



Preservation

There are several constraints that make preserving and reusing the Astrodome challenging. It is important to understand these constraints so that any new use proposed from the Future Dome exercise will take these constraints into account and be a viable option for reuse. Preservation is more of a goal than a constraint, but there are elements of preservation that introduce some challenges.

This Has Not Been Done Before

The Astrodome's redevelopment will be as cutting-edge and innovative as it was when it was conceived and built. There are no examples in the U.S. of buildings of this size and scale being redeveloped successfully. Examples of successful projects that are similar in scope are often looked to for help in evaluating feasibility of a current project. Without a successful example of a similar scale, the Dome faces hurdles to identifying compatible reuses and viable funding sources.

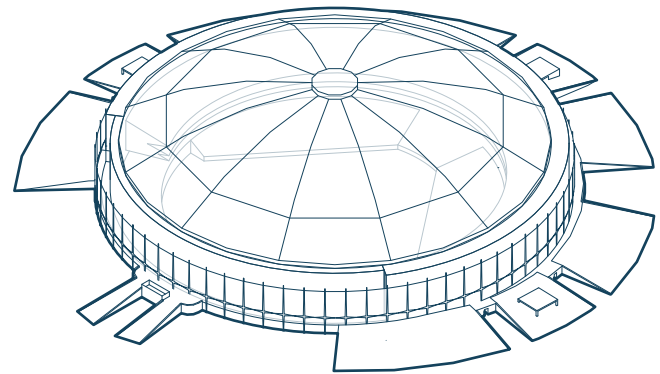
The Astrodome Is Protected from Demolition

The Astrodome is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and is designated a Texas State Antiquities Landmark, which essentially protects it from wholesale demolition. The Dome is also structurally sound and is culturally significant, which makes it a perfect candidate for reuse.

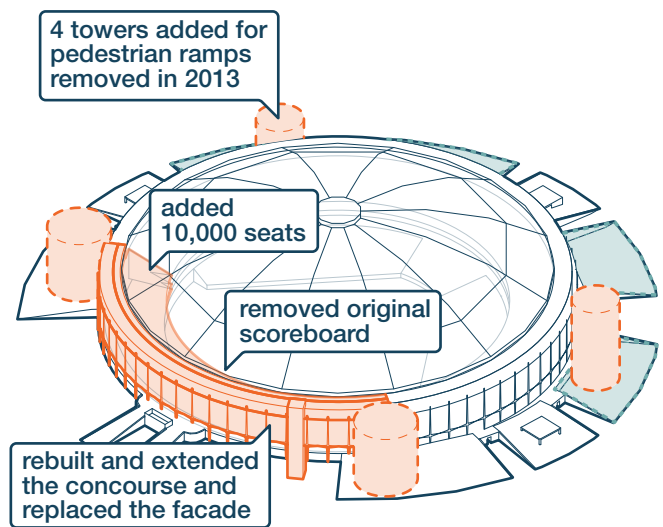
Impacts on Future Reuse

Still, there are some challenges to reuse in the Dome's current state. While the building is structurally sound and its defining architectural features - the exterior screening and pillars, the roof and skylights, the volume of the space under the Dome - are in good condition, the electrical and mechanical systems are in need of repair and replacement. As technology advances and energy conservation becomes a priority, renovations and rehabilitation work should consider new and alternative systems that might not fit into the same design as original systems.

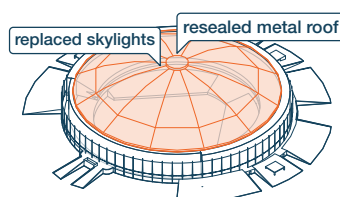
Historic preservation and rehabilitation standards will impact what and to what degree the historic integrity of the Dome can be altered, but they will not impact the ability to reuse the Dome. And in many cases, financial incentives for historic preservation can bring much-needed funding to a project like this. Preserving the character-defining design elements that make the Dome the Dome - its roof, the screens surrounding the exterior, the feeling you got when you walked into that massive space - not only allow the building to continue to tell its story for future generations, but it can also bring much-needed financial resources to the project.



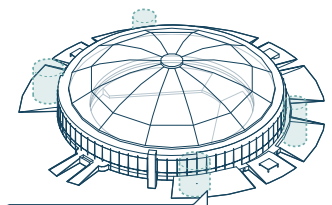
1965 original Astrodome



1988-89 - major renovations



1974-74 - re-sealed Astrodome and replaced the skylights



removed all 4 towers

2013 - the four circulation towers were demolished