

Showcasing a chocolate box

Thorn Altis floodlights prepare La Bombonera for the Copa Libertadores

Some football stadiums are far more than sports venues. That is certainly true of Estadio Alberto J. Armando, the home ground of the Argentinian football club Boca Juniors. In 2019, the stadium affectionately called “La Bombonera” or “The Chocolate Box” for its distinctive shape was in need of a new floodlight system for the upcoming 2020 Copa Libertadores and the Copa America, respectively equivalent to the UEFA Champions League and the Europe Cup. Thorn, a member of the Zumtobel Group, was commissioned with the task of showcasing one of the most recognisable football venues in the world.

- New LED stadium floodlight system
- Solution installed in only two weeks
- 30% reduction in energy consumption

Lighting a legend

Located in the La Boca district of Buenos Aires, La Bombonera is regularly filled to capacity with more than 50,000 passionate fans for the home matches of the world-renowned Club Atlético Boca Juniors. To comply with the new lighting requirements of the South American Football Confederation CONMEBOL, the stadium needed to completely upgrade its floodlight system. For broadcasting matches in HDTV, the new guidelines call for an LED lighting solution capable of providing horizontal illuminance levels > 2000 lux and vertical levels > 1300 lux. Illuminating the unique architecture of the structure itself proved an additional challenge, as Mariano R. Desirello, lighting specialist at MRD Soluciones SA and consultant for the Boca Juniors club, points out:

“As a Boca Juniors consultant, I can say that the lighting renovation at La Bombonera stadium was a great challenge, especially because of its asymmetric architecture.”

A quality solution

In addition to fulfilling the CONMEBOL requirements, the club wanted to invest in a solution that would enable dynamic and static lighting scenarios for various events as well as provide television viewers and fans with clear super slow-motion images for a second opinion of crucial plays. 248 Altis floodlights from Thorn were selected for the task. Equipped with three tiltable modules, the high-powered 5700K LED luminaires provide top-quality illumination with uniform distribution in a variety of lighting design optimisations. Their colour rendering of CRI > 80 and flicker-free operation more than fulfils the parameters required for HDTV broadcasting.

248 remotely installed LED gearboxes were used to fully integrate all of the floodlights with an RDM-based DMX lighting control system. It enables static as well as dynamic lighting effects in real time, also customisable, pre-programmed scenarios – all with a simple tablet.

Ready for future football fests

Through the excellent collaboration of the engineering, lighting design, control and technical teams, the floodlight installation was completed within the ambitious time frame of two weeks – and to the full satisfaction of the customer. In addition to fulfilling the CONMEBOL lighting requirements, the new Altis system provides twice the pitch lighting of the previous solution while consuming 30% less energy. Moreover, it offers the Boca Juniors club entirely new options for creatively showcasing the Primera División matches and other events at the legendary “La Bombonera.” Mariano R. Desirello had this to say about the luminaire:

“Thanks to the Altis floodlight from Thorn, we were able to achieve our goal. As you can see here, it was the right solution.”

Thorn has designed and implemented lighting solutions at a number of renowned football stadiums already, including the Signal Iduna Park of BVB Borussia Dortmund and the Opel Arena of FSV Mainz 05, both in Germany. The La Bombonera project was certainly also a special honour for everyone involved, as Oscar Gálvez, Zumtobel Group Regional Manager for South America, recalls:

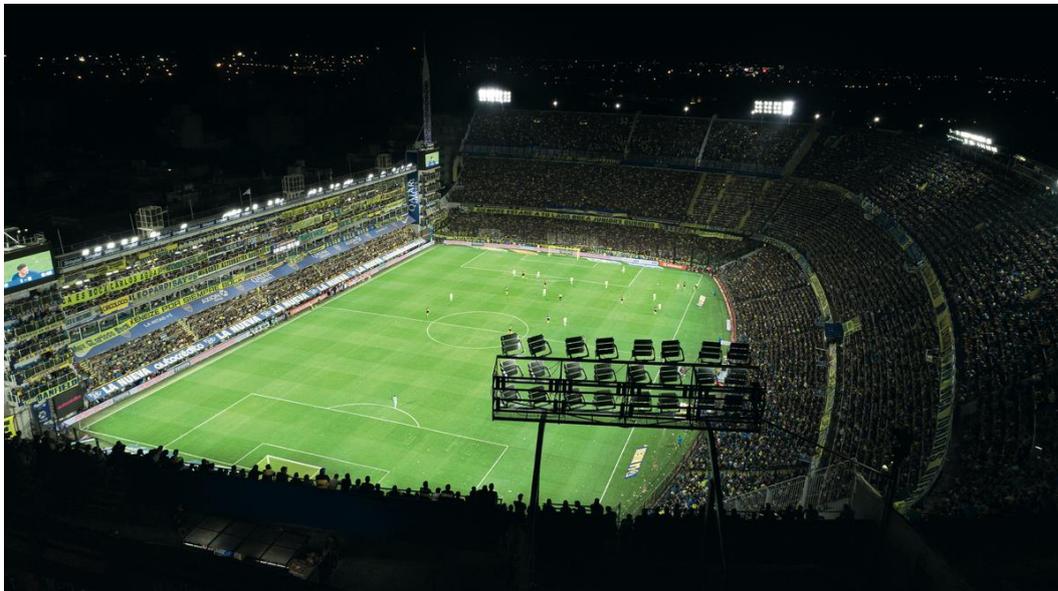
“Working with the Boca Juniors football club on such a symbolic project for Latin America was a great experience. Together with the Thorn Lighting team and our partner Darko, we implemented the technologies needed to meet the current lighting requirements for professional football.”

