



Ron Labinski

Architect

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Who is Ron Labinski?

Ron is the first architect to specialize in sports and then build an entire division of large firms around it.

He is also the first architect to incorporate club seats into a design that changed the fan experience and increased revenue.

Ron set himself apart from others by marketing directly to teams and owners, regularly attending league meetings and stadium managers' conferences – one of the founding members of SMA and the SMA Foundation.



Ron Labinski with Past SMA Foundation Board President, Todd Stewart

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Among his
many
projects...



Alamodome – San Antonio, TX
Angel Stadium of Anaheim– Anaheim, CA
Arrowhead Stadium – Kansas City, MO
Bank of America Stadium – Charlotte, NC
Cleveland Browns Stadium – Cleveland, OH
Cotton Bowl Renovation – Dallas, TX
Manchester Velodrome National Cycling Center – Manchester, UK
Eden Park Extension – Auckland, New Zealand
Edward Jones Dome – St. Louis, MO
EverBank Field – Jacksonville, FL
FedEx Field – Landover, MD
Giants Stadium– The Meadowlands, NY
Hong Kong Stadium – Hong Kong
Liberty Bowl Improvements – Memphis, TN
M&T Bank Stadium – Baltimore, MD

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Metrodome Capital Improvements Study – Minneapolis, MN

Mile High Stadium Renovation – Denver, CO

Oriole Park at Camden Yards - Baltimore, MD

Pilot Field – Buffalo, NY

Progressive Field – Cleveland, OH

Raymond James Stadium – Tampa, FL

RCA Dome Renovation – Indianapolis, IN

Soldier Field Renovations – Chicago, IL

Sun Life Stadium – Miami, FL

Tropicana Field – St. Petersburg, FL

Veterans Stadium Improvements – Philadelphia, PA

Wembley Stadium – London, UK

Westpac Stadium – Wellington, New Zealand

Wrigley Field Renovation – Chicago, IL

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Ron's Inspiration

Right place, right time: He had never designed a sports facility when he was recruited to work at the architectural firm building a sports complex for the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals.

Recognized potential business: In 1970, he made a list of every MLB and NFL stadium with details of when each was built and when the teams' lease agreements expired. By doing that, he saw a "bubble" that would create unprecedented stadium design opportunities beginning in the '90s.

Took advantage of the opportunity: He became a fixture at MLB and NFL meetings when no other architects were specializing in sports. When major projects began hitting the pipeline, Labinski was waiting.

Since Ron retired in 2010, he has focused his efforts on raising scholarship funds and mentoring professionals and students in the sports business and design industry. The Ron Labinski SMA Foundation Sports Scholarship was established in 2017 to honor Ron's work and support a yearly award to motivated students in the industry.





2017-2018 Scholarship Recipients

Keelee Armor (Left), Ron Labinski (Middle), Jessica LaRoussa (Right), not pictured (MacKenzie King)



I was honored to receive a Stadium Managers Association scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year. While this scholarship eased some of my financial worries for school, it also opened up many doors for within the sport industry. From this scholarship, I gained a one-year membership to SMA! This membership allowed me to have full access to all the great members, both stadium managers and sponsors, who are able to share their knowledge and experiences in the industry with me. Due to this scholarship, I was also more apt to apply for the internship program through SMA. I was selected as one of six interns who were able to attend the annual seminar and learn from these wonderful professionals.

- MacKenzie King



Donate Now

The Foundation has been working hard to raise funds to support the SMA scholarship program over the past year. So far, the Foundation has raised close to \$53,000. Many of our members have donated to this great program, but we would like to see full participation. **SMA is excited to announce that they will match all donations made above \$50,000 and contribute up to \$50,000 dollars!**

Fun Fact: If every current member donated \$20, and SMA matched that, we could add an additional \$20,640 to the Foundations goal of \$150,000.

How can you donate?

- Visit the [SMA website](#) and donate online!
- [Email Molly](#) in our office and she can send you an invoice.
- When you receive your membership renewal, elect to donate to the Ron Labinski Foundation Sports Scholarship.
- Mail a check to the SMA Foundation office: 6919 Vista Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50266

