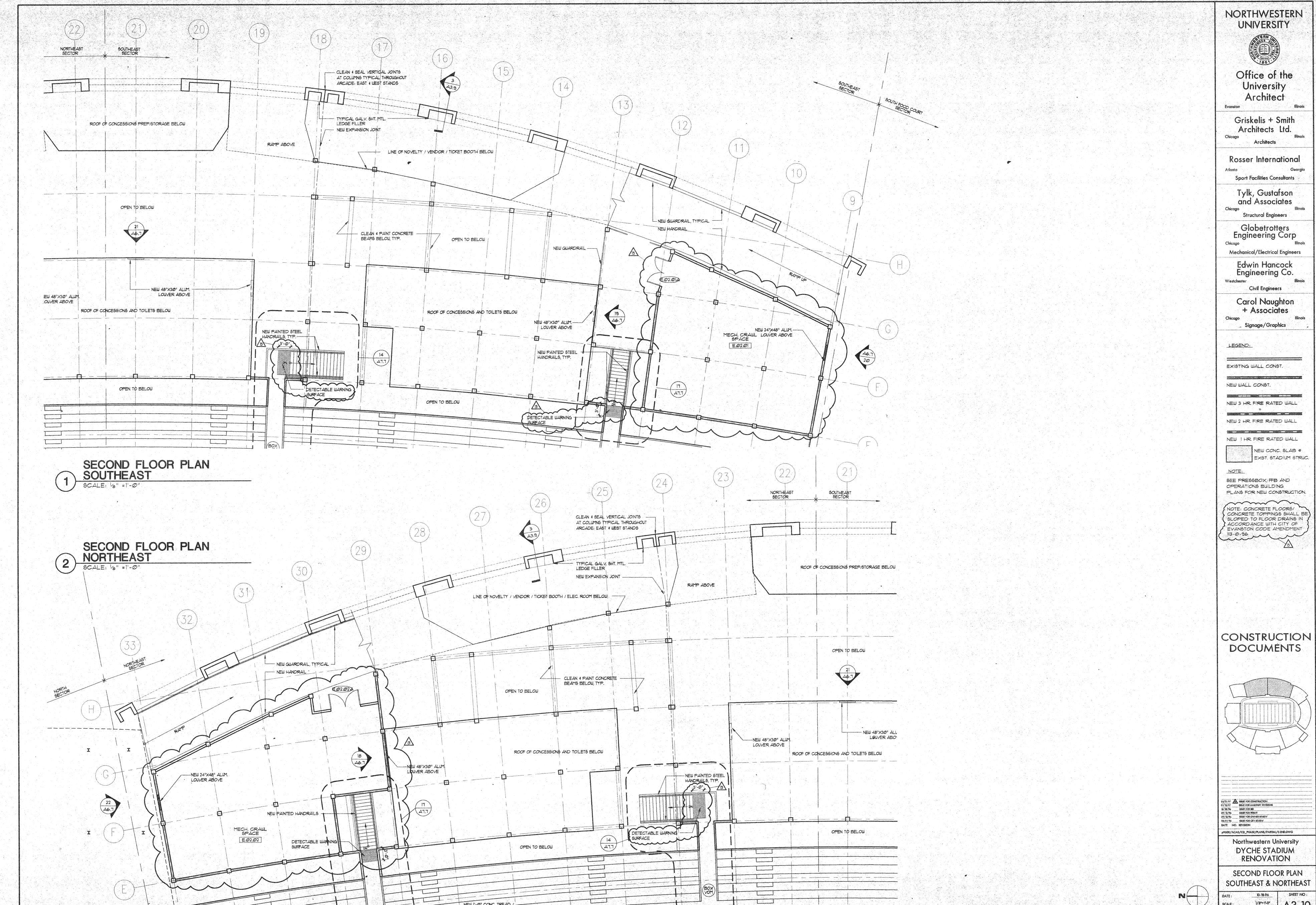


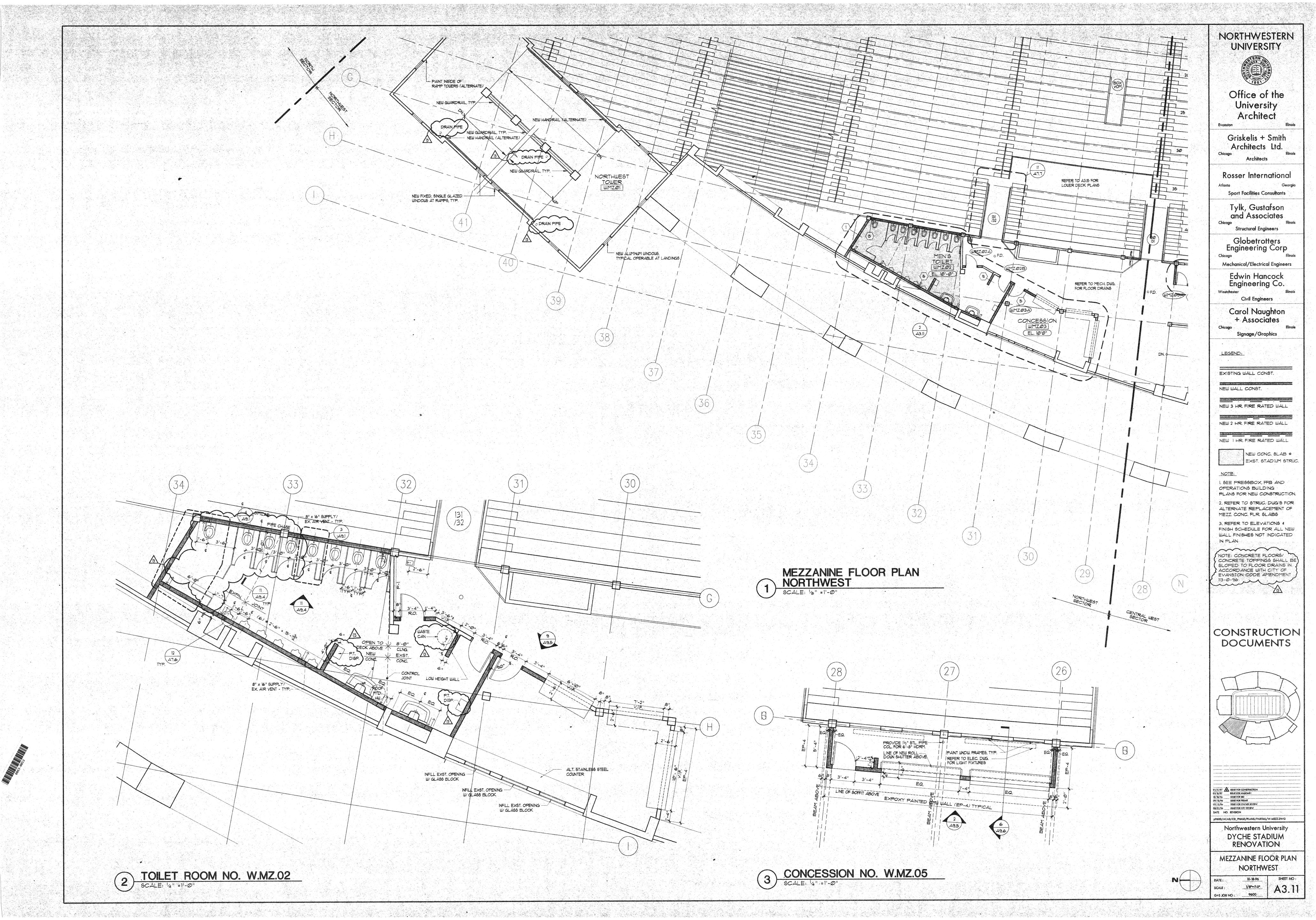


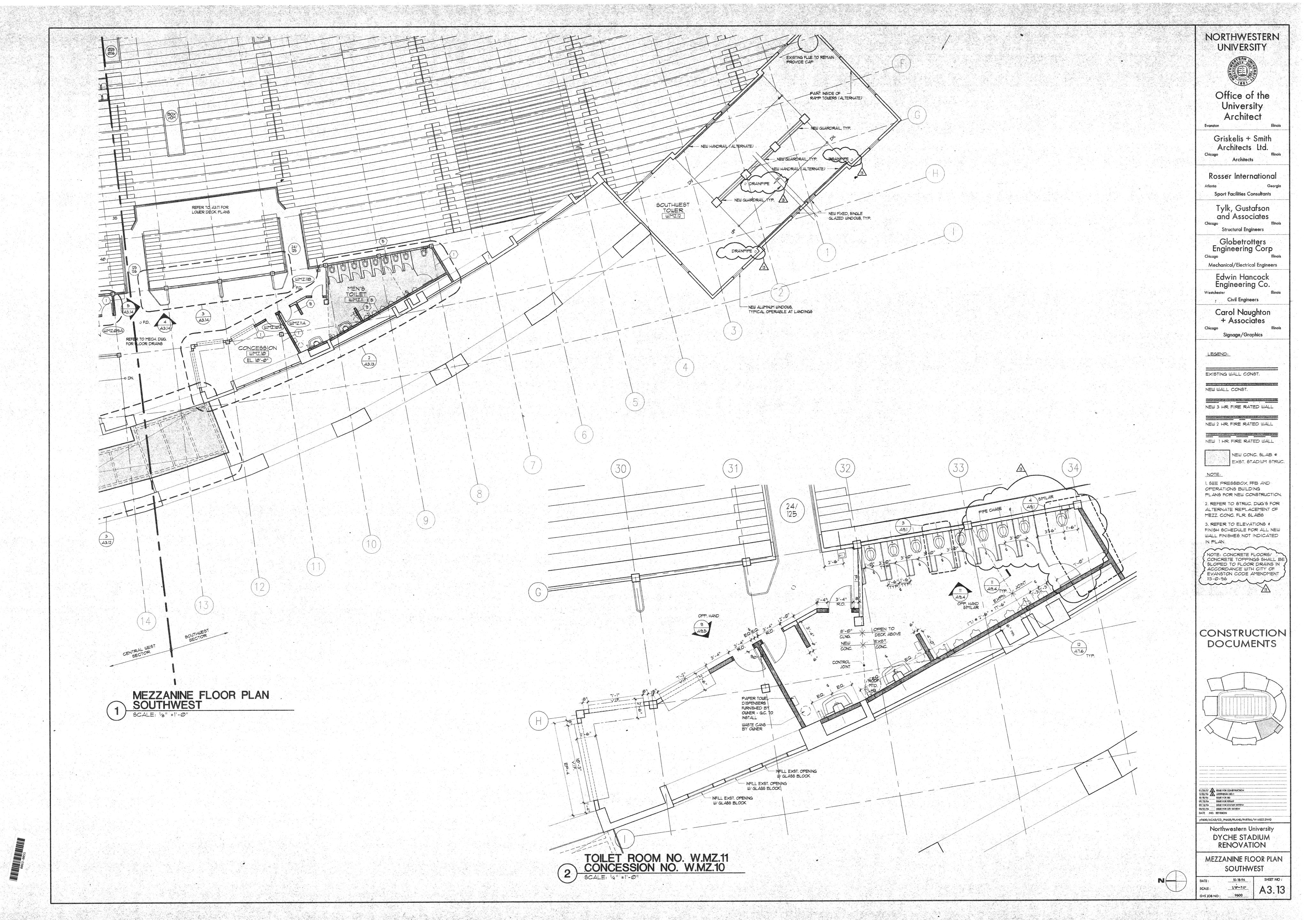


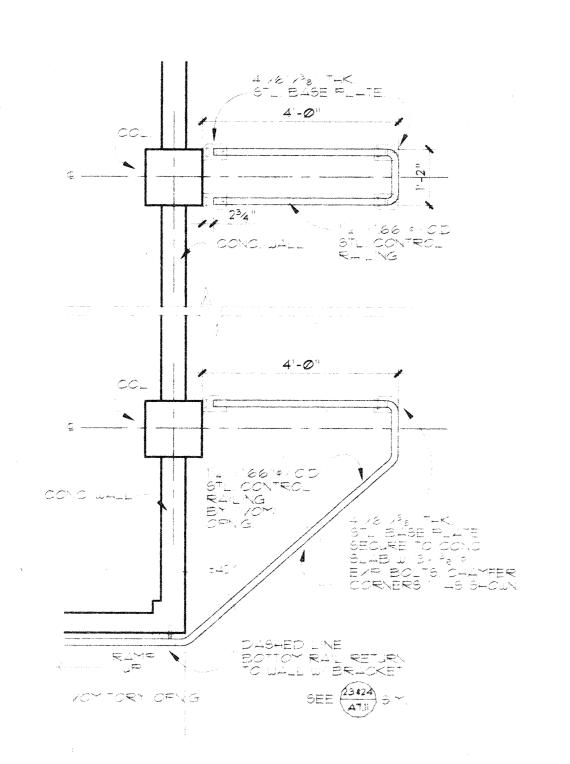




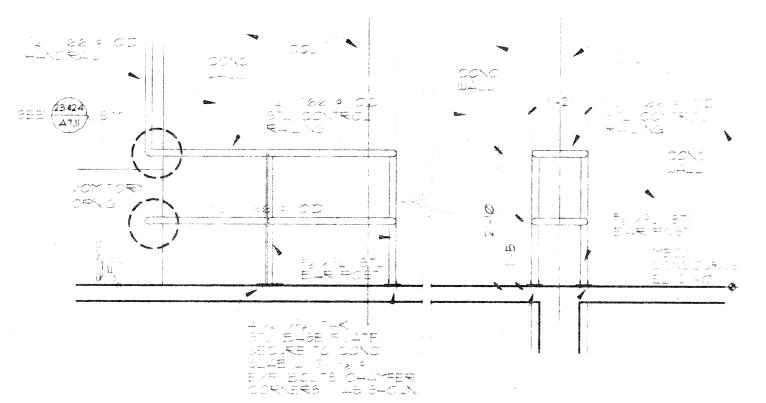






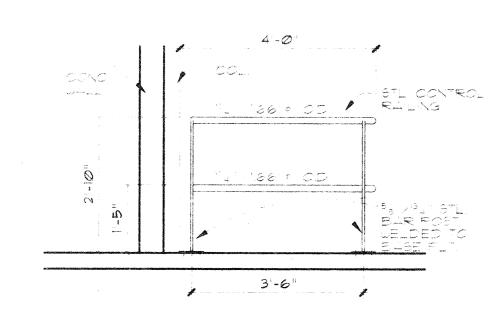


MEZZANINE GUARDRAIL PARTIAL PLAN



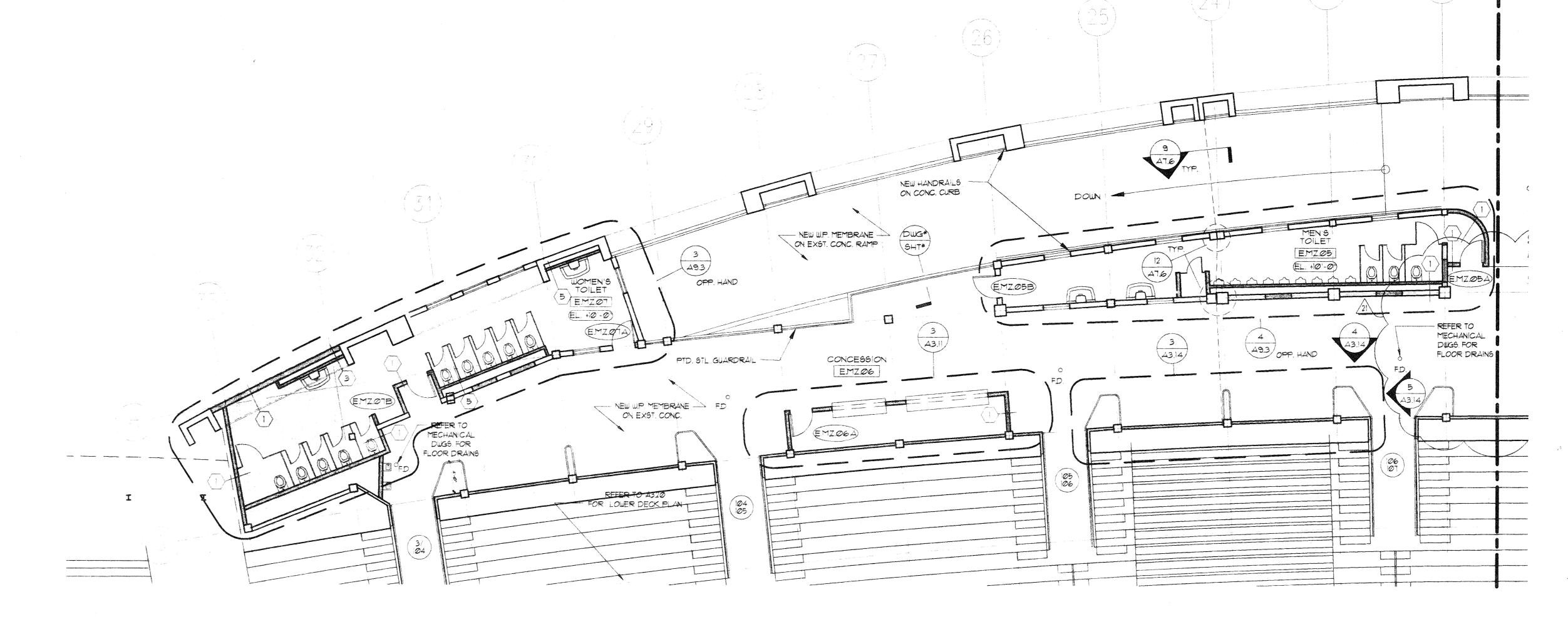
MEZZANINE GUARDRAIL ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/2 " = 1/-0"

