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EDITORIAL

What at one time seemed to be an understandable and highly desirable feature in the profession of Architecture now seems more and more to be possessed of neither of these qualities amongst the architects of this state. The term "architectural technician" is vague and unfamiliar, and a large part of the trouble can be traced to the lack of any clear-cut definition or common agreement as to just what this animal is and does, and consequently what his value might be. In any gathering of any number of architects from any part of the state there are just as many different opinions of what function this term covers as there are people present, and hence there are the same number of opinions on the desirability and worth of such a person.

The MSA set out bravely last year with a specially constituted committee to reach some guidelines and recommendations on the education and training of technicians and perhaps some recommendations on an appropriate way to reward and recognize their deliberate educational attainments. The committee failed quite completely to provide what it set out to do. There are a number of reasons why this happened, and perhaps this failure too could be considered excusable, even though there was a boost or two inadvertently given to the project by outsiders that should certainly have underscored the importance of this committee's work enough to get the job done. One of the biggest of these, which has fortunately been postponed, though not dropped, was the state legislature's investigation into the training of technicians and perhaps a specific collegiate program is to be organized to train them in this speciality, intercommunication within the profession must be established. There are very few practicing architects in Michigan (except those who practice entirely alone) who do not have a valuable "right hand man", whether he be a highly competent draftsman or a widely experienced man of sixty who does not aspire to professional registration. There is wide variety in the precise area and a nature in which right hand men contribute their worth, and there are some architects who scoff at the attempt to codify (because there are too many separate factors involved) or recognize ("He is happy as he is. Don't stir him up") a position—a career—having such a title. But in a profession which daily becomes more complex and at the same time more necessary, it would seem very logical to erect an orderly basic set of standards involving the myriad "non-thinking" tasks of the architect to give the architect more "thinking" time and capability, to assure that the "non-think" tasks receive adequate knowledgeable attention, and to give the individual who performed these tasks some measure of dignity and direction, and a somewhat more desirable handle than "indian". We don't necessarily want to sponsor a cub-scout system of passing out badges and awards. But there seem to be numerous reasons for the "custodians of the human environment" to support a career which can be very beneficial to themselves individually and at the same time can afford a respectable job description in the building business to the high school graduate who is talented and interested in making buildings but who cannot realistically face a five or six year program or more in an expensive collegiate atmosphere wherein his financial, emotional, and/or intellectual capacities may very well not see him through.

The MSA's committee concerned with this question has been disbanded by the MSA President. We heartily recommend that this past year's efforts be regarded as the first try, and let's see it tried again more earnestly and more deliberately. The disbanded committee did achieve some valuable beginnings and provide some discoveries and answers. The Dentists have achieved this in their world, and certainly the Doctors of Medicine. The need in the architectural profession can not really be less urgent.

David Williams, AIA
THE MONTHLY BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED FOR THE MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS TO ADVANCE THE PROFESSION OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

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Monthly Bulletin, Michigan Society of Architects, is published monthly at 28 West Adams, Detroit 26, Michigan. Entered as second class matter January 15, 1946 at the Post Office at Detroit, Michigan under Act of March 3, 1879. Subscription price, $4.00 per year (members $2.00), 50 cents per copy.
Black Appointed to Governor's Special Commission

Governor Romney Thursday announced the appointment of Chase Black to a 20-member special commission to study and prepare revisions of the housing law of Michigan.

Chase Black

The commission, to be known as the Governor's Special Commission on Housing Law Revision, has a broad range of membership including local housing officials, architects, engineers, attorneys, builders, and trade unionists. The state will be represented by the State Board of Plumbing, and the chief of the Environmental Health Planning Unit of the Department of Public Health.

"The basic housing law of Michigan, often referred to as the State Housing Code, is outdated, confusing, and unduly restrictive" the Governor said.

"A modern, uniform code oriented toward performance standards is necessary if we are to be receptive to the technological changes and improvements which are rapidly occurring in the housing industry. This Special Commission will be charged with the responsibility of drafting such a code for submission to the Michigan Legislature, hopefully in its next session."

Governor Romney pointed out that the Legislature this year made substantial changes in the enforcement sections of the housing law but that the standards themselves were left untouched.

