

**Geoffrey Katz, Landscape Architect**

# RIDERVILLE FAN PLAZA<sub>at REGINA REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE STADIUM</sub>

Regina, Saskatchewan

Completion Date: June 2017

Riderville Fan Plaza is the plaza at the northeast entrance to the Regina Revitalization Initiative (RRI) Stadium. The plaza was designed as the focus of identity and activity for Roughriders fans before and after games. The RRI Stadium will be the new home of the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League (CFL).

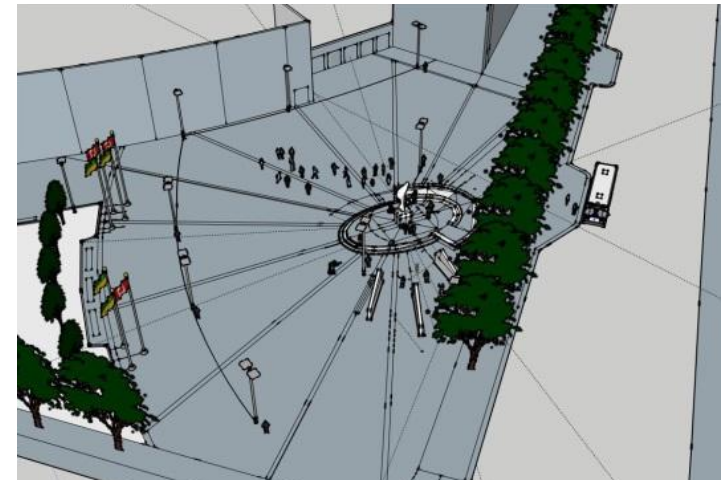
Design of the plaza was inspired by the insight that the plaza had the potential to become a major urban space in Regina. Layout of the plaza was inspired and informed by Piazza del Campo, Sienna, Italy, as well as Kings Centre, Sacramento, California, Rogers Centre, Toronto, Lincoln Centre, New York City, and other CFL and major league sports venues.

The plaza is an open space bounded by the RRI stadium building to the southwest, 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue extension on the north, and Elphinstone Boulevard (and the Logan Centre) on the east. The north and east edges of the plaza are further defined by standard city sidewalks, street lights, and street trees of species American Elm, a species that is heavily planted throughout the city and helps define the character of the city.

Within the plaza a central platform supports a decorative monument (statue). A bosque of Tree Lilacs creates a shady counterpoint to the monument on the south side of the plaza. The surface of the plaza slopes slightly down toward the central platform. The surface is city standard poured concrete but contains lines of black-coloured concrete radiating from the central platform.



Roughriders Fan Plaza under construction August 2016



Roughriders Fan Plaza digital study model July 2016

Much as the divisions between the radiating lines at the Piazza del Campo represented the governing families of Siena at the time the piazza was laid out, the thirteen divisions between the radiating lines at the Roughriders Fan Plaza represent “the thirteenth man” or the team’s fan base. The shape of the oval monument platform is based on the proportions of a CFL football and echoes the oval shape of the stadium building.

The platform was located to provide a visual connection into the stadium – for “photo ops” of the statue with the stadium behind – and for views of the statue from within the stadium. The platform is accessible and provides seatwalls and “seatsteps”. The monument statue was created by a well-known artist.

The radiating lines in the plaza provide overall coherence to the plaza space by “pointing” to the monument. The radiating lines articulate the plaza space by creating a sense of rhythm and progression as one moves across the space from the north east and east edges to the stadium northeast entrance, or in the reverse direction.

Key considerations in layout of the plaza were different event scenarios (games, shows, exhibitions, as well as everyday use), pedestrian/crowd flows, vehicle movement and parking, transit use, emergency access, grading and drainage, location of utilities, personal safety and security, accessibility, lighting, planting, and maintenance.

**with AECOM Canada Architects Ltd.**



Roughriders logo



Roughriders Fan Plaza marketing image based on digital model November 2016