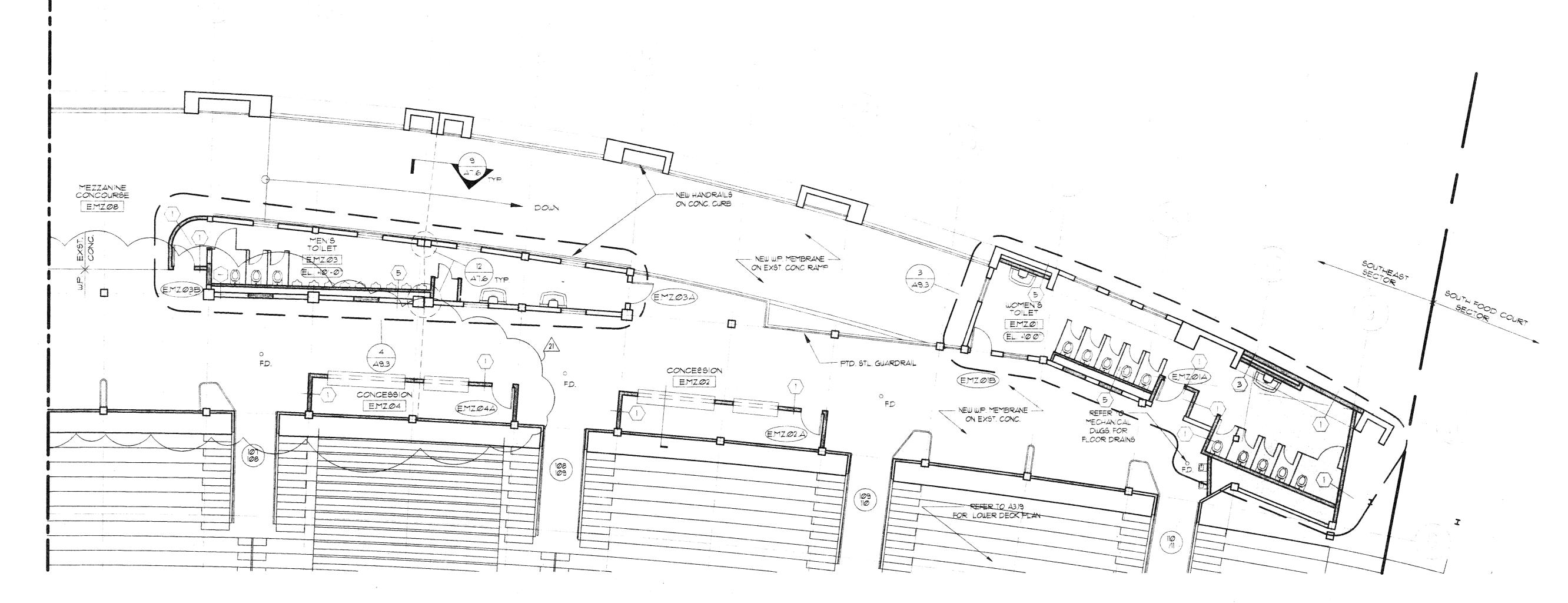


MEZZANINE GUARDRAIL ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/2 = 1/-0"



MEZZANINE PLAN NORTHEAST



MEZZANINE PLAN SOUTHEAST

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Signage/Graphics

LEGEND:

EXISTING WALL CONST.

NEW WALL CONST.

NEW 3 HR. FIRE RATED WALL 

NEW 2 HR. FIRE RATED WALL 

NEW ! HR FIRE RATED WALL NEW CONC. SLAB #

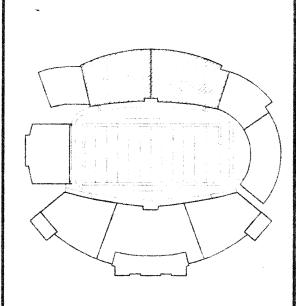
EXST. STADIUM STRUC. NOTE:

SEE PRESSBOX, FFB AND OPERATIONS BUILDING PLANS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION.

2. REFER TO STRUC. DWG'S FOR ALTERNATE REPLACEMENT OF MEZZ, CONC. FLR. SLABS

3. REFER TO ELEVATIONS & FINISH SCHEDULE FOR ALL NEW WALL FINISHES NOT INDICATED

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

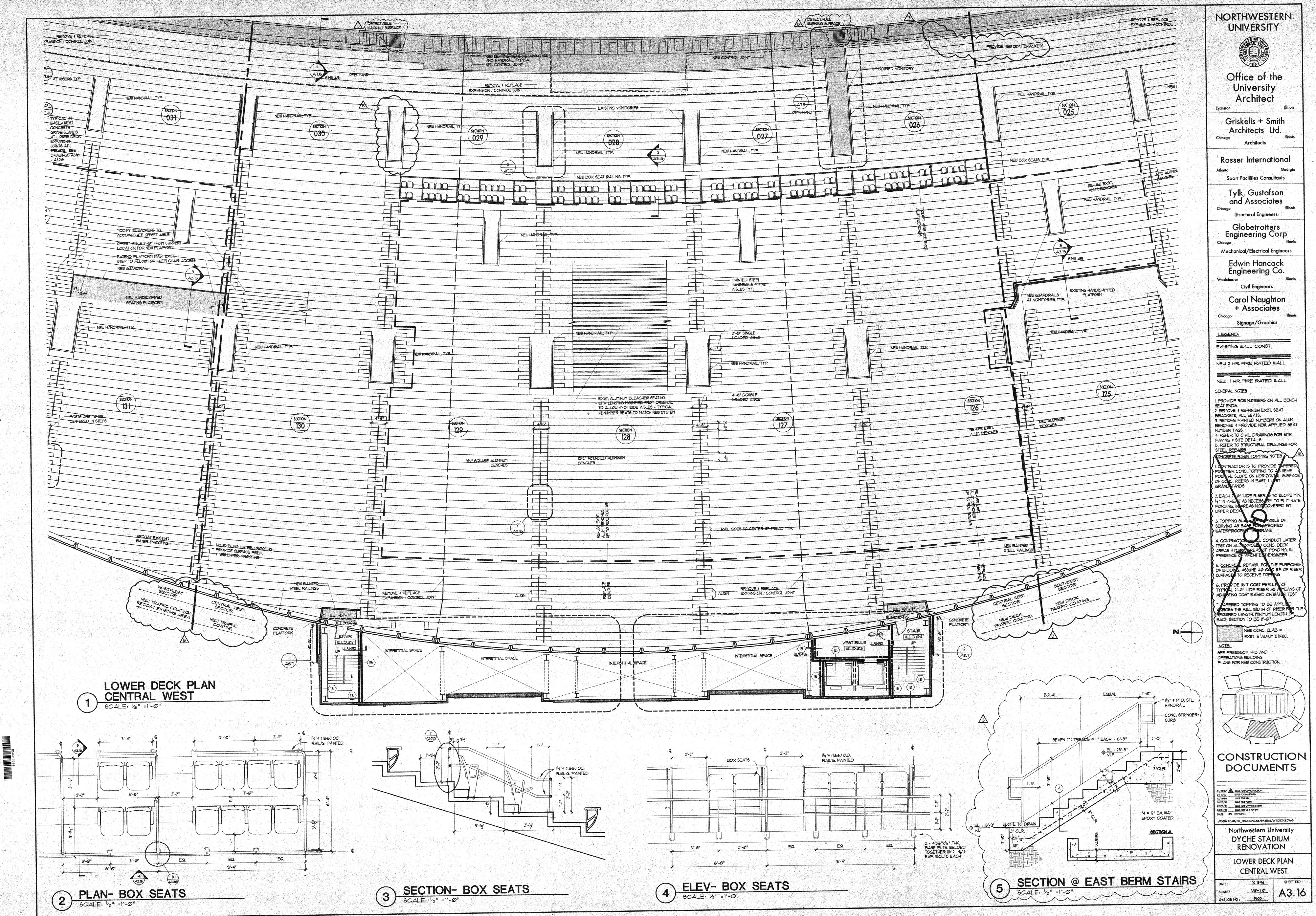


DATE NO. REVISION p9600/ACAD/CD\_PHASE/PLANS/PARTIAL/E-MEZZ.DWG

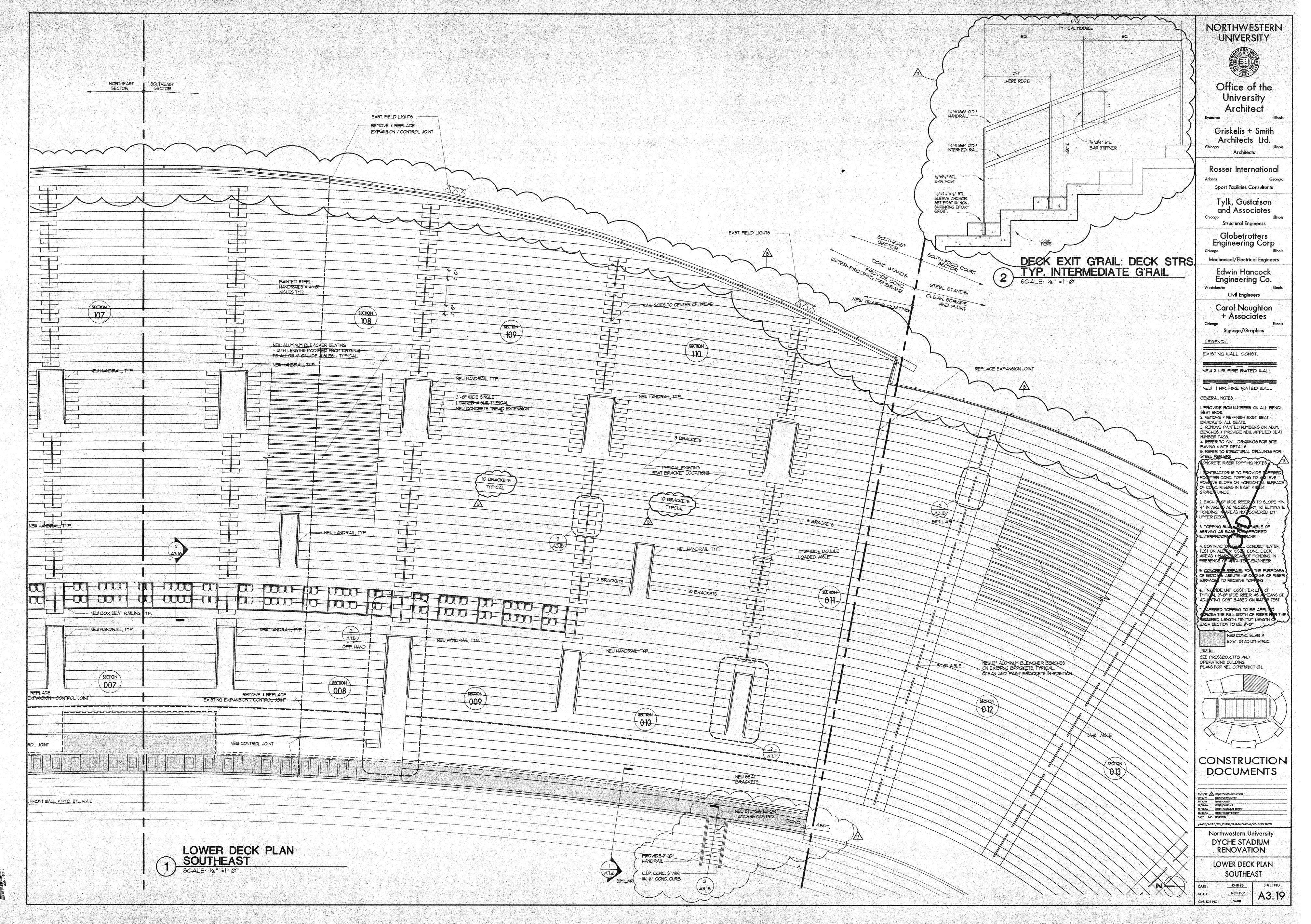
> Northwestern University DYCHE STADIUM RENOVATION

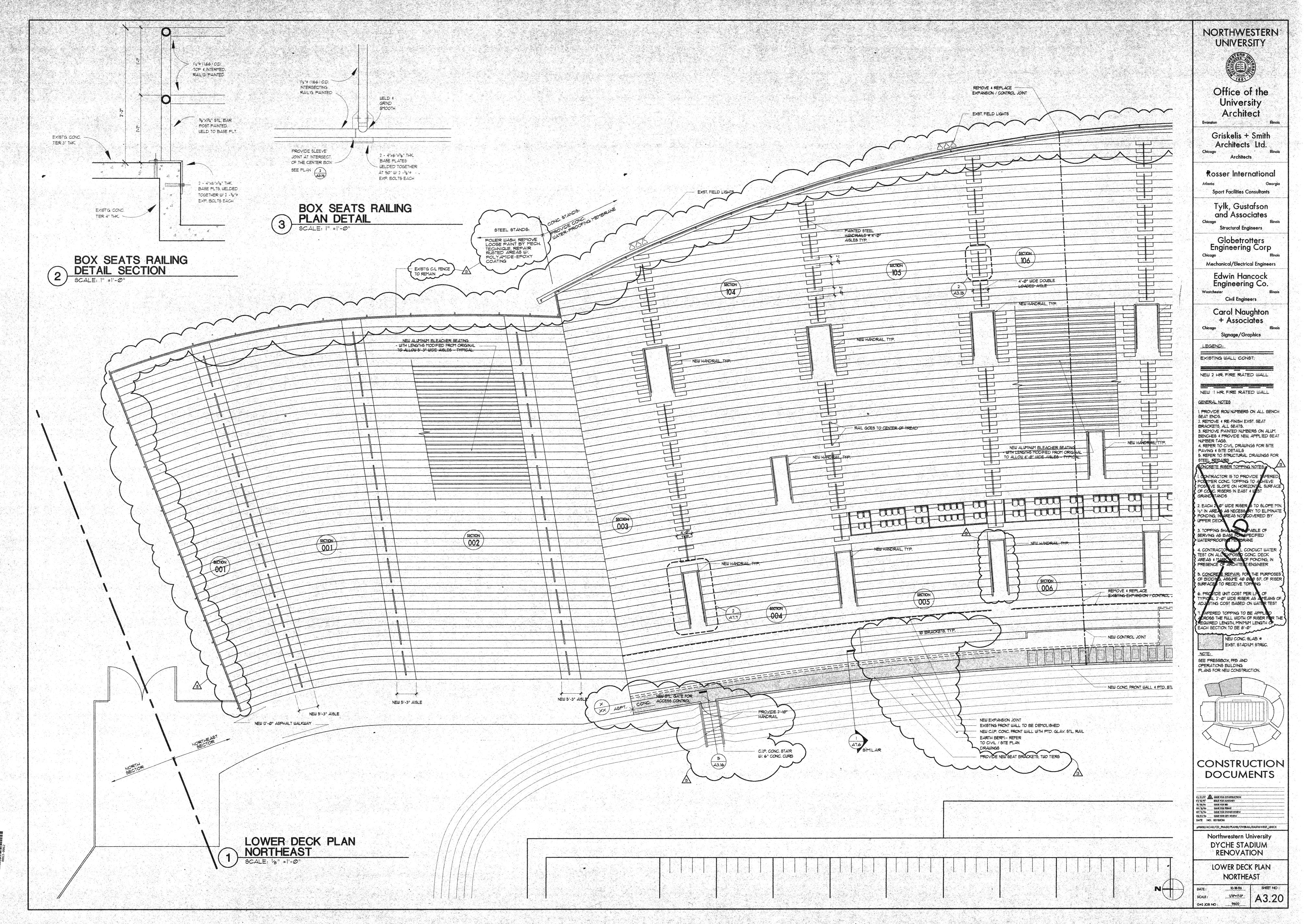
MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN SOUTHEAST & NORTHEAST