The other Commission members are: Carl A. Giffels, Giffels & Rossetti, Inc.; Professor Myles Boylan, MSU; Donald A. Henderson, Chrysler Corporation; Sidney H. Holwerda, State Board of Plumbing; Lynn Gresham, Detroit Lumbermen's Association; Dr. E. Freeman Hersey, Kalamazoo County Health Department; Fred Kellow, Michigan Department of Public Health; Raymond Hightower, Urban Affairs Committee of the Michigan Municipal League; Robert P. Gerholz, Gerholz Community Homes, Inc.; Kenneth Beelen, Ken Beelen Builders; Walter Spurlock, City of East Detroit; Louis C. Andrews, Jr., Michigan Municipal League; Glenroy Walker, State Fire Marshal; T. C. Williams, Williams and Works (civil engineers); George E. Bushnell, Jr., Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone; Jack Wheaterley, Michigan State Building Trades Council; Harry S. Palmer, First Savings Association of Dowagiac; Dr. Robert Kearns, Department of Building and Safety Engineering; and Arthur Clark, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Members of the special commission will serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Senate confirmation is not required.

Exhibit Space Ready for 55th Annual MSA Convention

Reservations are now being accepted for display booth space at the 1969 MSA Convention to be held at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Detroit, March 19, 20, and 21.

Copies of the Exhibitors Brochure may be obtained from MSA Headquarters, 28 West Adams, Detroit 48226, telephone 313-965-4100.

Producers' Council Holiday Party

Resuming the tradition of holiday party sponsorship, the Michigan Chapter of the Producers' Council, Inc. will host a Christmas Party on Friday, December 20 at the Detroit Golf Club, 17911 Hamilton Road.

The party chairman, Adam DeMartino of the Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, announces that the cocktail and social hour starts at 7:15 P.M.; supper will be served at 8:30 P.M., with dancing until 1:00 A.M. The Producers' Council will have for its friends and guests, cocktail entertainment, dancing music by the Kingsmen, door prizes, and a complimentary corsage for every lady.

Dress is semi-formal. Tickets are $30 each, and can be obtained from Producers' Council members or by calling the P.C. office, 353-5544.
That's a 115,000 cfm fan being lowered into the basement of Wayne State University's new Natural Science Building and Science Library.

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The following letter from Joe Leinweber, is shared with the Bulletin readers through the courtesy of Meath-Kessler Associates.

Hi Phil, Bill and the other people at MKA who do the work!

We have been here a little over one year and we now are on the countdown. Dedication will be January 25. Completion should be shortly thereafter. Hazel and I are looking forward to a trip to South America for one month before returning.

This has been an interesting assignment for more reasons than one. One reason for instance is the working with an English Contractor right out of the United Kingdom. They replaced a local contractor. We have at times encountered somewhat slightly different approaches to methods of building. The terminology used for construction also had us puzzled but they really have done a good job and the Project is creating considerable interest. To give you some examples of English expressions — 'skirting' is not what your Wife's dressmaker uses but is just that little ole' base than "runs" around the Room—a concrete form is a 'shutter' and the art of forming is 'shuttering'—Cement finishing is 'rendering'—Installation or erection of work is 'fixing'—Cabinet and millwork as we know it is 'joinery' and

'marrying up'—Girls means joining and blending two finishes together and when you 'face London' you are putting the finished side out. 'Cracking' means good progress or "being on the ball". Of course there is always the problem of where the First story is. In England, Europe and also the Far East, the First story (spelled Storey here) is called the Ground story and our Second story becomes their First story. This gets confusing at times particularly if you are working with a new group such as I have been, lately from the University who will be occupying the new buildings.

When a new Contract was written for the present Contractor, the document contained no Commas (I am in favor of that, also these ':' and ';'), and the word "termination" of a Contract, became "determination" of a Contract. It must be O.K. in the States too because Chief Justice Warren used it in a Newsweek article in the same kind of reference.

Our British cousins are fine people to work with and of course there is considerable "bloody this" and "bloody that". I guess our vernacular "that guy" is no better or worse than their "that bloke". They are very proud of their country and a bit envious if we show them something better.

There is a bit more of the protocol and formality on the Job than in the States and I have never been "Mistered" so much as here. Our informality, I believe, puzzles them. I am sure from our conversations that the British Architects are a good deal more "stuffed shirt" and are inclined to lean towards the "if it's on the drawings, that's the way it must be done", regardless of whether the detail is good or bad. This leads to peculiar conditions on the Job for instance, the Joinery man has no idea of what a Shop drawing is and they won't ask a question and you are apt to find an article out from the Shop that you are working with a new group such as I have been, lately from the University who will be occupying the new buildings.

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The British, as does the Island here, use the Quantity Survey system in building construction and we have Q.S.s (as they call them) on the Job, although this is not a quantity survey job. The Q.S.s have sure built up a prestige and glorified their position but from my experience with them, they are not the equal of our estimators from the good offices in the States.

