

# Tiger Stadium can be saved but it may not be worth it, says area stadium architect

BY DOUG FUNKE  
STAFF WRITER

Louis A. Rossetti, whose firm was involved in renovating Tiger Stadium in the 1970s, believes that the old ballpark can be saved.

"But it would probably cost upwards of \$70 million and take three years to get the job done, he said. For those reasons, he sees a new stadium as inevitable.

"It's easier to build a new stadium for \$150 million and have all the whistles and bells to go with it," Rossetti said. "There's no right or wrong on this. It depends on what he (Tiger owner Mike Ilitch) wants to do."

He does have some thoughts on what the new stadium should look like.

Circular, cookie-cutter facilities like Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia and Riverfront Stadium in Cincinnati are out. New stadiums that incorporate old designs are in, like Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore.

"People want to have their personality, their city's personality, in a stadium," Rossetti said. "In the design field, we've got to find a way to personalize."

"I don't have the answer. Perhaps it's building more in the ground so they're not so high. When you get inside, instead of continuous rows of seating, why not landscape?"

"At one time, people were happy just not getting gum on their shoe and eating a hot

dog. Now there's an incredibly different notion. People are being incredibly sensitive to color, fabric, lighting. It's amazing."

While a new stadium can help revitalize a community, Rossetti said, it's a mistake to pin all hopes of a renaissance on a sports venue.

"It's a great catalyst in helping, but you can never expect a stadium to be a leader," he said. "The idea that a stadium is going to come in and save downtown Detroit is ludicrous."

If a new stadium were to be built, Rossetti believes that government, and by extension, taxpayers, should help pay for roads and other infrastructure improvements near the site.

"It helps everybody," he said.

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