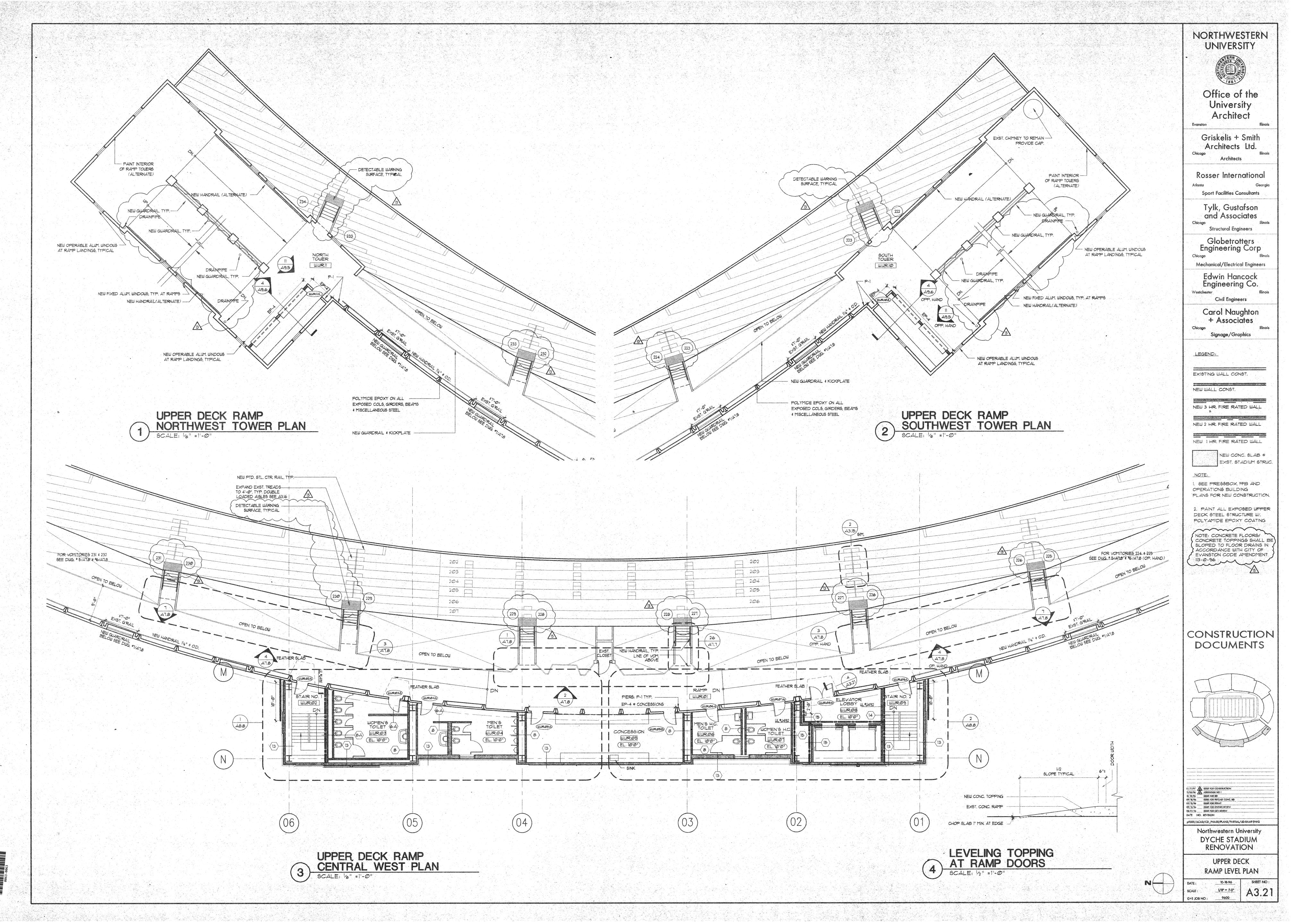
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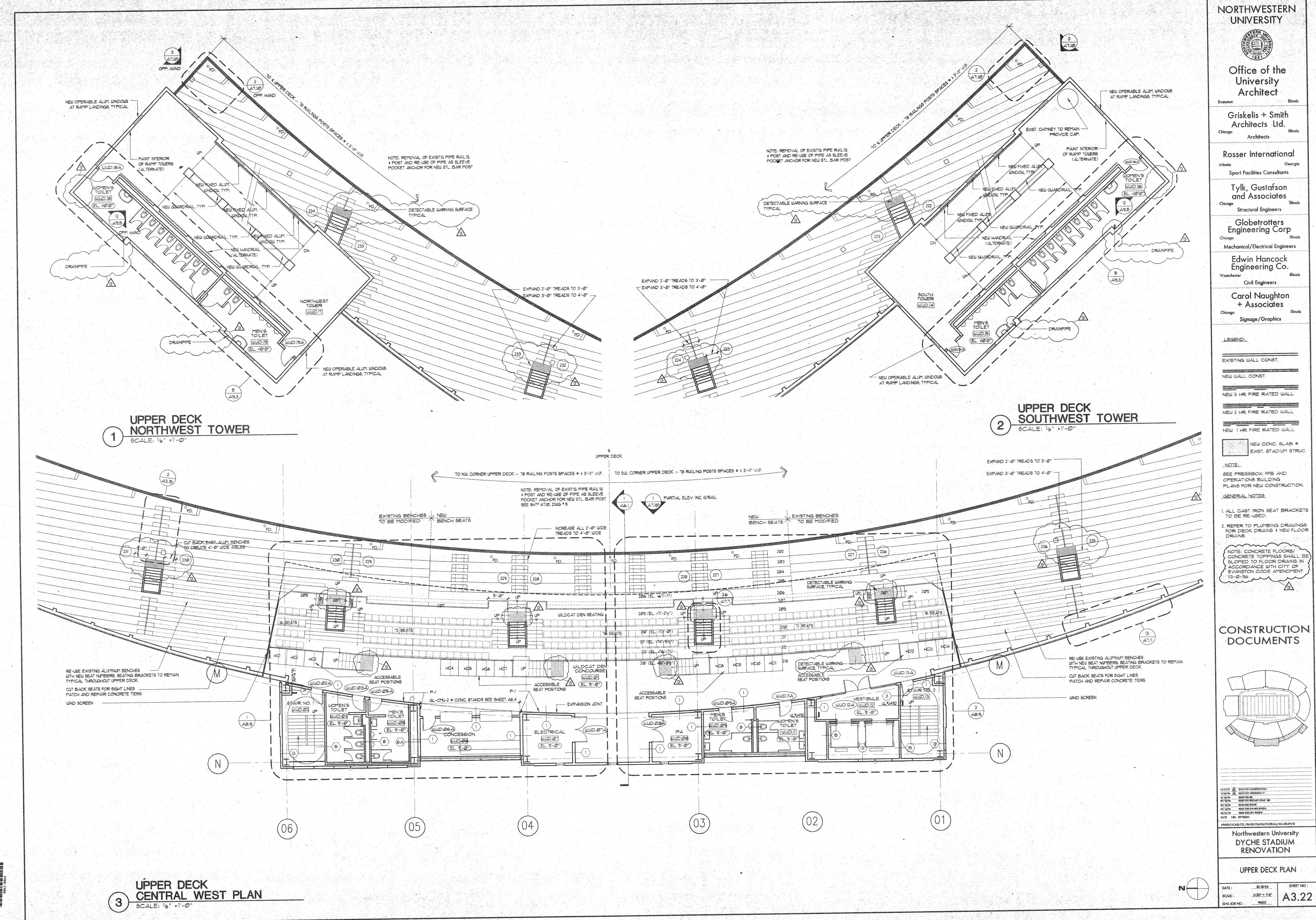


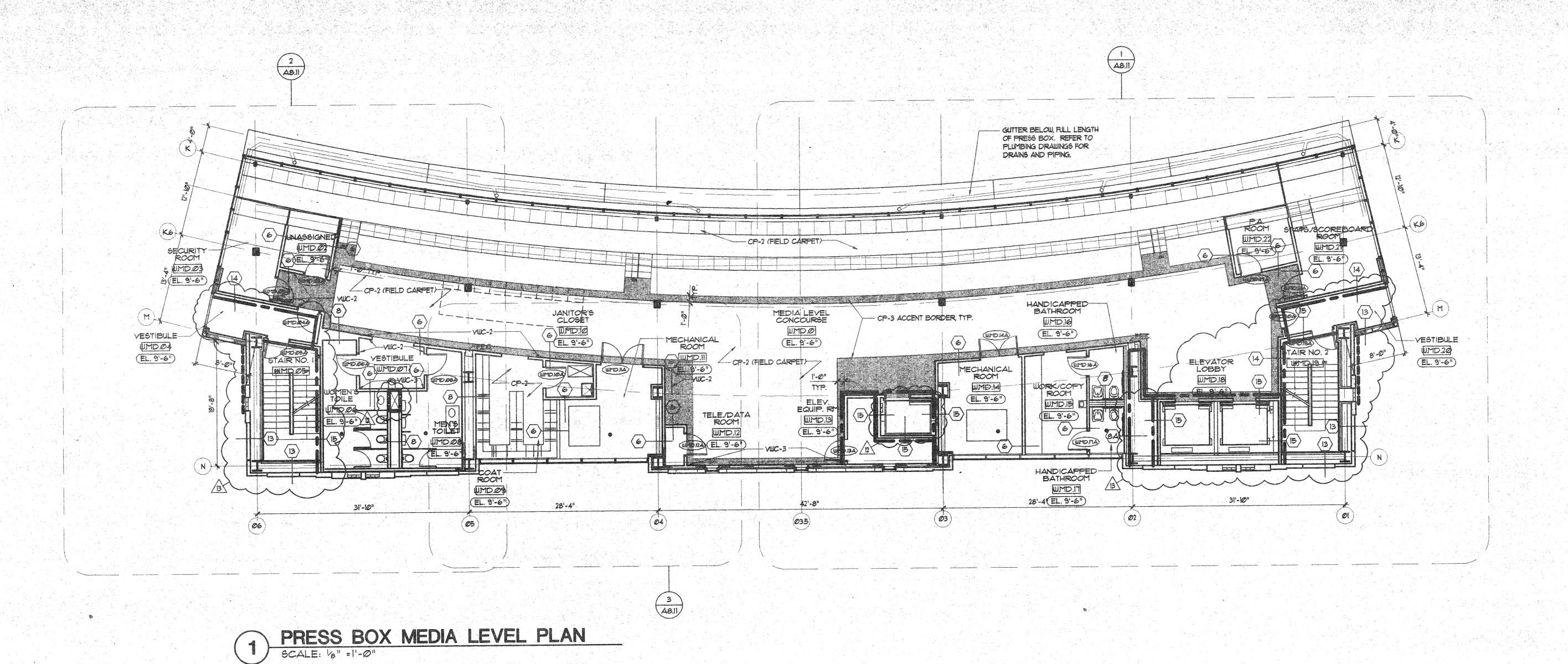
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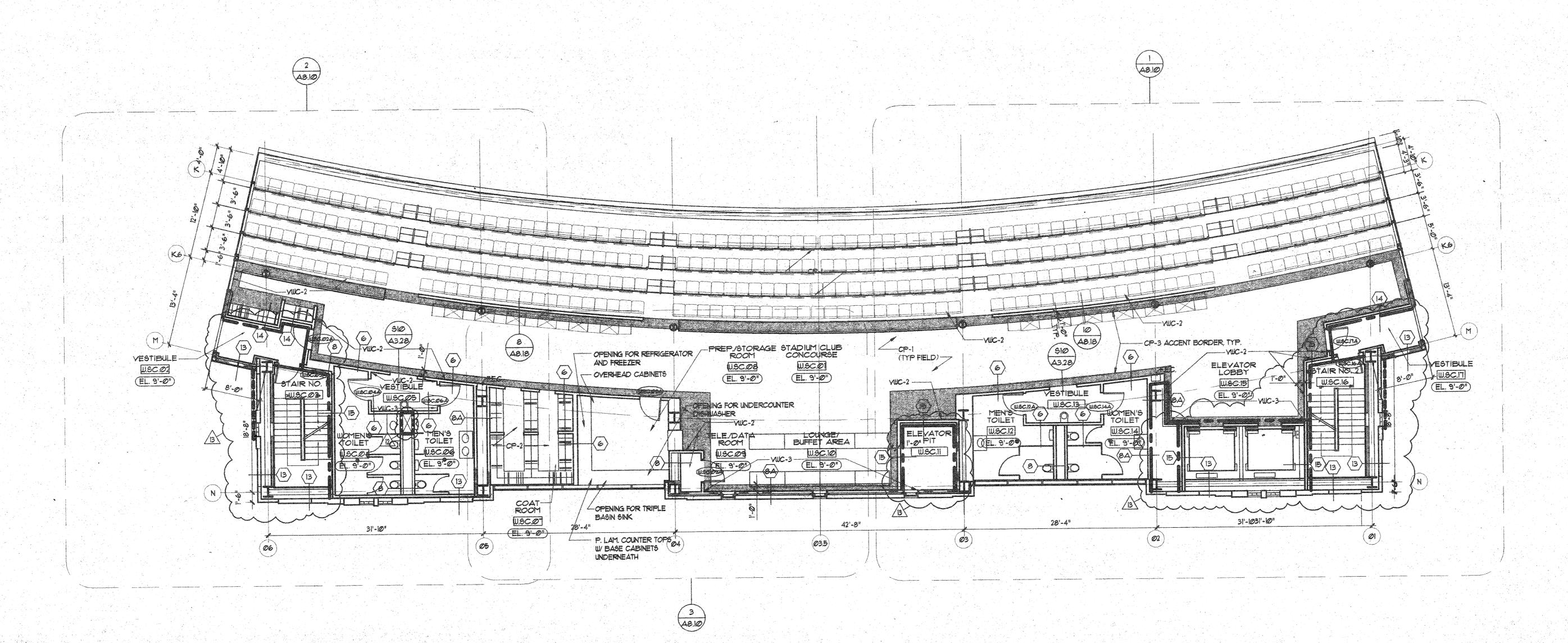












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Edwin Hancock Engineering Co.

Civil Engineers

Carol Naughton

+ Associates
Chicogo
Signage/Graphics

NOTE:
I. ALL EXTERIOR WALG IN HEATED
SPACES ARE TO BE INSULATED.

LEGEND:

EXISTING WALL CONST.

NEW WALL CONST.

