

# Coors Field

## Architect:

The stadium was designed by HOK, a firm that was founded in Kansas City in 1983. HOK was an architectural firm specializing in the design of sports facilities and convention centers, as well as planning of major special events. In January of 2009 HOK became Populous after a management buyout.

Populous has designed many Major League ballparks, including, most recently, Marlins Park in Miami (2012), Target Field in Minneapolis (2010), Yankee Stadium in New York City (2009) and Nationals Park in Washington, DC (2008). Populous has also designed many high-profile arenas overseas, such as the Arena das Dunas, in Brazil, which will be used for the World Cup, as well as venues for the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic Games, and the London 2012 Summer Games.

Visit <http://populous.com/work/> for more information and to view the work by Populous.

## Contractor:

The stadium was constructed by Mortensen Construction Company, which has had a large office in Denver since 1981. Mortensen also constructed the new Colorado Judicial Center, the Hamilton Building for the Denver Art Museum, and the Exempla St. Joseph Hospital expansion in Uptown

## Interesting Anecdotes:

- Coors Field was the first major league park with an underground heating system.
- The bricks used in Coors Field were manufactured by Robinson Brick and Tile of Denver, a firm that has been providing bricks for more than 100 years.
- While most of the seats in Coors Field are dark green, the seats in the 20th row of the upper deck are purple. This marks the city's one mile elevation point.
- In its first decade, the above-average number of home runs earned Coors Field a reputation as the most hitter-friendly park in Major League Baseball. Prior to the 2002 baseball season, studies determined that it was more the *dry* air rather than *thin* air which contributed to the more frequent home runs. It was found that baseballs stored in drier air are harder and therefore more elastic to the impact of the bat. A room-sized humidifier was installed in which to store the baseballs, and since its introduction the number of home runs at Coors Field has decreased and is now nearly the same as other parks.

