



# Rink in a Box

AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR YOUR  
GROWING COMMUNITY OF SKATERS

# Welcome!

An ice rink. On some days, better known as the “hockey rink.” On most days, known as the place where kids fall in love with a new sport and former competitive players reconnect with an old passion. A place where toddlers take their first, awkward stumbles across the ice—to later win the state tournament, skating with speed and precision inside the boards. An ice rink. Frozen water Zambonied to perfection—but during the annual skating show, it transforms into center stage, where figure skaters show off the tricks and turns they’ve worked all year to learn.

It’s a place where dreams are realized, falling down is encouraged, and communities are strengthened. Where friendships are formed and championships are won in overtime. Where people of all ages can shake off the rust, fall a few times, and get back up. Because skating is like riding a bike. You never really forget how to do it. And you never forget where you learned to skate like a pro: In your hometown rink.

# Getting Started

Nostalgia aside, ice rinks are a community staple in many towns, and successfully designing a quality one requires experiences, patience, and resources. That's why we developed Rink in a Box: A realistic, cost-friendly, and efficient process for **building an ice rink in your own community**—available when needed, without breaking the bank.

In this eBook, we'll cover everything you need to know about Rink in a Box: What it is, whether it's right for your community, and what the process looks like to bring it to life. Throughout the next few pages, we'll answer these questions:

- **What is Rink in a Box?**
- **Is Rink in a Box the Right Fit for Your Community?**
- **How Much Does Rink in a Box Cost?**
- **How Does Rink in a Box Come to Life?**
- **Why Work With HTG Architects?**



## What is Rink in a Box?

**Ice rinks are ... big, for lack of a better term.**

Measuring around 85'x200', ice rinks have a considerable footprint in the community, and they can require quite a bit of ongoing maintenance and financial support. For years, ice rinks were often built on the outskirts of town, partially because of their size and previously lackluster exterior.

They were hidden away among other industrial buildings, with an old adage in mind: If you build it, they will come. Nowadays, ice rinks are becoming more of a hub for members of the community who want to use ice time to strengthen a skill, play a sport, watch a game, or even catch up with friends in the stands. It's not just about having a solid slab of ice inside your rink; it's about the experience that comes with it.

We spend so much time and money on all levels—hockey, figure skating, and ice time—so it's about time our ice rinks reflect that! Now considered a vital part of many schools, community centers, and fitness spaces—ice rinks are in high demand.



## Creating a Rink in a Box?

With the growth of popularity in hockey over the years, a common theme we hear from folks at ice rinks is that there simply is not enough ice time available for all the teams that need to practice. That's why you're carting Squirts to the rink at 6:00 am, or keeping them there until 10:00 pm. **So, why not build more rinks?**

Rinks can be pretty expensive. Especially once you add in seating and other appealing amenities. So we at HTG Architects embarked on solving the problem in an affordable way. Really, we re-engineered the ice rink down to its most basic form to make it more affordable—and we call it Rink in a Box.

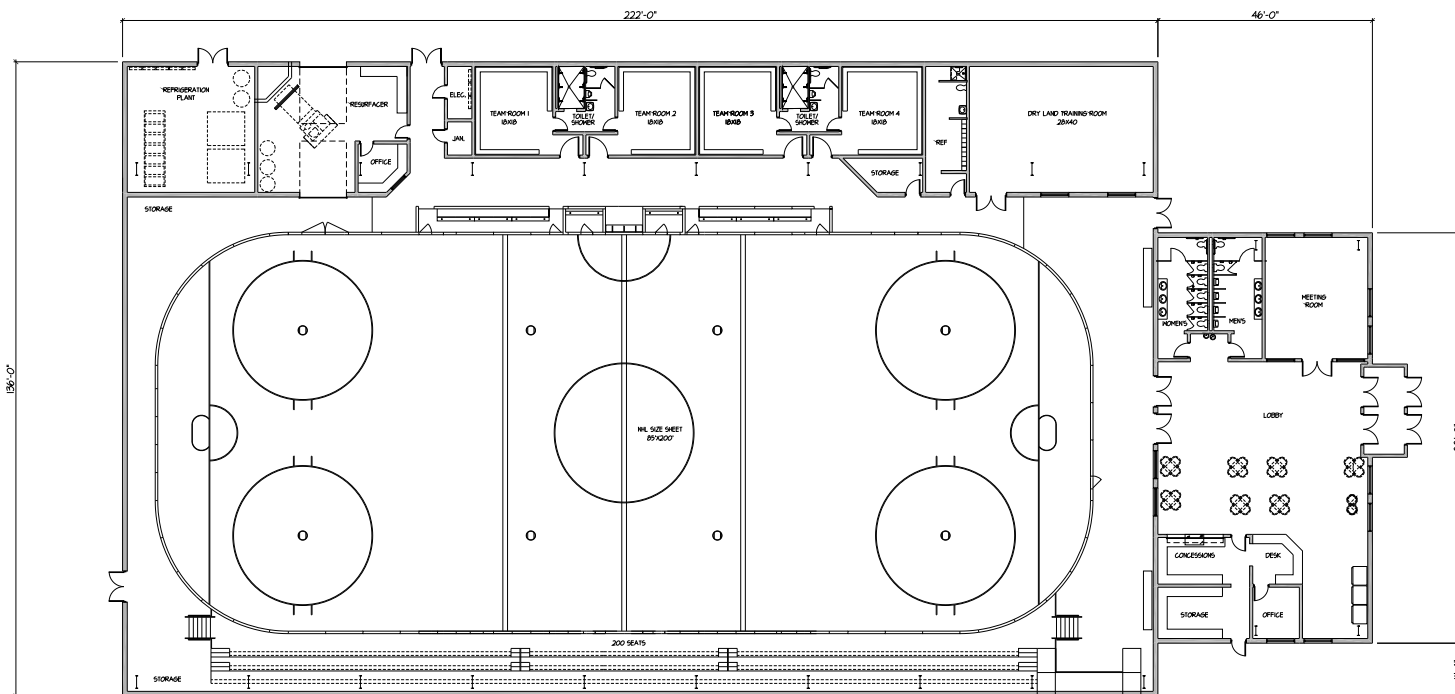
Rink in a Box is a proven prototype for **efficient, cost-effective, and enticing** rink design and construction. It has a smaller amount of seating than other rinks and is intended to be used as a practice rink. In an ideal world, it serves as a second sheet to help provide more ice, and better ice times, for the skaters in your community.

