## Twins announce project team for new ballpark

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The American League Central Division Champion **Minnesota Twins** today announced the project team chosen to lead the construction of the new ballpark scheduled to open 2010. The team includes design architect

# **HOK Sport**

, local architect

#### **HGA Architects**

, and construction manager

## M.A. Mortenson Company

. The announcement was made at the

# Minnesota Ballpark Authority's (MBA)

monthly meeting, which took place at the Metrodome.

All three firms are well-established in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Notably, HOK Sport was the lead architect firm on the Xcel Energy Center, and Mortenson was the general contractor.

" With their rich history in creating state-of-the-art ballparks and other large-scale facilities, coupled with great knowledge of urban design, we welcome these three exemplary firms and have the highest regard for their abilities to create a legacy with the Minnesota Twins, " said **Jerry Bell**, president of Twins Sports, Inc.

HOK Sport's tradition of innovation has transformed the way fans experience the game of baseball. The firm conceived the design vocabulary used in today's ballparks and is charting an inventive course for tomorrow's venues. In the past 25 years, the firm has designed 14 new professional ballparks including Oriole Park in Baltimore, Jacobs Field in Cleveland, AT&T Park in San Francisco and PNC Park in Pittsburgh. Additionally, HOK Sport is designing new ballparks for the Mets, Yankees and Nationals.

(Editor's Note: See renderings of the <u>new Twins Ballpark design here</u> on The Biz of Baseball

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HOK Sport was founded in 1983 as the nation's first architecture firm dedicated to the design of sports facilities. Their architects and event managers are the world's finest and most experienced, drawing from the combined expertise of more than 825 projects with construction value exceeding \$14 billion. The company's client list is diverse and comprehensive, and includes 24 Major League Baseball franchises, 30 NFL franchises, 80 professional and civic arena clients, 40 soccer and rugby teams, 125 colleges and universities, including the University of Minnesota, 40 convention and performing arts center clients and 30 major events. With offices in Brisbane, Australia; London, England; Nashville, Tenn.; Denver, Colo.; and Kansas City, Mo, their reach is worldwide.

"The new Twins ballpark provides us with the opportunity to encourage everything that is good about urban living," said **Earl Santee** (*Editor's Note: Read the Biz of Baseball int erview with Earl Santee* 

), AIA, HOK Sport senior principal leading the architectural effort. "Combining a transit-oriented site with a ballpark in the heart of the Warehouse District in a meaningful way will create an energetic new place for Twins fans to call home for years to come. "

Hammel, Green and Abrahamson Inc. (HGA) is a full service architecture, engineering and planning firm with a staff of 500 people. It is an employee-owned corporation with offices in Minneapolis and Rochester, Minn.; Milwaukee, Wisc; and Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles, Calif. Headquartered just a few blocks from the ballpark, HGA has a reputation as a design leader and is ranked among nationally recognized firms in the architecture, engineering and planning professions.

HGA has designed important buildings in both St. Paul and Minneapolis including the Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Public Radio, Orpheum and Pantages theatres, the Metrodome LRT Station, plaza and underground ramp as well as projects at the Mall of America and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International airport.

"HGA is honored and excited to be a part of this landmark project that links the traditions of baseball with transit, street life, and public spaces and is so important to our community," said **Rebecca Greco**, AIA, HGA principal.

Since 1987 when it began building sports facilities, Mortenson has risen to become one of the

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top three national builders of sports centers. In addition to the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, the company's national sports facility experience includes Coors Field and Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., FedEx Forum in Memphis, Tenn., the Edward Jones Dome (formerly TWA Dome) in St. Louis, Mo., the renovation of Kinnick Stadium for the University of Iowa and Sprint Center in Kansas City, Mo, which currently is under construction.

" It is an honor to be selected to build the new Twins ballpark where Minnesotans will come together, once again, to celebrate outdoor baseball, " said **Ken Sorensen**, vice president and general manager of the Minnesota office of M.A. Mortenson Company. " We have built signature sports facilities across the country, as well as here in Minnesota. Yet the opportunity to create another world-class professional sports center in our own backyard is a special privilege, and it comes with our unwavering commitment to making this project a success for all partners. "

Construction on the new ballpark will begin this spring and is scheduled to open for the 2010 season.