To me the U.K. Architects are evading a responsibility which is theirs. I believe the biggest loser would be the Owner with the QS system.

We have had a number of visitors during the past year. We feel that they all enjoyed the Country. For some reason, they all want to see "Pitch..."
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Among the architectural firms of Michigan that enjoy broad recognition and high reputation, the Warren Holmes Company of Lansing is a leader. Considered small by some but large by most, with its total staff of 85, this specialist in educational facilities will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1971. Although he was no doubt practicing architecture in Lansing in the latter half of 1920, Warren S. Holmes did not register himself as doing business until the spring of 1921. At first it was the partnership of Holmes and Powers, the two having met while both working in the same office in Chicago.

Warren Holmes came from a farm near Fowlerville, Michigan, studied Architecture at the U of M and returned to operate his parents' farm during the first World War. Following this and during the early years of his 10 year partnership with Powers he developed a particular interest in educational buildings. There was a great need for schools in those days as there is now. He developed several features and systems in his schools directly concerned with function and flexibility. He developed and patented his famous H-shaped column which provided the structural backbone for a typical ten foot length of building. This was poured in place concrete and the shape provided chases wherein all mechanical and electrical piping and ductwork was located, giving his buildings great flexibility. Periodically, additions are put onto some of the old Holmes jobs, (by the Warren Holmes Company generally) and this is obviously a simple and economic procedure. One of Warren Holmes' most significant claims to fame was his preoccupation, in an otherwise very electric period of architecture, with the use and function of his buildings, with less emphasis on what they looked like. In this respect the man was way ahead of his time.

When the depression years arrived there were enough connections and enough work in progress that Holmes weathered its initial woes, and, being confident that the need for schools would somehow be met, he determined at all costs to retain his small staff and his presence in the field. This he managed astutely to do, partly by organizing a separate practice of insurance claim appraisals, using his architectural staff as investigators. This grew out of a fire which destroyed one of his schools for which the insurance company would not cover the amount for which the school had paid premiums or that Holmes and the school authorities felt represented true value.

When economic recovery programs began under President Franklin Roosevelt ("Government by alphabet soup" — WPA, PWA, etc.) assistance was given by one federal government to the building of schools and Warren Holmes' confidence paid off. He was ready. With staff capability and client connections all set to go, thanks in part to the appraisal business, he was able to produce thoroughly satisfactory schools quickly. An important element in this program, which lasted through most of the 1930s was speed of design and this he provided, periodically adding more men to his staff. Thus Warren Holmes was one of a comparative few in this economically precarious profession whose practice became even more stable and widespread during those bleak years.

Warren Holmes died unexpectedly in 1950 while still very active in his practice and in the process of forming a 5-way partnership with 4 of his key men, Clarke Harris, Howard Hunter, PE, Malcolm Williams, and his own nephew Gordon Stow. These four concluded the partnership and added Richard Snyder soon after the founder's death. Four years later Jan Ironside was made the sixth partner.

- McDonald Middle School
- East Lansing, Michigan
- Walnut Hills Country Club
- East Lansing, Michigan
- Proposed Faculty Club for MSU
- Library Bldg., Southwestern Michigan College
partner and in 1965 another engineer, Thomas Stein, and architect D. S. Budzinski were made partners to complete the present organization of the firm, which was incorporated in 1962. In 1960 they had moved from offices in The Michigan National Bank Tower (plus additional space elsewhere in Lansing) to a comfortable and very handsome building they designed and built on a quiet residential street in Lansing overlooking the Grand River. Including the principals the 85-person firm has at present 14 registered architects, 4 registered engineers, 1 landscape architect, and 1 educational consultant. A permanent 3 man branch office is maintained at Appleton, Wisconsin, primarily for client relations and field supervision of Wisconsin work.

In recent years the building of schools has proceeded at a brisk rate, as we all are aware. For The Warren Holmes Company this has meant an annual average of approximately $15 million worth of construction, representing 40 to 50 separate projects. Many of these are repeat clients and many are in other states, with Indiana and Wisconsin high on the list. Some 15 separate projects have been done in Racine, Wisconsin alone, since 1950, amounting to nearly $20 million. About 20% of the Company's total business load over recent years has been in Wisconsin.

The program covers schooling in the middle years, corresponding roughly to the 6th through 9th grades by the traditional grading system, incorporates the features of this new approach to education—an approach which is beyond the experimental period and is widely accepted throughout the country. The building was designed deliberately to fit the program and has received an award for excellence from the Association of School Administrators, an award the firm has received each year for the last 6 years, for different projects.