NEW 3 HR. FIRE RATED WALL

NEW I HR FIRE RATED WALL

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

1/21/97 A SSUE FOR CONSTRUCTION
1/06/96 A BSUE FOR ADDRESSM NO. 1
10/19/96 BSUE FOR BD
09/18/96 BSUE FOR PRECAST CONC. RD
09/18/96 BSUE FOR PREMIT
09/18/96 BSUE FOR OWNER REVIEW

DATE NO. REVISION

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Northwestern University

DYCHE STADIUM

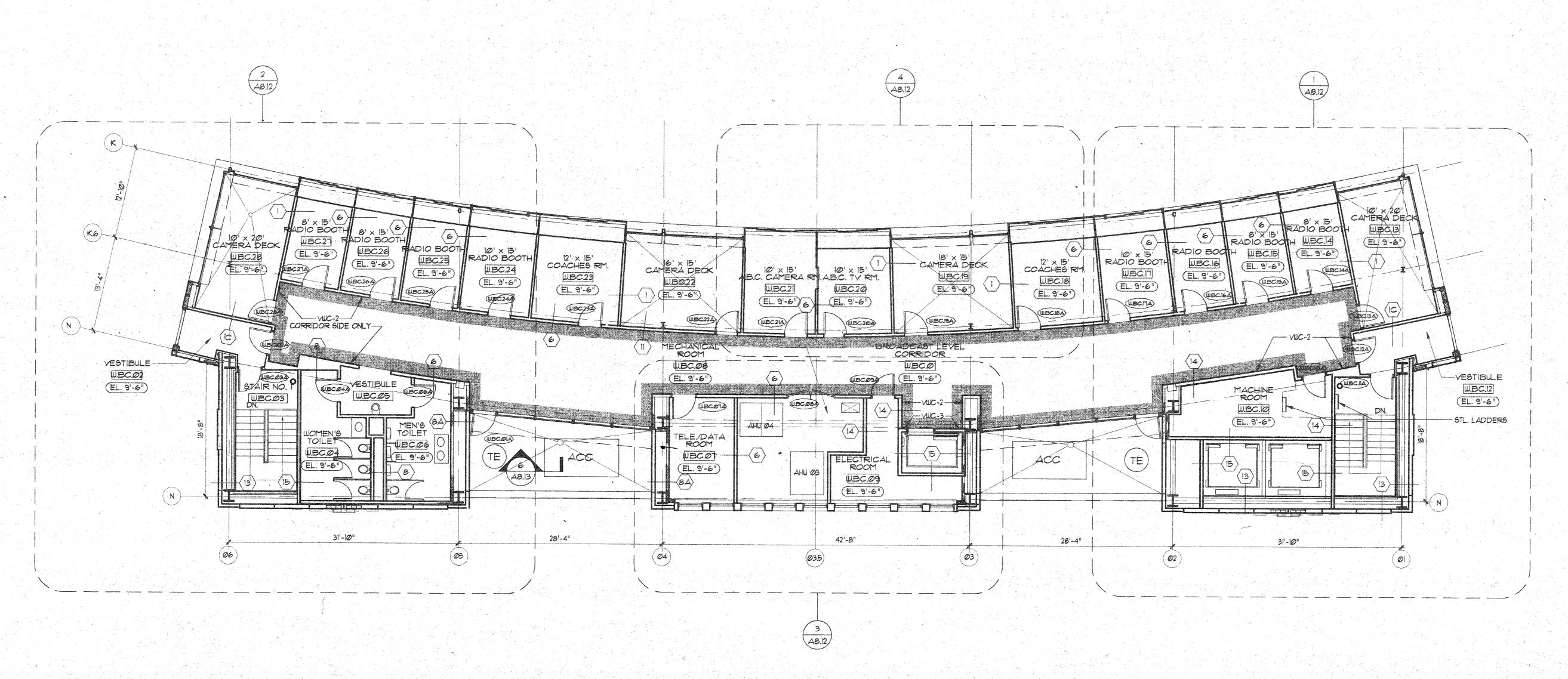
RENOVATION

PRESS BOX PLANS

DATE: 10/18/96 S

SCALE: 1/8" = 1-0"

G+S JOB NO: 9600



PRESS BOX BROADCAST LEVEL PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

PRESS BOX ROOF PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" =1'-0"

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Civil Engineers

Carol Naughton + Associates

Signage/Graphics

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

01/21/97 ISSUE FOR CONSTRUCTION 09/18/96 ISSUE FOR PRECAST CONC. BID 09/13/96 ISSUE FOR PERMIT 09/13/96 ISSUE FOR OWNER REVIEW

DATE NO. REVISION P:\P9600\CD\_PHASE\PLAN\QVERALL\A3.24.DWG

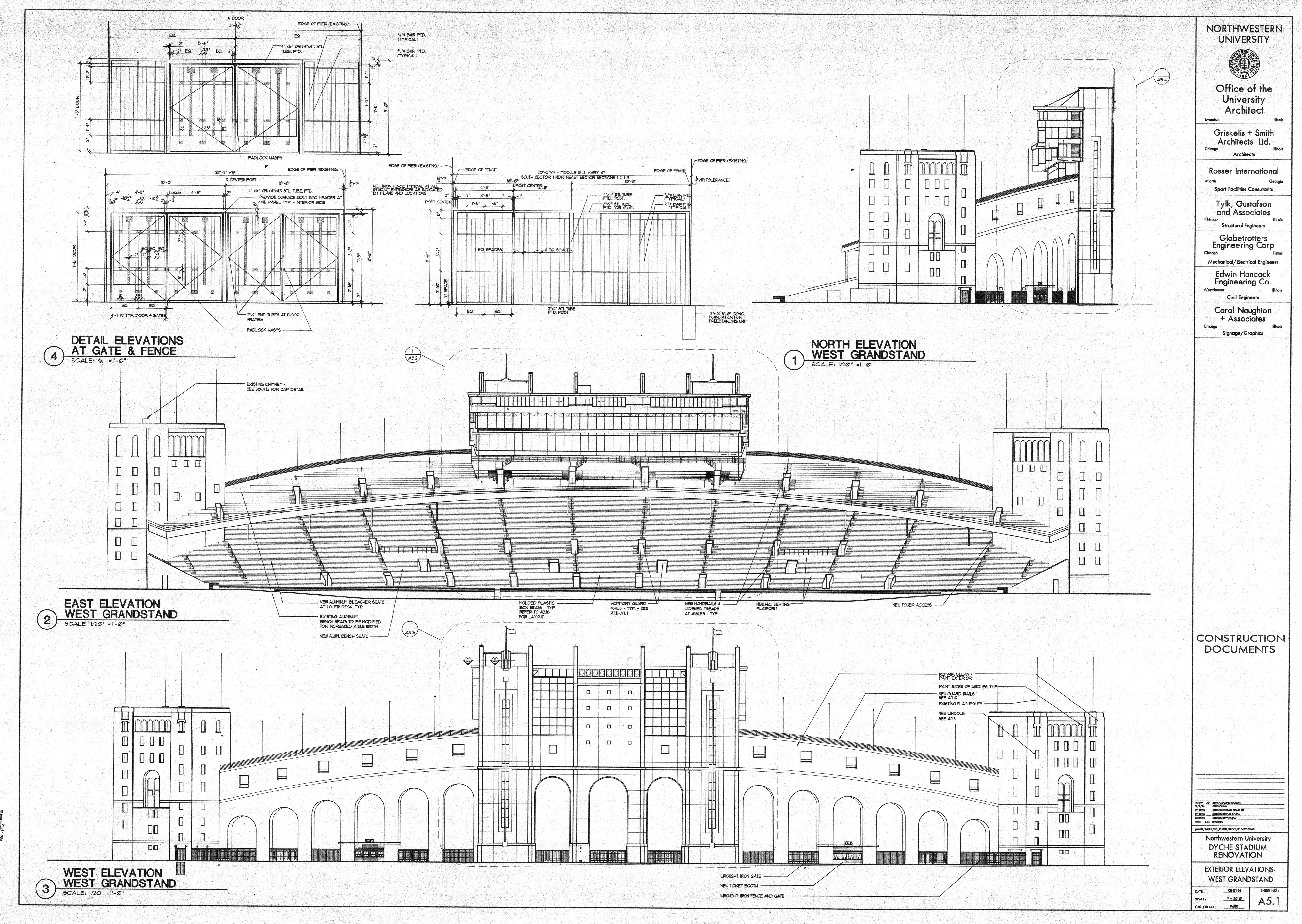
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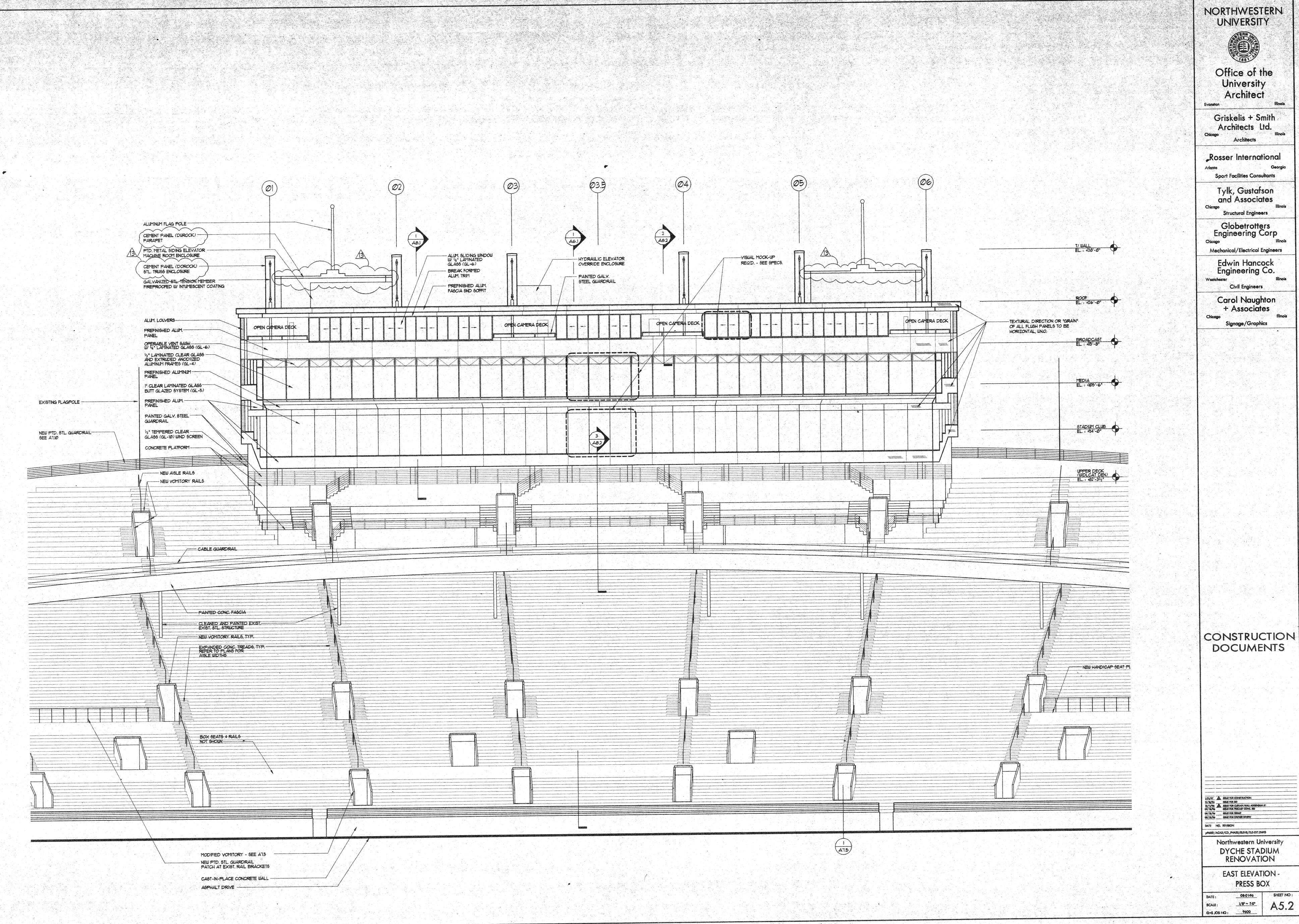
Northwestern University DYCHE STADIUM RENOVATION

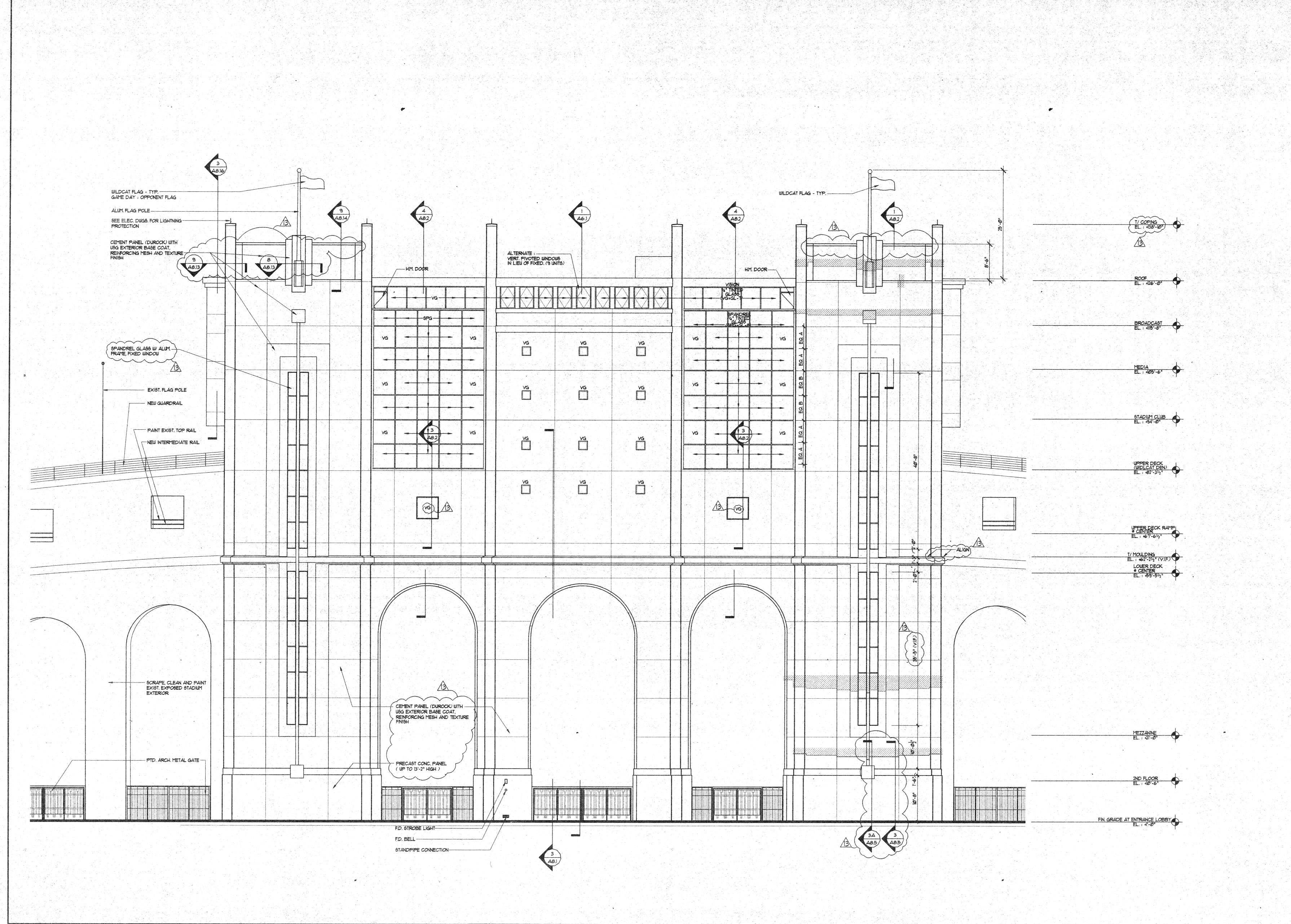
PRESS BOX PLAN

9/13/96 1/8" - 1'-0" G+S JOB NO : 9600

A3.24







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Edwin Hancock

Engineering Co.