We start with a standardized template, rather than designing each rink from scratch. This cuts costs significantly and speeds up the design and construction process.

# What Does Rink in a Box Look Like?

Consider Rink in a Box your "ideal practice arena."

Rink in a Box includes ice and seating for 200, as well as locker rooms, a lobby and office, a dry-land training space, concessions, and meeting spaces.



NEW ICE ARENA - 34,360 SF

MAIN LEVEL FLOOR PLAN  
3/22/11-0'



## Ice Rink & Seating

The Rink in a Box ice rink is 85'x200', the same size as a standard NHL rink, with room for 200 visitors (which is pretty sizable, when you consider it's a second sheet). If room for 200 isn't quite enough, don't worry. We specifically designed the Rink in a Box framework to be adaptable, so we can accommodate your athletes and visitors.

**And, your entire vision for ice.**

## Locker Rooms & Dry-land Training Room

To improve their game, athletes need to train not only on ice, but also on land. Locker rooms and dry-land training rooms give hockey players and figure skaters room to spread out, store their gear and and cross-train. Within each Rink in a Box are four team locker rooms with two shared toilet stalls and shower spaces. The dry-land training room is a great space for athletes to gather and extend their training. It can also serve as an additional revenue source, for the operation.

## Rink Maintenance

We know ... maintenance spaces and storage rooms aren't as fun to budget or plan for, but you can't build a rink without them. The Rink in a Box design includes a refrigeration plant, resurfacers room, janitorial closet, and electrical, as well as multiple storage rooms and an office space to support ongoing rink maintenance.

## Visitor Accommodations

Ice rinks aren't just for figure skaters and hockey players. More and more, ice rinks are taking root in more vibrant parts of town, near shopping centers and movie theaters, as they can be a hub for gathering with friends and family.

The more enjoyable a visitor's experience at your ice rink, the more likely they are to return, or maybe even to enroll their kids in youth programs held at the rink.

With Rink in a Box, you get a large, inviting lobby with adequate seating for guests to lounge away from the cooler bleachers. A designated welcome desk gives visitors and athletes a space to stop for necessary payments, check-ins, and wayfinding questions. Meeting spaces can hold end-of-season celebrations, parent meetings, and even birthday parties. And of course, we can't forget concessions!

There will always be a need for unique, state-of-the-art ice arenas, too. Rink in a Box, however, is a great solution when access to ice and capital is limited. Its basic framework helps ensure your project stays within scope and gets done quickly.







## Is Rink in a Box Right for Your Community?

The driving force behind most rink builds is growth. Growing youth programs like hockey drive the need for more ice time, but more ice time means... well, more ice facilities.

Ice is a year-round need for youth hockey associations and camps everywhere, but not all communities (or climates) can support creating a temporary outdoor rink for colder months—and no one wants to tell a kid there's no space for them to skate or chase their passion.

Ice rinks **impact many members of your community**, from kids to parents to business owners, and they benefit everyone. So, why aren't more rinks getting built?