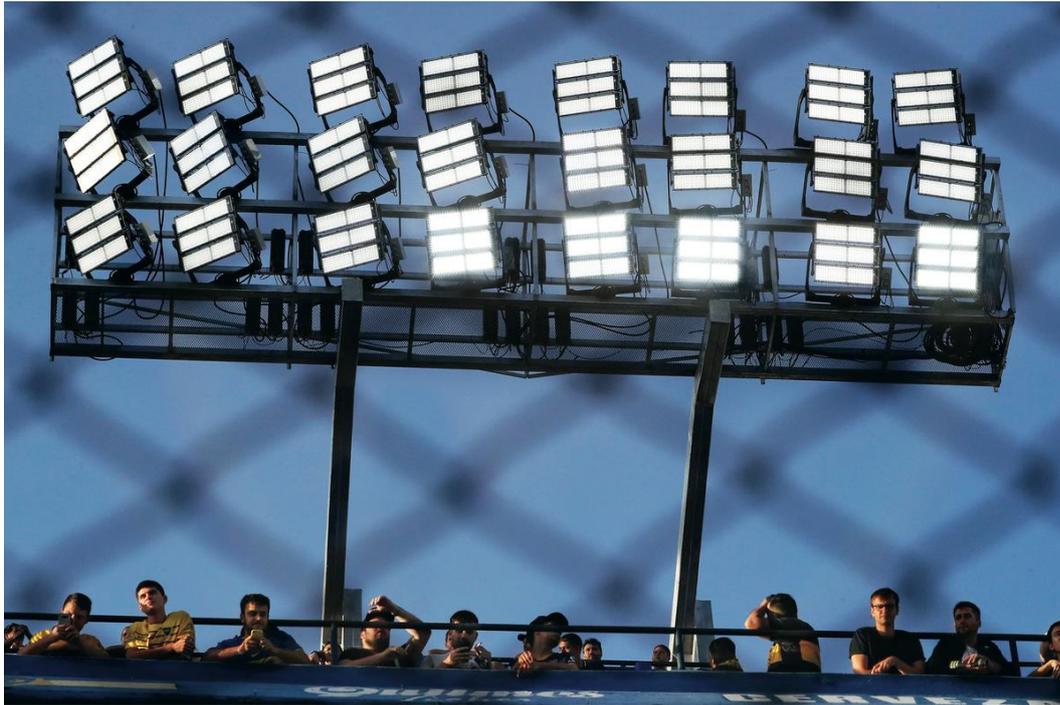
Project highlights at a glance

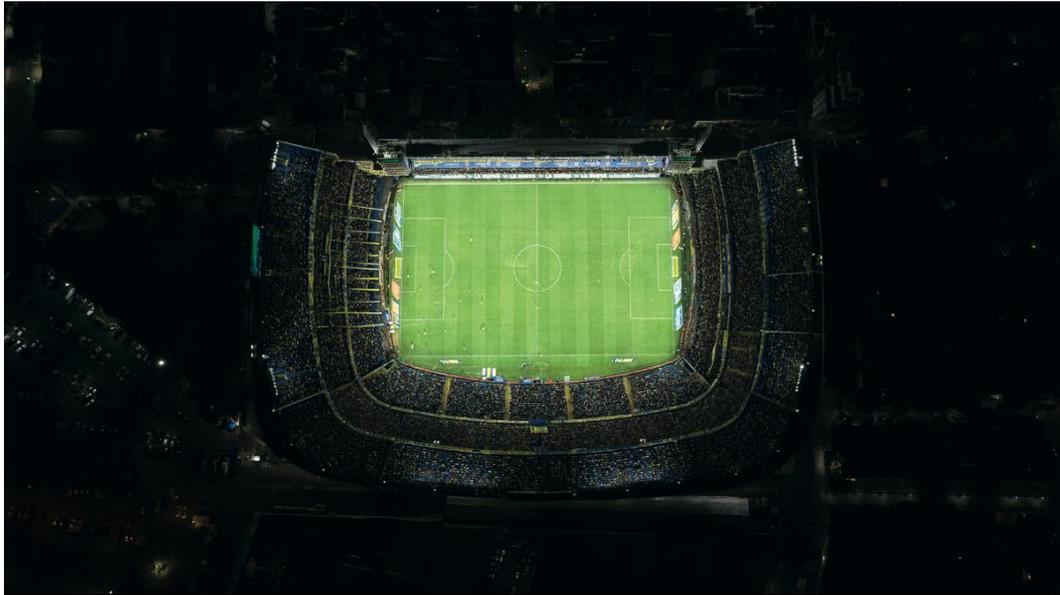
- 248 Altis 3-brick LED floodlights with CRI > 80, 5700K
- 248 IP66 LED gearboxes with native DMX control interface for real-time dynamic lighting effects
- Double the pitch lighting of the prior solution
- Full compliance with CONMEBOL requirements

Images

(Photo credits Thorn)







Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNGepGyfob0>

Information

This press release and high-resolution images can be downloaded from:

www.thornlighting.com/en/about-us/press

About Thorn

Thorn designs and develops innovative, performance-driven and dependable indoor and outdoor lighting and control solutions. Our comprehensive portfolio addresses the daily requirements of municipalities, contractors, consultants, architects, installers, wholesalers and end users. It covers a broad spectrum of applications, including office, education, industry, urban life, transportation, sports, road, parking and also emergency and control solutions. Around the world, the Thorn name is synonymous with proven quality, reliability and efficiency. With over 90 years of lighting experience, we have established ourselves as a trusted partner committed to providing customers with support that goes far beyond the product. We help to improve public and traffic safety in communities with intelligent solutions and better connectivity. Thorn is a proud member of the Zumtobel Group and fully dedicated to providing the right light for people, places and the environment. In all of our efforts: We make light work for you. Learn more at www.thornlighting.com

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