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+ Associates

Chicago Illia Signage/Graphics

CONSTRUCTION
DOCUMENTS

DATE NO. REVISION
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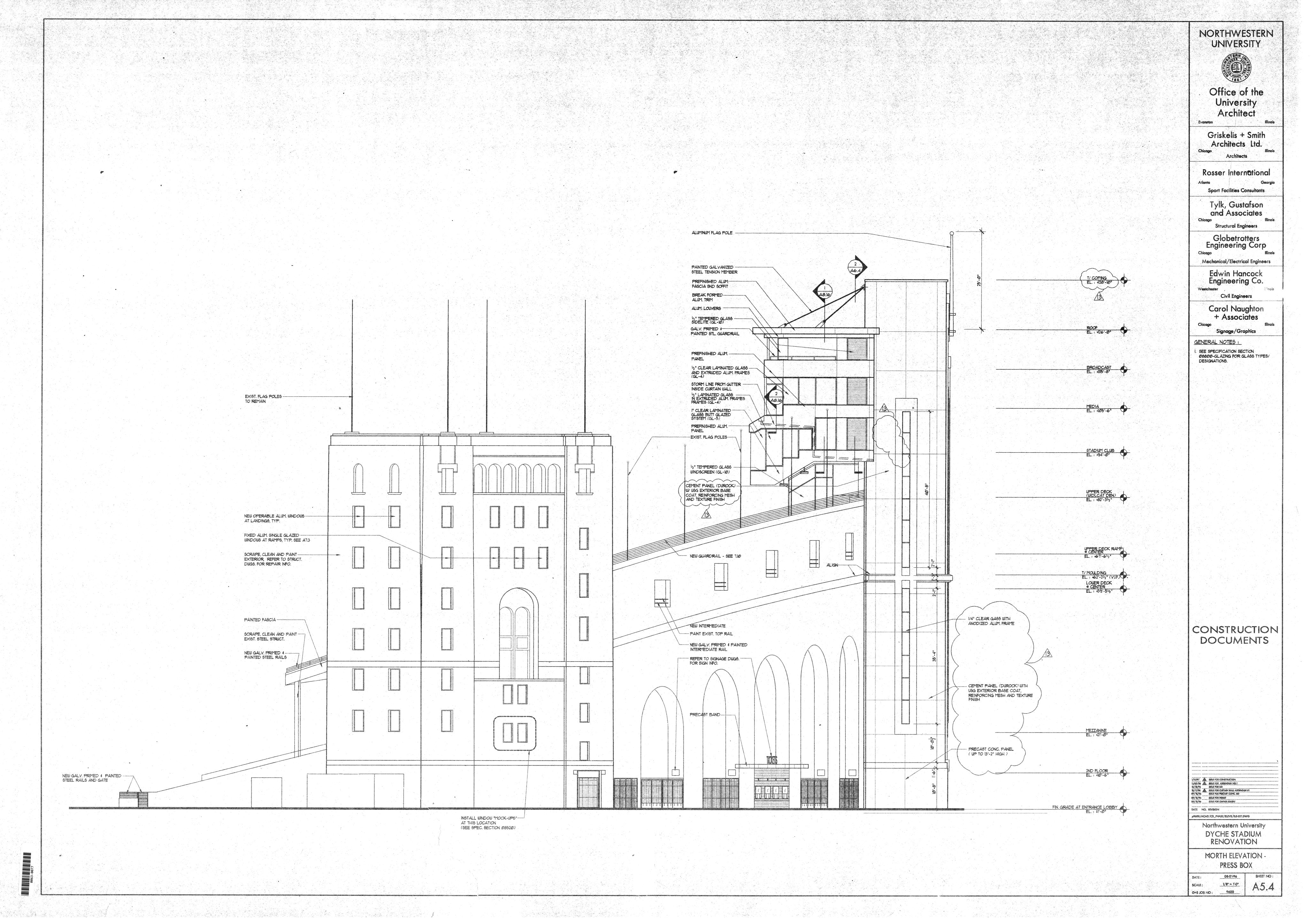
Northwestern University
DYCHE STADIUM
RENOVATION

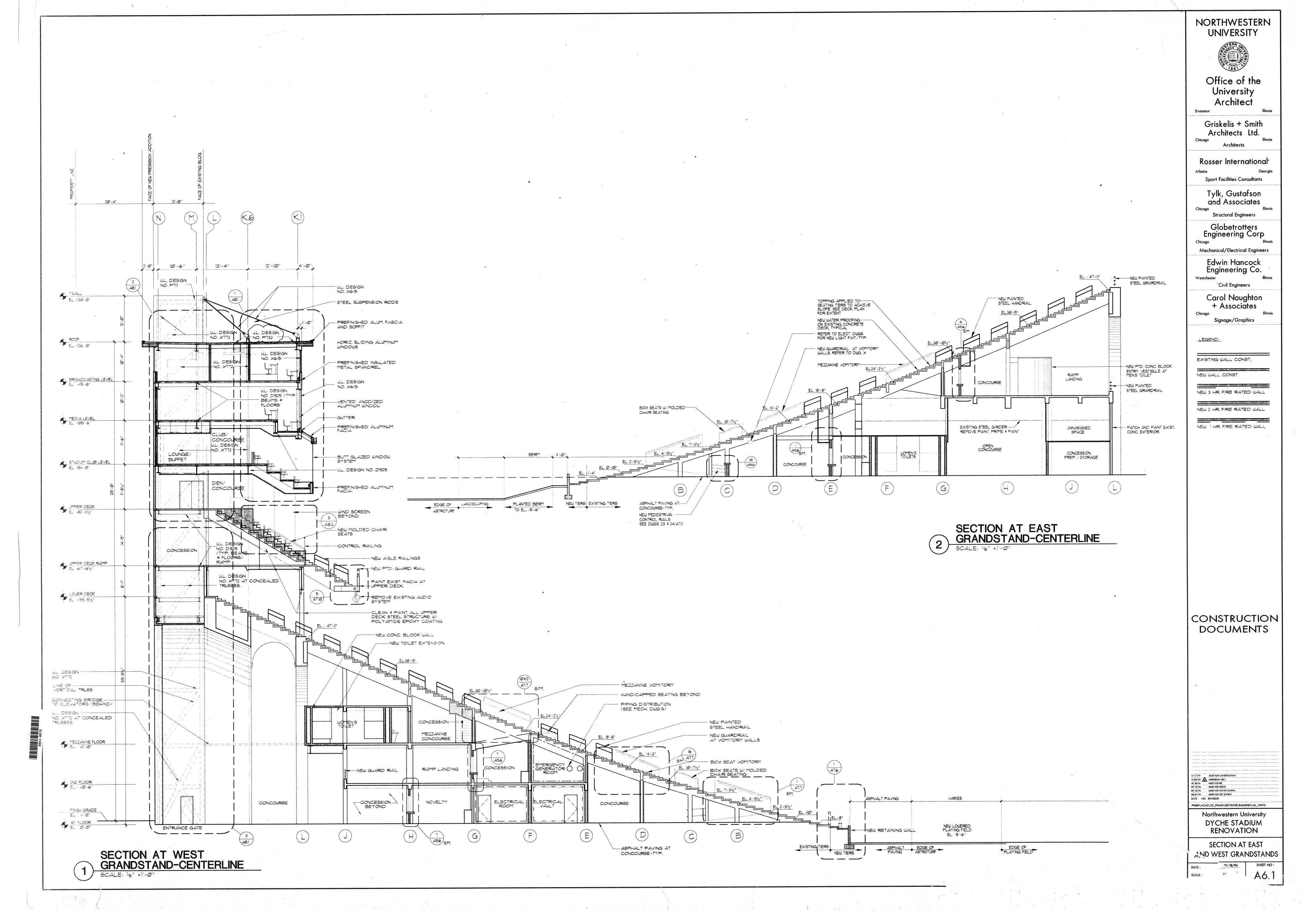
PRESS BOX

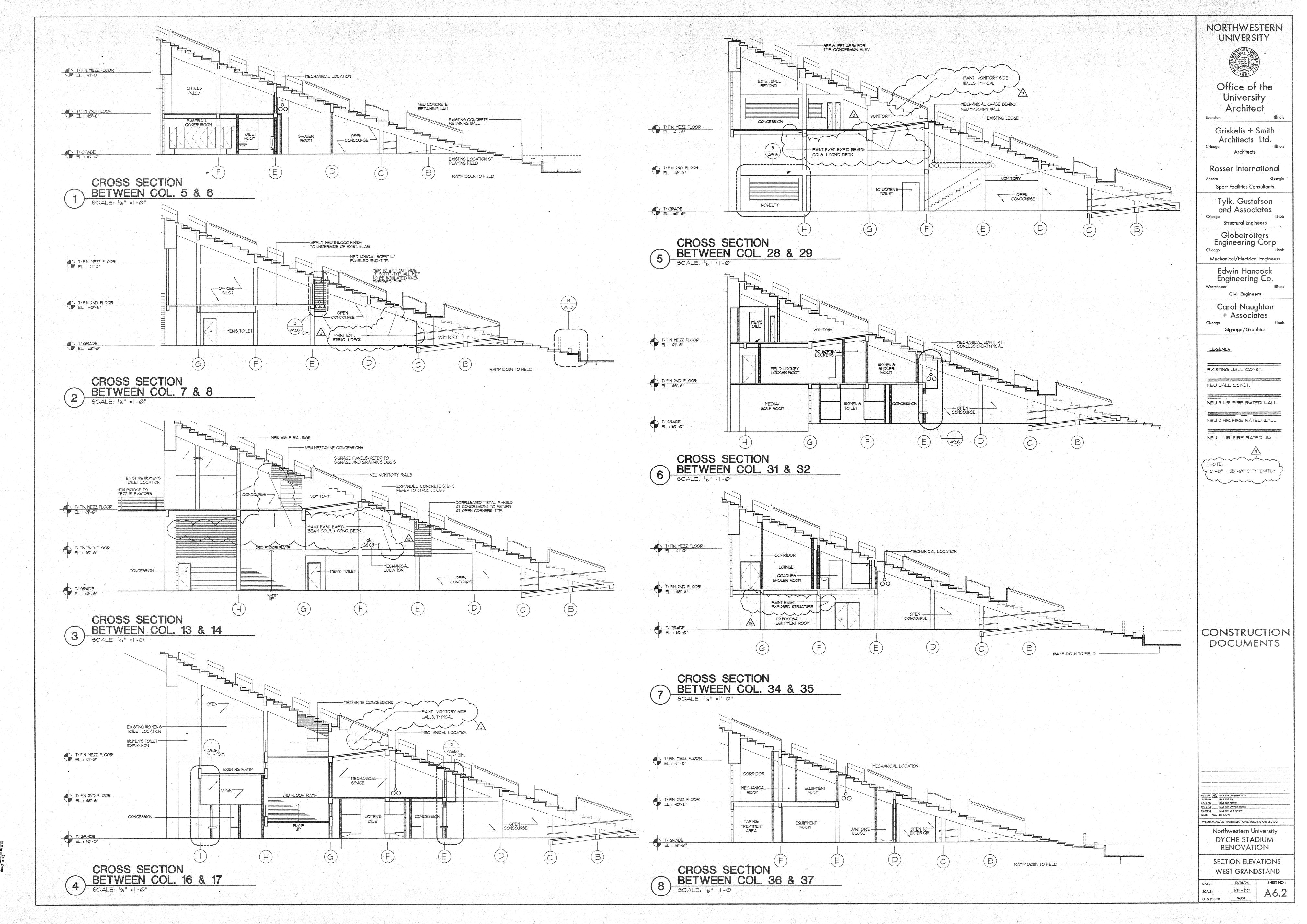
DATE: 08-01-96 SHEET NO:

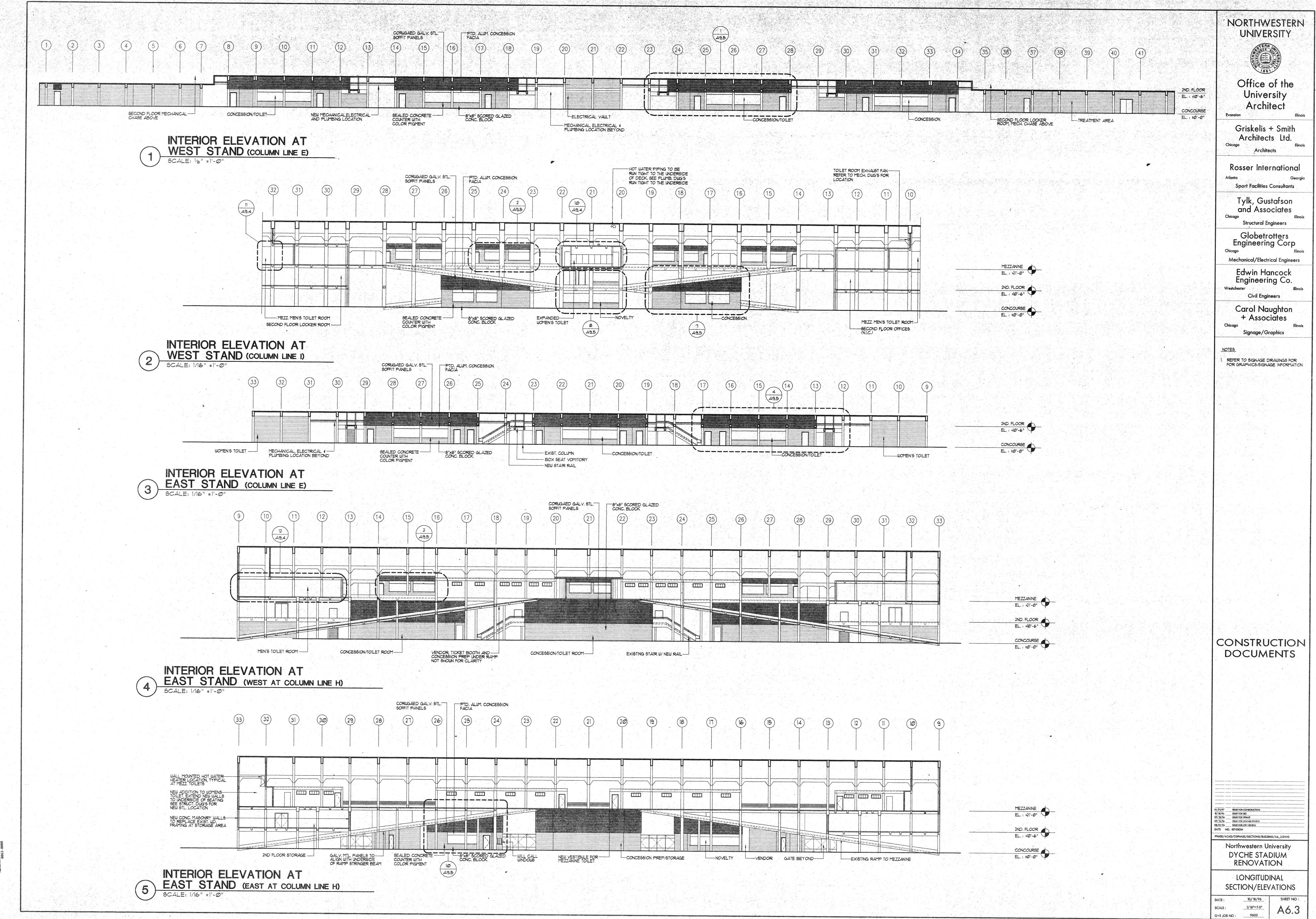
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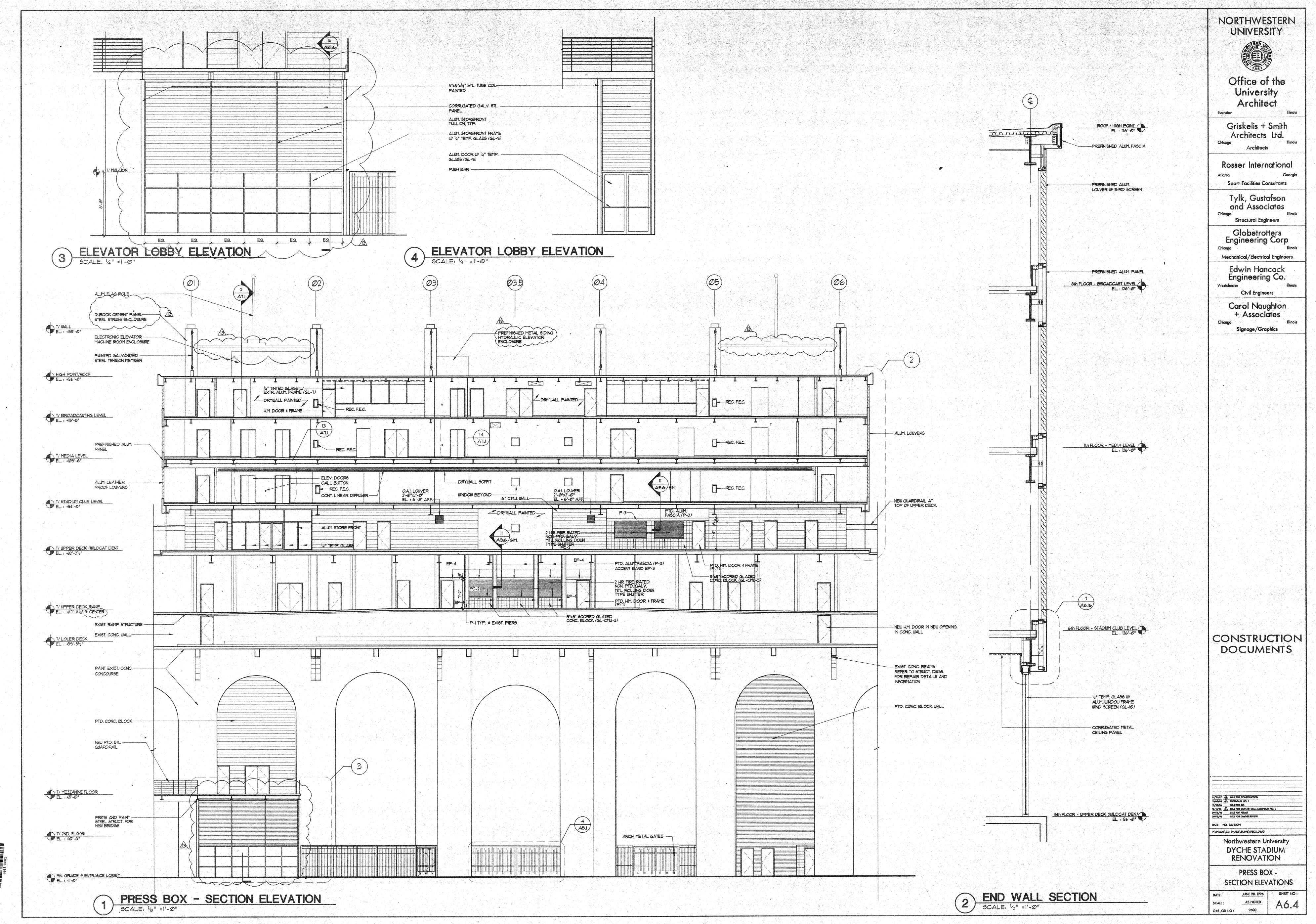
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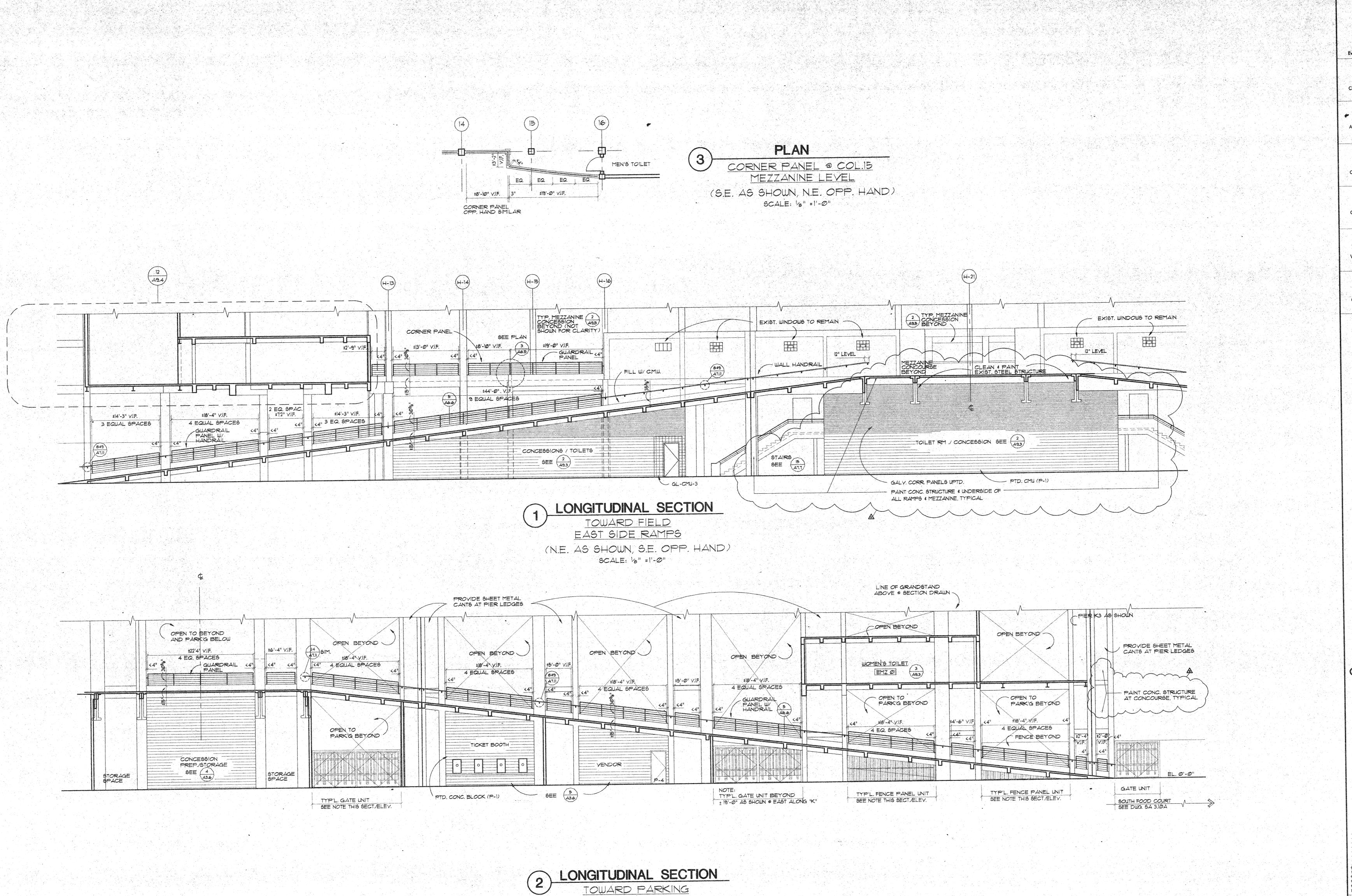