## **The Case for Rink in a Box**

More often than not, it's parent groups that start advocating for more and better ice time for their kids, or it's business owners who see an opportunity in serving youth hockey. Whatever the reasons, Rink in a Box is a great solution to your community's rink needs. But in the end, it's rink owners who have the final say.

In some communities, ice rinks and arenas are owned by the city. In other places, ice rinks are privately or individually owned. The most common pain point every rink owner faces is expenses. No doubt about it, an ice rink is an expensive building to construct and maintain. Despite the growing number of kids enrolling in ice programs, owners need to know they can make a solid return on their investment.



## How Much Does Rink in a Box Cost?

Before we get into the nitty-gritty, let's consider the average costs associated with ice rinks and arenas. Most standard rinks today cost between \$8 million to \$10 million. Rink in a Box is nearly half the price, with an average price tag of \$5.8 million.

Even better, there are many ways to **co-brand your ice rink or take on vendor partners to offset your costs**. At HTG Architects, we have experience with fundraising efforts and a vast network of financial institutions to tap into to help make Rink in a Box a reality for your community. We also have vendor partners with real-world experience operating rinks, who can help you put together realistic proformas.

## How Do I Get Rink in a Box?

Each of our projects starts with our **InVision** process. InVision is a two-step process to help get your project off the ground. It begins with a Programming Session, where we establish the various pieces of your puzzle and how we can put them together in your new Rink in a Box facility. This is when you show us your wish list. Dream big! Once we know your vision, we can move to Step 2: Feasibility. Here we start bringing it to life in a comprehensive design.

Once we finish the design, we typically have a site plan, floor plan, and exterior 3D rendering ready for review, so you can get an idea of how the rink will fit on the site.

From here, it's time to start the fundraising and approval process. But don't panic. We're not just experts in design and construction, we have expertise in project management, budgeting, and execution, too. Our vast network of vendors and trusted resources provides ongoing support throughout the duration of your project, so you can focus on your love of the ice, instead. Are you ready to break ground?



# Bringing Rink in a Box to Life

HTG Architects is licensed in several states  
to bring your vision to life.

We have the capability to get licensed in any state we do not already serve in a short amount of time. We have a wide range of experience including California, Washington, Florida, Maryland, and Minnesota—you know, the State of Hockey.

Processes within these states are similar, and our experience tells us that most communities are excited about adding a new ice rink to their town. After all, more ice means more opportunities for more kids to fall in love with figure skating or hockey.

## Rink in a Box Timeline — From InVision to Execution





## Top 2 Factors that Bring Project Success

Building a new ice rink is an exciting process, but it doesn't happen overnight. Throughout the course of seven to nine months, depending on your specific project needs, we'll work in close partnership as we bring your Rink in a Box to life.

Over the years, we've learned two key factors that make the process go smoother:



### Communicate Effectively

Communication is a two-way street. The more that you, the client, and we, the architect, can be open and honest with each other, the better everyone can do to meet or exceed expectations.



### Set a Realistic Budget

Rink in the Box is cheaper than other ice rinks, but it's still a **big investment for your community**. Before the project begins, know what you can expect to pay, so that everyone is happy with the final product.

The right partner can help you determine what's in scope for you and your community, and at HTG Architects, we can **help you determine whether Rink in a Box** is the fit for you. (Of course, we already think it is). We can adapt the design as needed to accommodate your growing list of spectators and visitors while bringing in additional practice space, training space, meeting spaces, and revenue sources.



## Why HTG Architects?

If you're ready to give Rink in a Box a try, then it's best we get to know each other. Our team of design professionals and preferred vendors stay on the cutting edge of innovation for ice rink design. **At HTG Architects**, we're passionate. Period. It's more than an ice rink to us; it's a chance for community members to get out of the house and move with the people they love. Now, more than ever, we know that's important.

Partnering with an experienced architect gives you a leg up from the start. After coordinating countless ice arena projects, we're ready to show you our commitment to quality and service with a new project: the efficient and affordable Rink in a Box.

# Before You Go...

From town to town and rink to rink, we hear the same thing over and over again. More ice is needed, but the money isn't there. We developed Rink in a Box to address this problem. We created it because we love what the local ice rink can represent, and what it can provide for a child, a family, or a team.

Every architect loves designing big, elaborate buildings—and we can do that, too—but that isn't what Rink in a Box is about. Rink in a Box is a solution to fit your needs. We heard what you were asking for, and Rink in a Box is our answer.

Now, more than ever, we need our communities. We need our hobbies, sports, and favorite pastimes. We need healthy opportunities to spend time with friends. An ice rink can provide all of this and more. With Rink in a Box, there's something for everyone. Ice to skate on, a center to train in, rooms to meet in, and all the Pixie Sticks your kiddos can get their hands on. Let's find out together what's possible for your community.

[\*\*Get Started with Rink in a Box\*\*](#)



