

December 8th, 2020

Dear Dario Nardella Mayor of Florence,

I am concerned with the reports of the possible alteration and/or destruction of Pier Luigi Nervi's Stadio Artemio Franchi. I believe it is one of his most influential and essential works and a monument of 20th-century concrete construction.

Florence's Municipal Stadium was published worldwide when it was built; it was the first of Nervi's work to achieve international acclaim, and its cantilevered roof, helical staircases, and evocative detailing inspired engineers and architects throughout Europe, North America, and the rest of the world, including myself. This building has influenced modern architecture with its structural forms, dramatic circulation, and refined concrete techniques.

Proposals to alter or expand Nervi's masterwork should respect its seminal historic value. In recent years, numerous stadium projects have revitalized historic facilities, providing modern facilities while preserving their original fabric and enhancing fans' experience by combining new and old.

I am currently doing this with a project in Paris called Bourse de Commerce, where I am making a contemporary intervention in a historic building. Yet, it fully respects and revitalizes the traditional aspects of the structure. To pass on knowledge to future generations, we must protect our cultural resources while we still have them.

I urge you to consider the great historical value of this building to Italy, Europe, and all of the world.

Warmest Regards,

Tadao Ando