EAST SIDE RAMPS

SCALE: 1/8" =1'-0"

(S.E. AS SHOWN, N.E. OPP. HAND)

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CONSTRUCTION

SSUE FOR CONSTRUCTION

10/18/96 ISSUE FOR BID

09/13/96 ISSUE FOR PERMIT

09/13/96 ISSUE FOR OWNER REVIEW

08/01/96 ISSUE FOR CITY REVIEW

DATE NO. REVISION

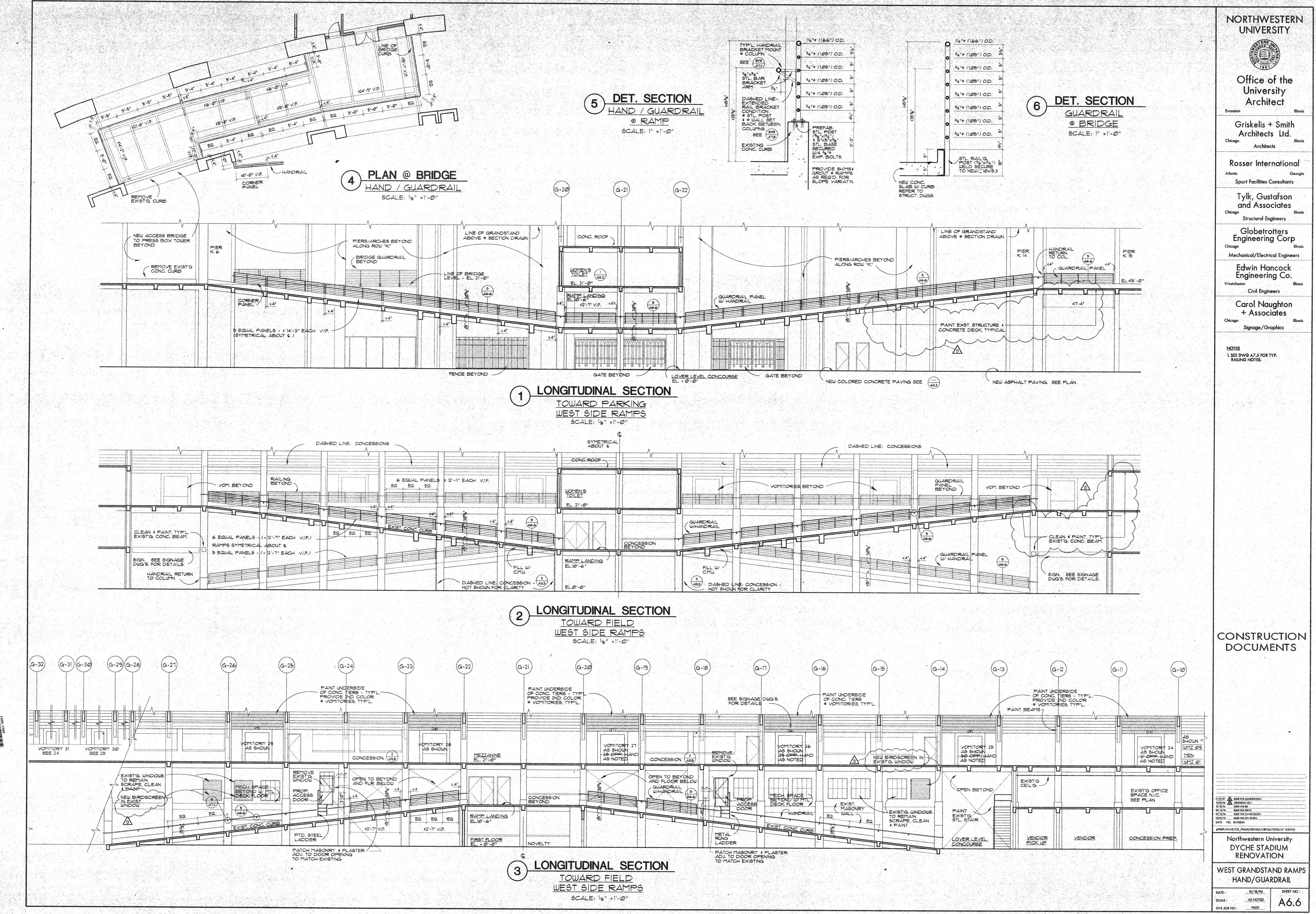
Northwestern University
DYCHE STADIUM
RENOVATION

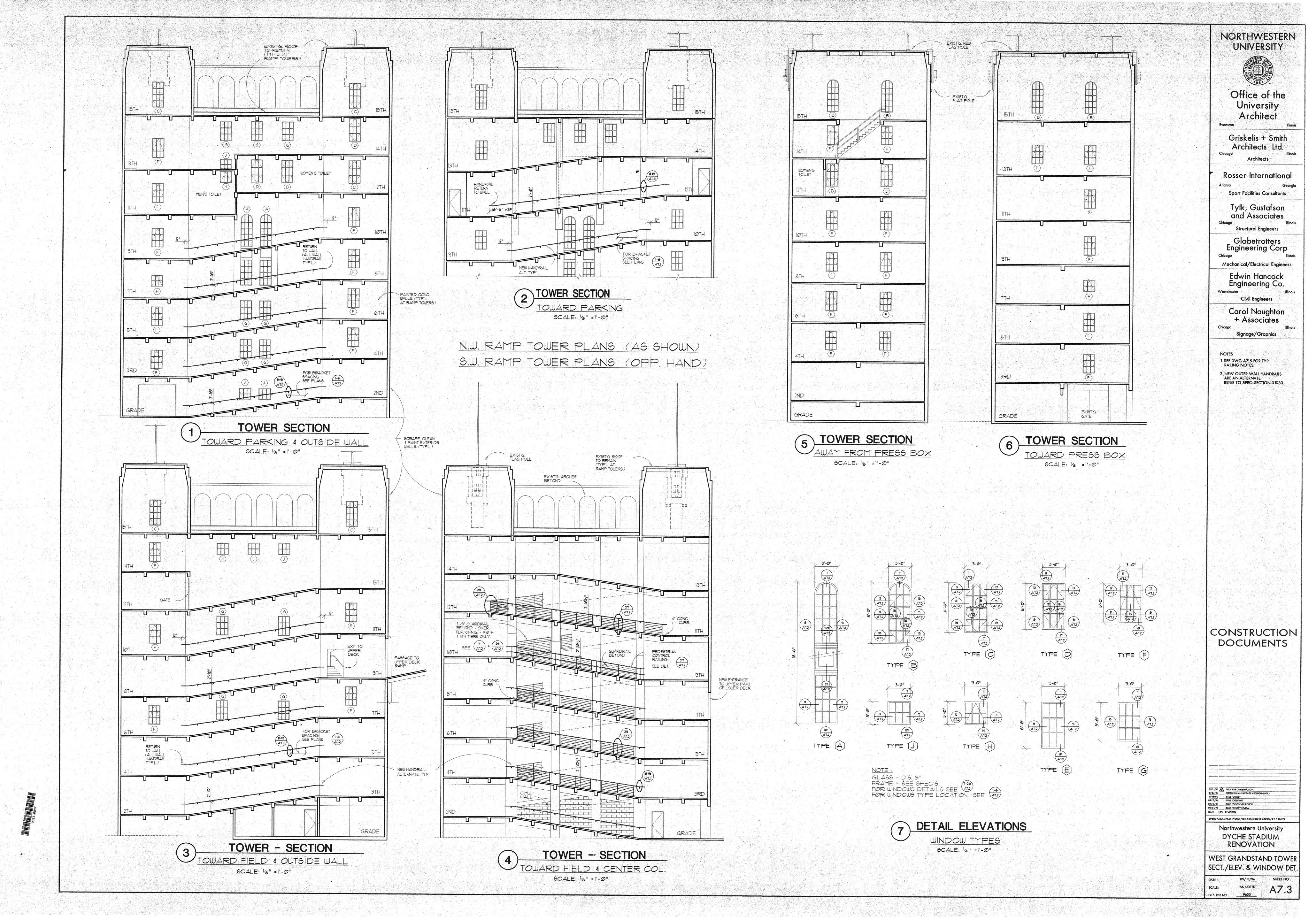
EAST GRANDSTAND RAMPS HANDRAIL/GUARDRAIL

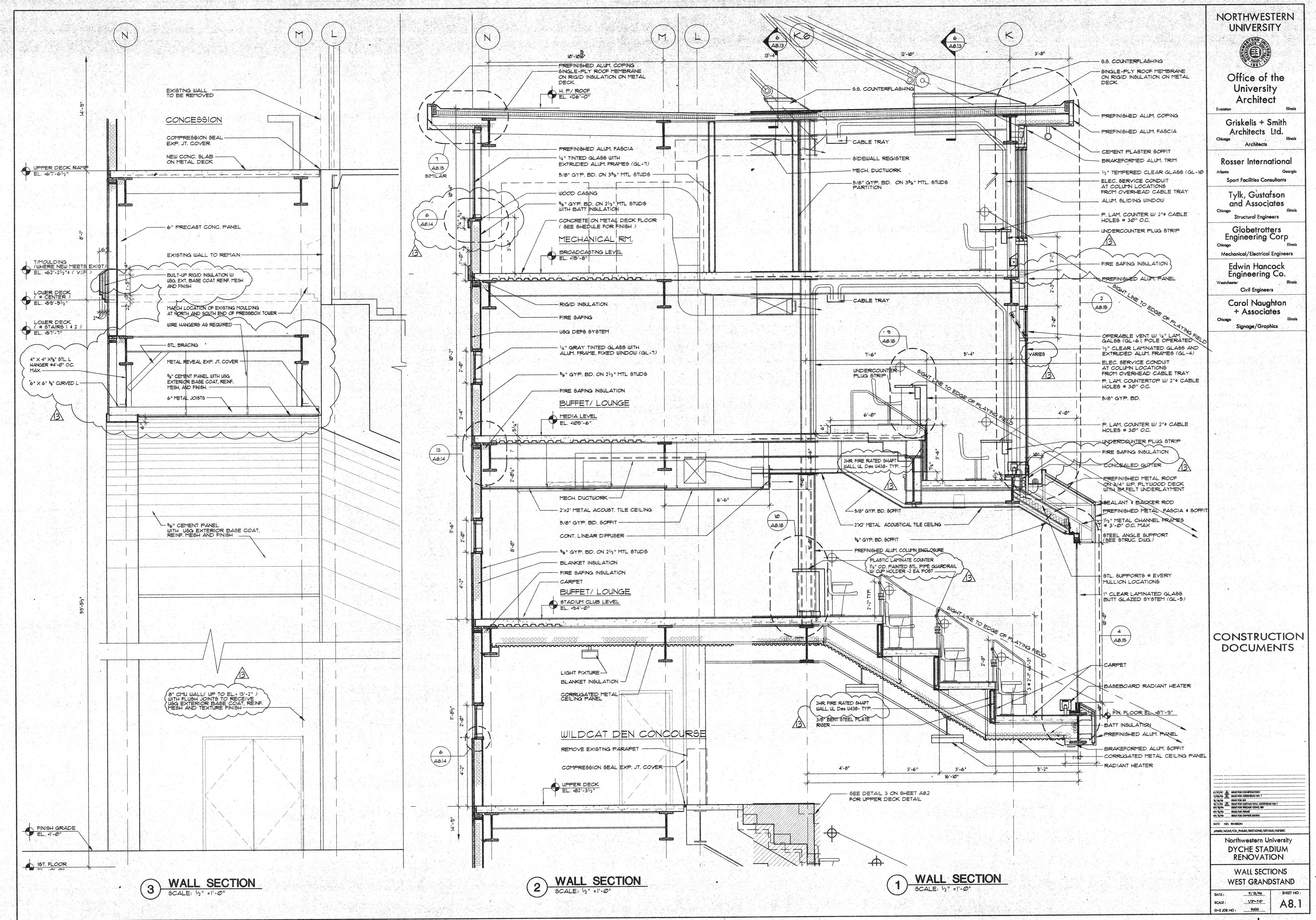
DATE: 10/18/96 SHEET

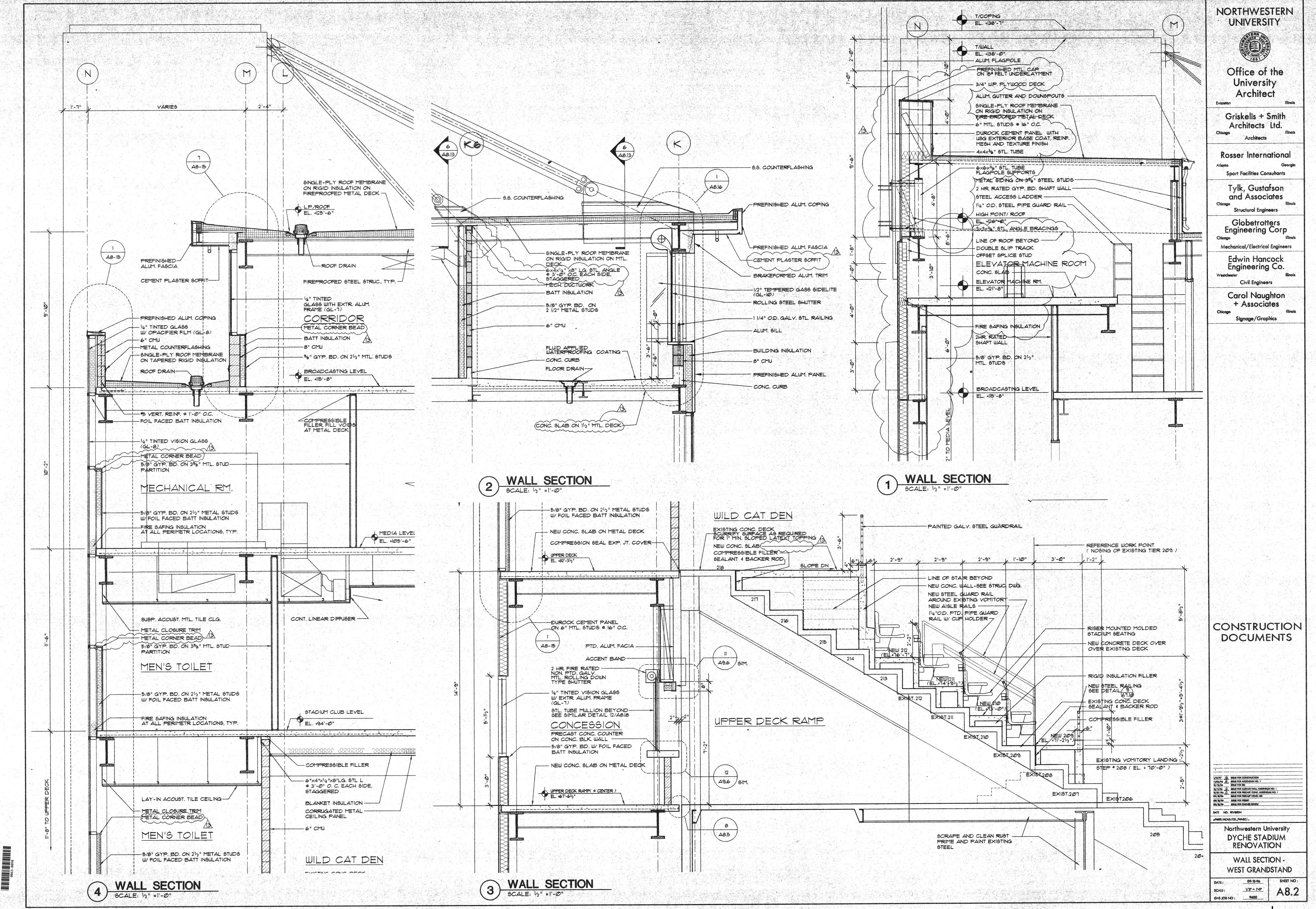
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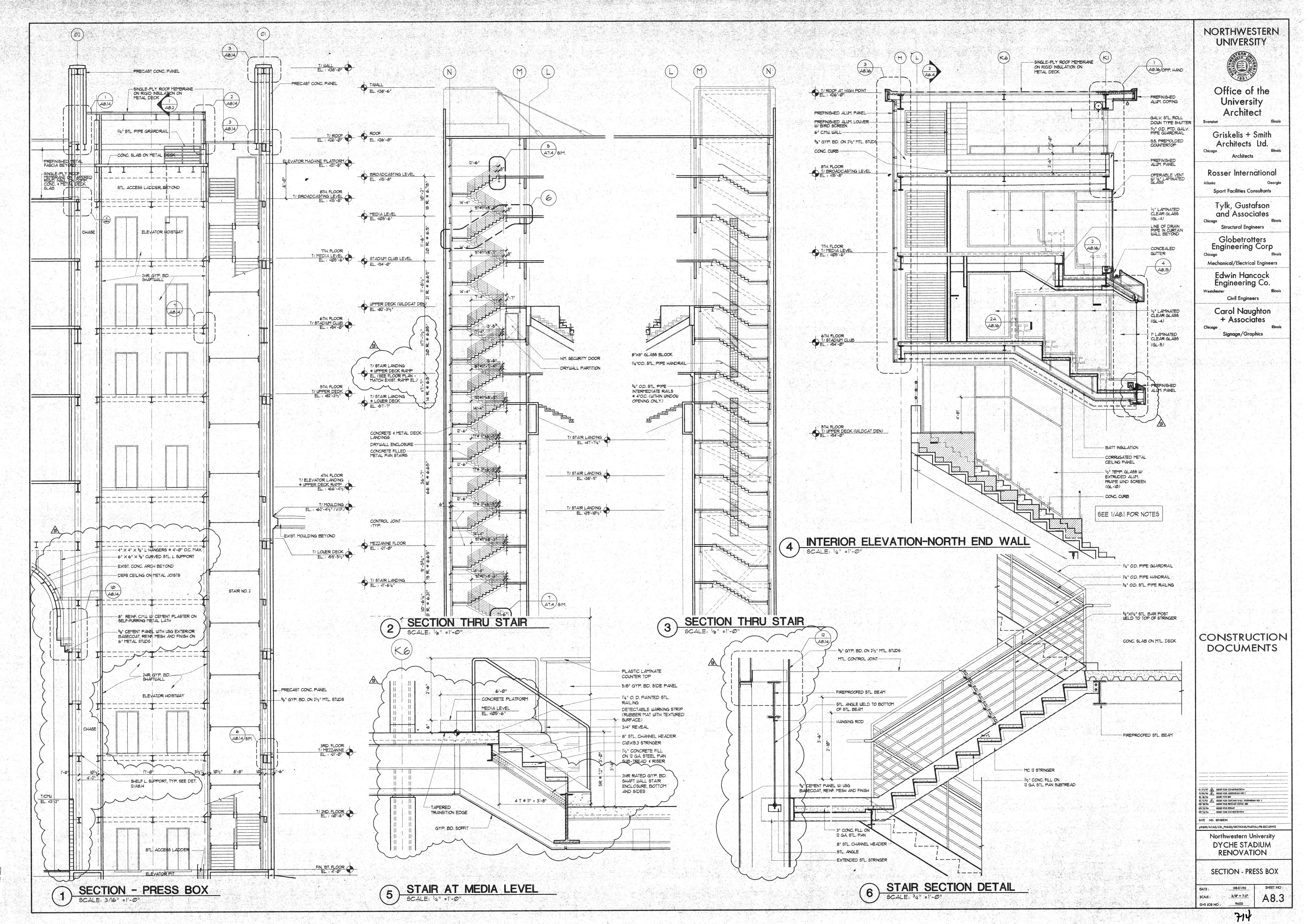
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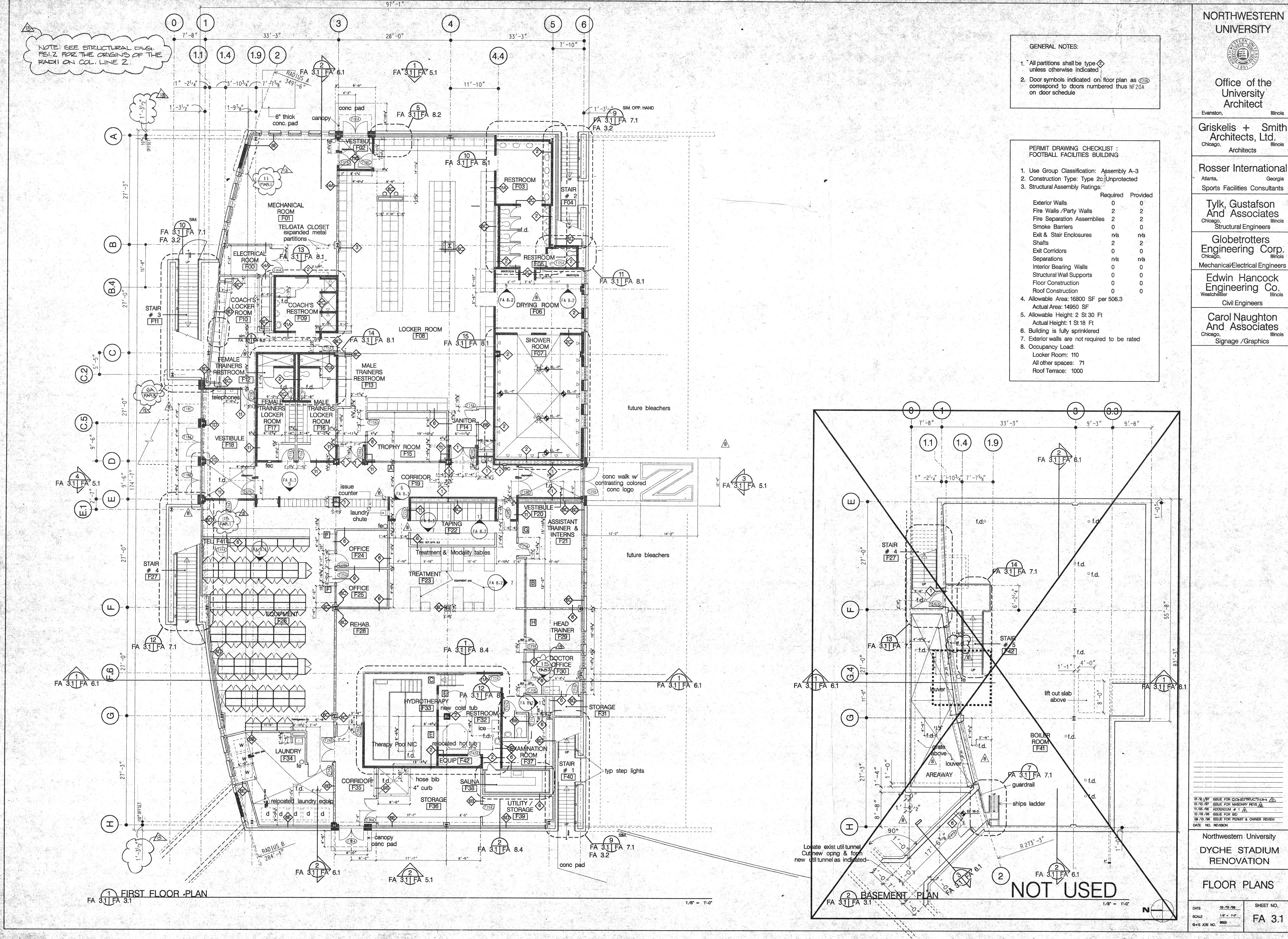












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Rosser International Sports Facilities Consultants

Structural Engineers Globetrotters

Engineering Corp. Chicago, Illinois Mechanical/Electrical Engineers

Edwin Hancock Engineering Co.
Westchester Illinois

Civil Engineers

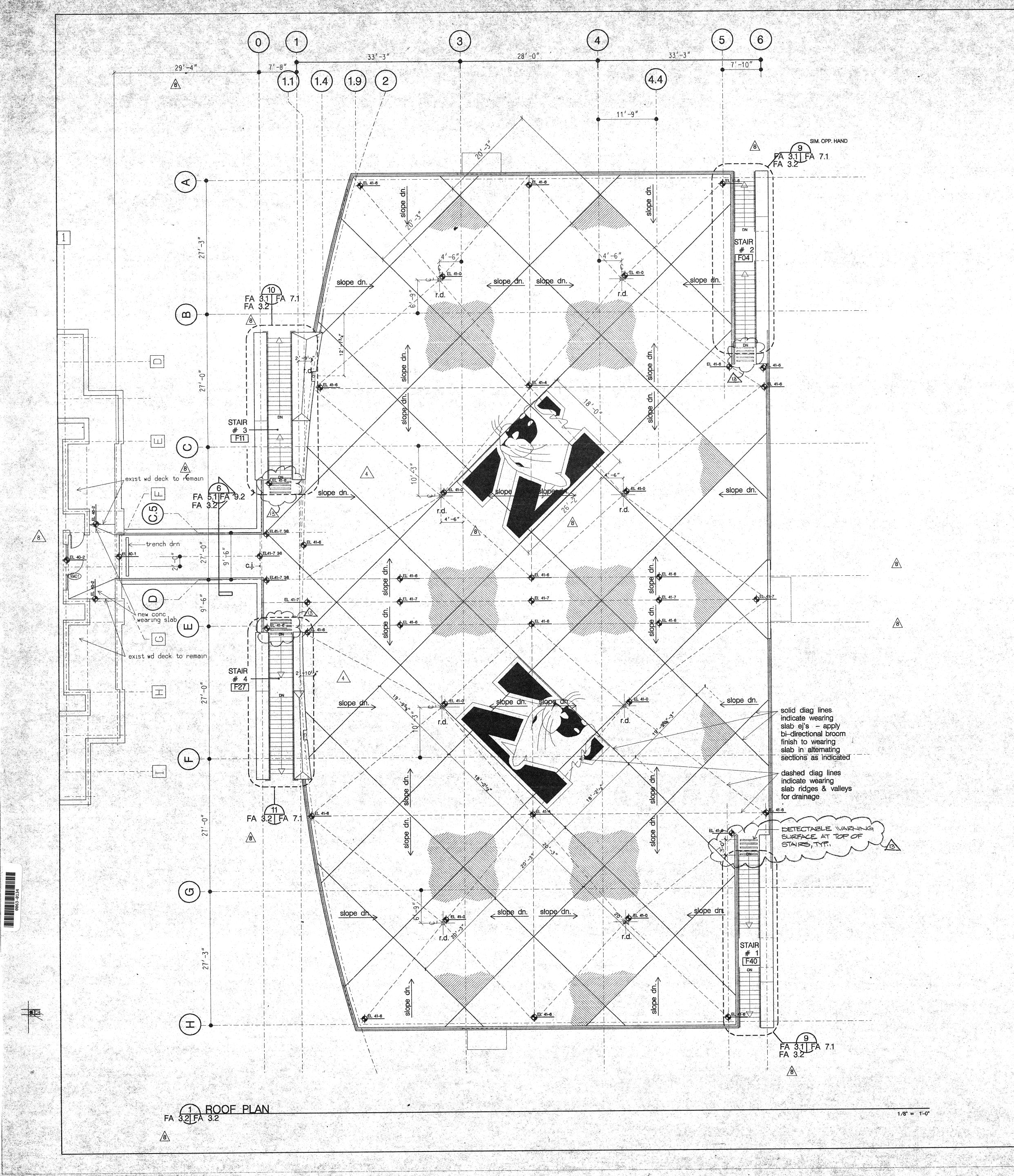
Carol Naughton And Associates

01/2 | 97 | ISSUE FOR CONSTRUCTION (3)
01/13/97 | ISSUE FOR MASONRY REVS (2)
11/05/96 | ADDENDUM # 1 (8)
10/18/96 | ISSUE FOR BID
09/13/96 | ISSUE FOR PERMIT & OWNER REVIEW

DYCHE STADIUM

FLOOR PLANS

FA 3.1

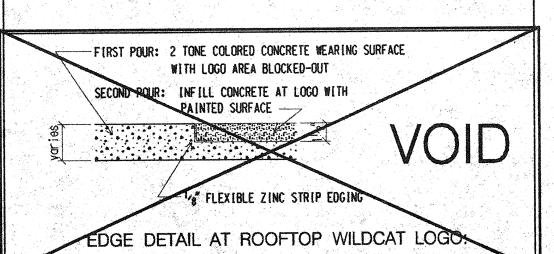


CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE AT EXIST BLDG:

- 1. REMOVE EXIST ALUM FRAME TO 8'10" AFF
  REMOVE EXIST BASEBOARD WALL HEATER
  SAWCUT CONC WALL TO TOP OF SLAB-REMOVE
  SECTION APPROX 9'-4" W x 2'-6" H
- 2. SAWCUT EXIST CONC /MAS PARAPET AND RAIL EXPOSE EXIST 12WF27 STL BM
- 3. INSTALL NEW BRIDGE STRUCT PER STRUCT DOCUMENTS
- 4. PATCH DAMAGED WATERPROOFING AND INSTALL NEW CONC WEARING SLAB TO ELEVS SHOWN
- 5. POUR NEW 3" CONC CURB AND INTERIOR
- WHEELCHAIR RAMP- REWORK EXIST FLR FINS TO MATCH
- 6. INSTALL NEW ALUM SF FRAME AND DOORS
- 7. WORK NEW CONC SLOPES TO DRAIN TO NEW TRENCH DRAIN

ROOFTOP WILDCAT LOGO:

- 1. LOGO IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY AND THE NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS AND RECREATION.
- 2. SECURE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRIOR TO LAYOUT
- 3. LOGO TEMPLATE (ELECTRONIC FORM) MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE STADIUM DIRECTOR 847-491-7887
- 4. LOGO SHALL BE PAINTED:
  LINES AND OUTLINES : 2" WIDE STRIPE; BLACK
  INFILL : PURPLE PMS 266



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

> Office of the University Architect

Griskelis + Smith
Architects, Ltd.
Chicago, Architects

Rosser International

Atlanta, Georgia

Sports Facilities Consultants

Tylk, Gustafson And Associates Chicago, Illinois Structural Engineers

Structural Engineers

Globetrotters

Engineering Corp.

Chicago, Illinois

Mechanical/Electrical Engineers

Edwin Hancock Engineering Co. Westchester Illinois

Civil Engineers

Carol Naughton
And Associates

Signage /Graphics

1/21/97 155UE FOR COLISTRUCTION AS
11/05/96 ADDENDUM # 1/8
10/18/96 ISSUE FOR BID
10/7/96 ISSUE FOR PRECAST PRICING ADD NO.1
09/13/96 ISSUE FOR PERMIT & OWNER REVIEW
DATE NO. REVISION

Northwestern University

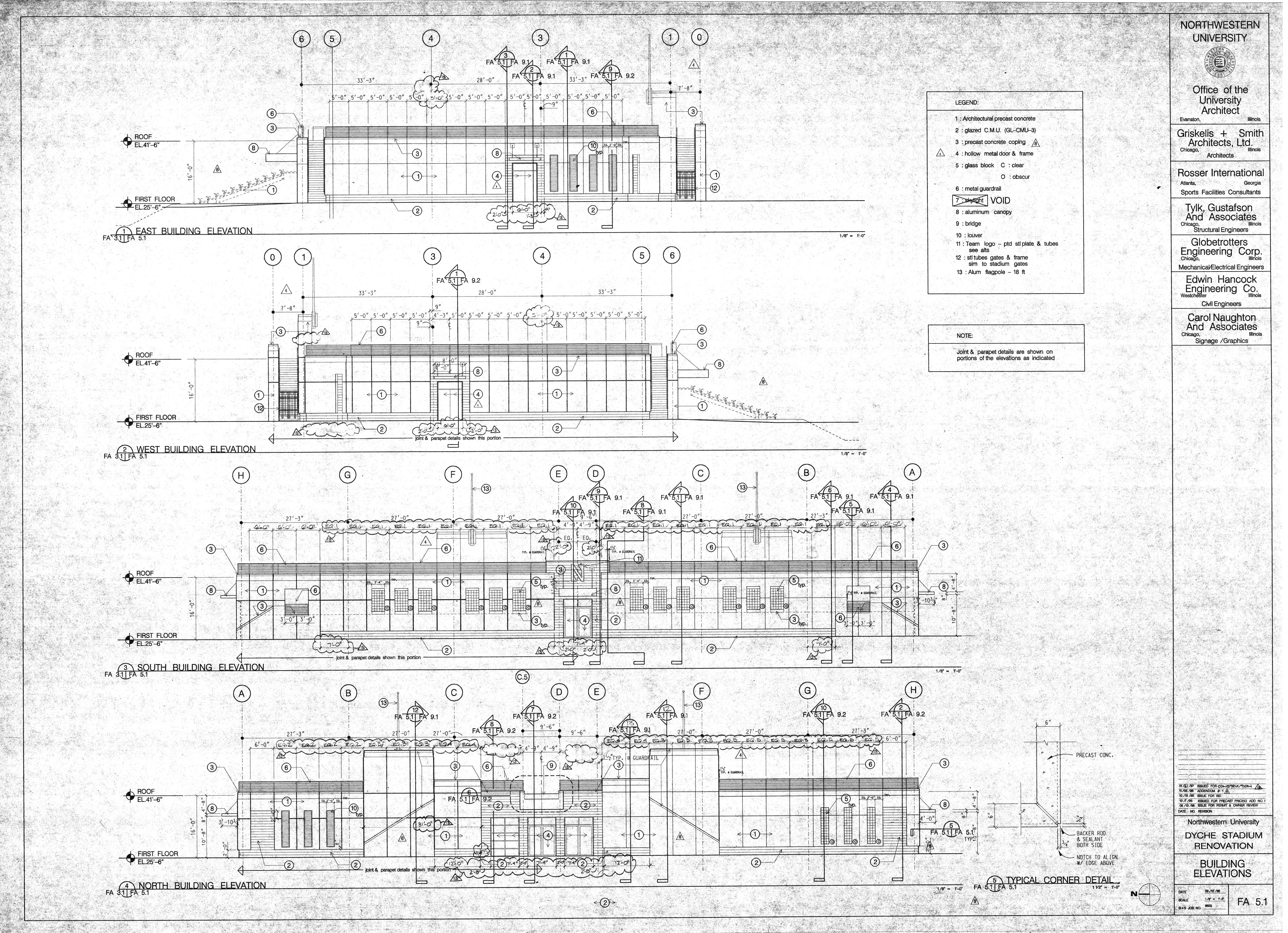
DYCHE STADIUM RENOVATION

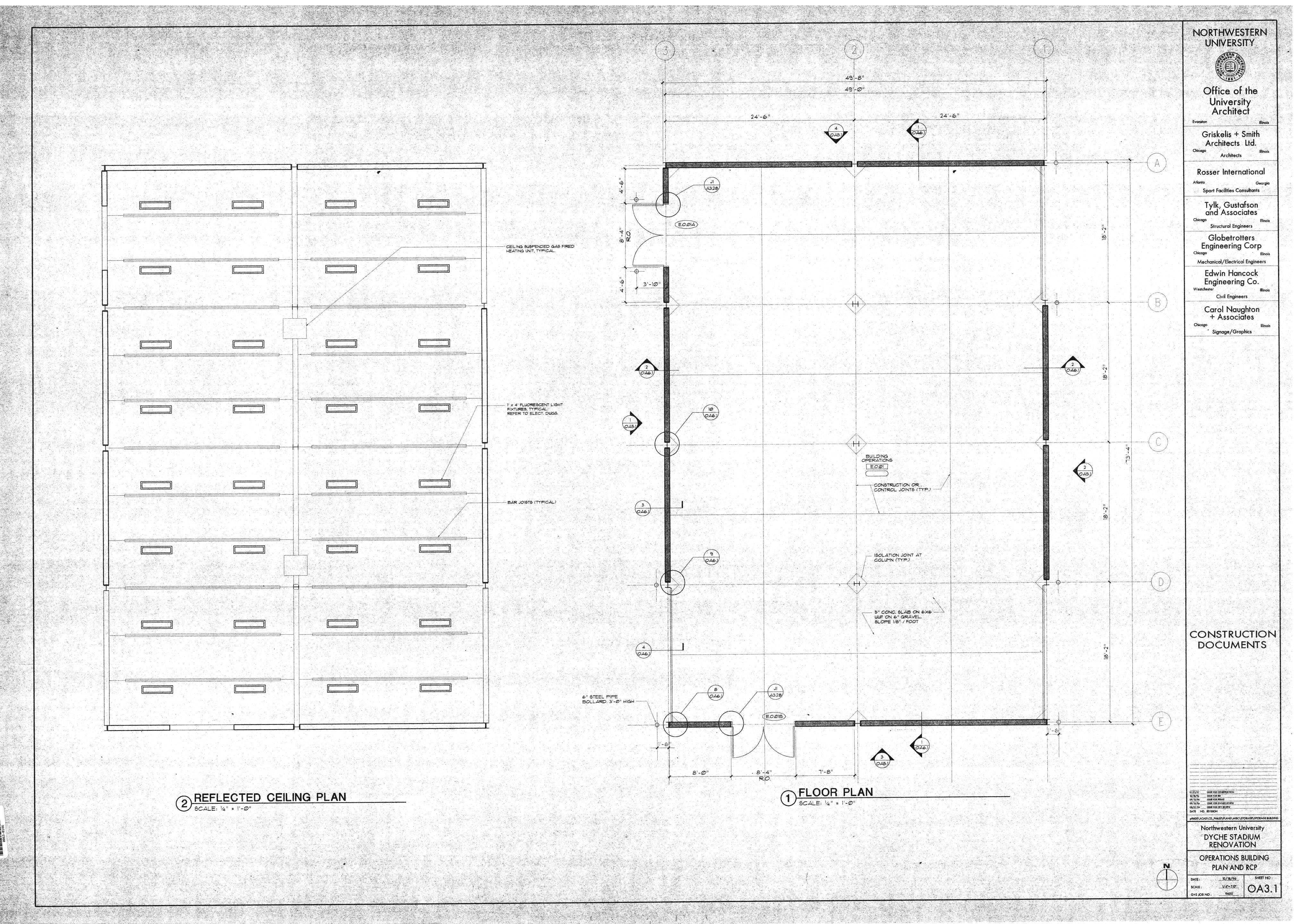
ROOF PLAN

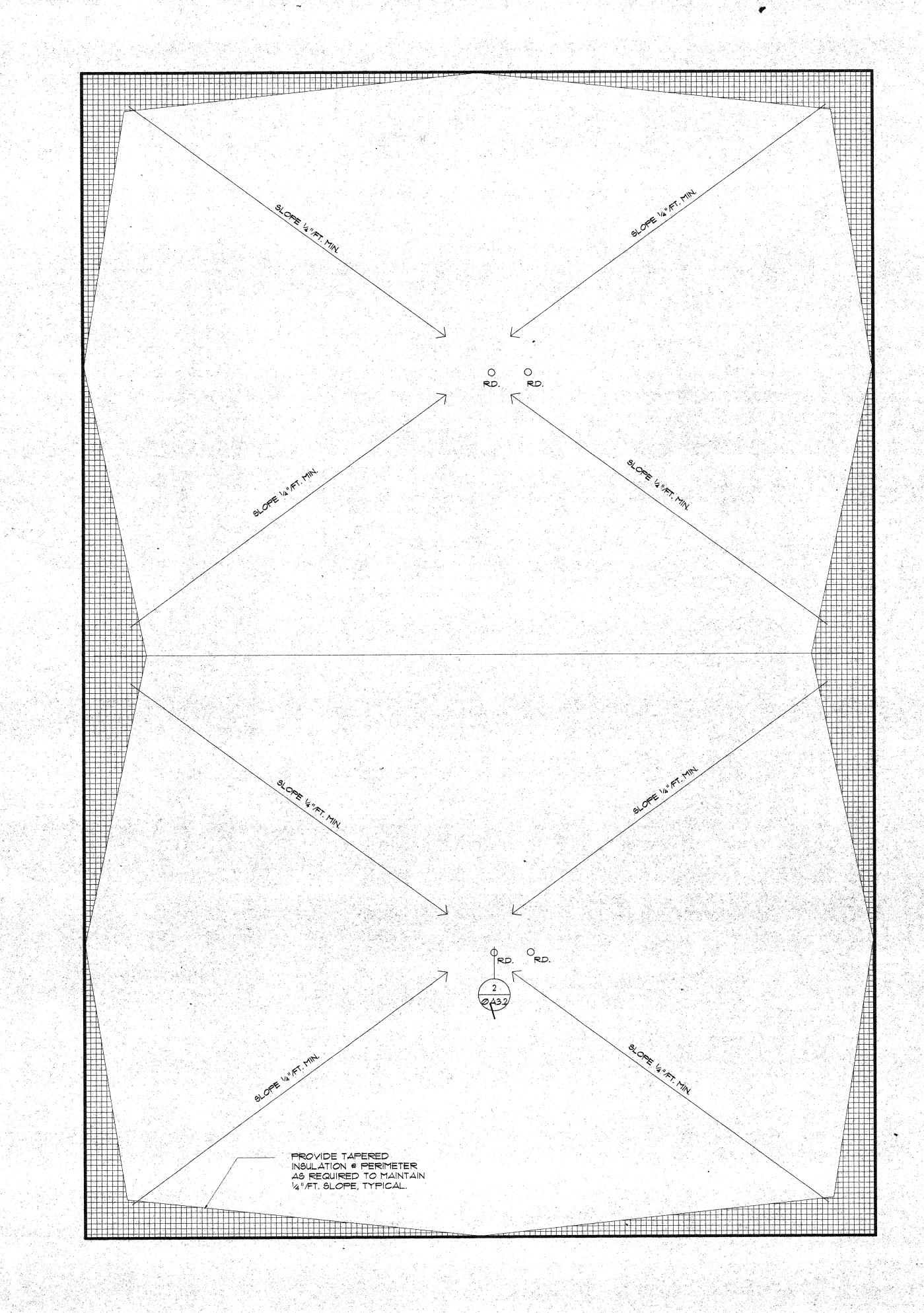
DATE 09 /13 /98

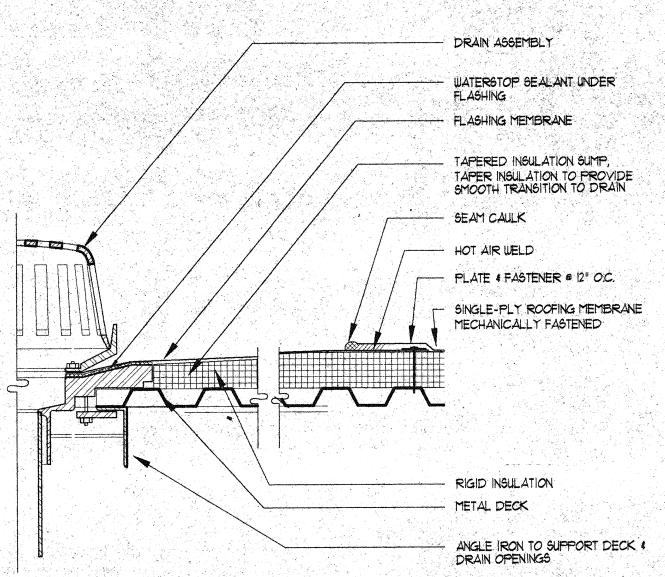
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

G+S JOB NO. 9600









2) ROOF DRAIN DETAIL

ROOF PLAN

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

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Engineering Corp
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Mechanical/Electrical Engineers
Edwin Hancock

Edwin Hancock Engineering Co. Vestchester Illing Civil Engineers

Carol Naughton + Associates

Signage/Graphics "

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

01/21/97 ISSUE FOR CONSTRUCTION
10/18/96 ISSUE FOR BID
09/13/96 ISSUE FOR PERMIT
09/13/96 ISSUE FOR OWNER REVIEW
08/01/96 ISSUE FOR CITY REVIEW
DATE NO. REVISION

P960D\ACAD\CD\_PHASE\PLANS\MISC\STORAGE\STORAGE BUILDIN

Northwestern University

DYCHE STADIUM

RENOVATION

OPERATIONS BUILDING

ROOF PLAN & DETAILS

DATE: 10/18/96 SHEET.NO:
SCALE: 1/4"=1-0" A 2