And they don't do only schools. There is public work as in the Petoskey City-County Building, Recreational work in East Lansing's Walnut Hills Country Club and the MSU Faculty Club, and "spin-off" work connected with education, such as the headquarters office building for The Michigan Education Association in East Lansing or The Board of Education Building in Lapeer. There is Junior College work (Gogebic and Lansing) and work at several universities and colleges throughout the state. The firm maintains its own Explorer Post to foster interest in architecture among older boy scouts. It sponsors an apprentice training program in conjunction with Lansing Community College. The principals of all but one of the major architectural firms in Lansing are alumni of The Warren Holmes Company. The plum, the favorite project of nearly all the Company's staff at present is the Lansing Community College development.

Certainly, The Warren Holmes Company has all the ingredients of a story-book success. A local farmer-turned-architect makes good, grows during national economic adversity, and founds a stable firm that survives him and grows to a highly respected position within the profession, carrying on a fine tradition of architectural excellence. The Bulletin wants to be among the first to offer congratulations to The Warren Holmes Company for 50 years of exceptional service.
Early in the morning on October 30 last, six large semi trucks pulled away from the curb in front of the Capitol in Lansing, bound for British Honduras. They were filled with machinery, medicine, and other supplies contributed by Michigan people through the Alliance for Progress. They were driven by students at Lansing Community College, 12 in all, with 3 instructors, for whom the trip was a final examination in the 4 week truck driver training course at the College. This episode typifies the almost frantic growth and activity at this institution which has grown from 425 students when it opened its doors in 1957 to just short of 5,000 this year.

A fortunate set of circumstances has also permitted a vigorous building program to tackle the physical side of this expansion. Lansing’s old Central High School, built in 1872 had been phased out as a school, and occupied by School Board Administrative offices for some years when in 1957 a study of community needs called for a two year college to be started as a part of the Lansing Public School system. This was done in the Central High School building, still a sound structure though somewhat awkward for this function. The demand for its use caused the creation, in 1964 of the Ingham (County) Community College District in order to provide broader funding capability, a large part of which was directed at physical plant expansion.

The immediate neighborhood of the school, one of the oldest parts of Lansing, was beginning to show signs of economic deterioration typical of the inner city, and came under Urban Renewal development. This has permitted the College to acquire a large contiguous site and the planning initial construction development of a handsome and appropriate campus. Around the turn of the century a city public library was built just to the south of the old High School (Old Central) and about 1910 a project was completed which removed the top 2 floors and all the towers and turrets from this building and added a good deal of new construction on the east and west sides. Remodeling and refurbishing of this structurally sound pile has been a part of the first phase of the current expansion program. Another part of this phase has been the construction of one story elements around the perimeter of this site to house offices, laboratories, and lecture spaces, and extensive landscaping. The old gymnasium has become a spacious and pleasant library.
The Warren Holmes Company are the architects, coordinating their work with College and City authorities and the Ann Arbor planning firm of Johnson, Johnson and Roy. Designer D. S. Budzinski’s treatment of the remodeling of Old Central and its related work is a triumph of aesthetic and functional sensitivity, and the development of the total campus, on both sides of the river, promises the same tasteful treatment. Low priced masonry screening walls surrounding permanent parking areas some distance from Old Central hint at what is envisaged for the total campus. A second building, the first totally new structure, is nearing completion, and will house facilities for Science, Liberal Arts, and Health Science.

Lansing Community College is well into developing a broad and logical program for the ambitious citizen, young or old, who cannot realistically look to a complete formal education at a major university. Functionally it is competently filling a real need, and its physical development is keeping pace, exercising the fundamental goals of economy and function that have typified the work of its architects for many years. It is well worth the time and effort required to visit, see, and experience this institution.

Proposed Science Bldg. now under construction on Washington Ave.

West face of Old Central after remodeling.

Looking northwest from Capital and Shiawasee— showing remodeled Old Central and 1900 public library.

Court with pool and gate—Eastside Old Central looking north.
Kenneth C. Black, FAIA

One sure way to measure the impact an architect makes on his own community is of course the number, size, and type of buildings he has given that community. Lansing is a city of such a size that this can be an obvious and meaningful record, and when one encounters so many buildings of prominence provided by the same architect, one can say that the impact of this man on his community has been considerable. Such is the case with Kenneth C. Black.

From most any street intersection in downtown Lansing there are visible several of Ken Black's buildings, all of which can be described as "prominent" in one way or another. The sleek ten-story Stoddard office building and the nearby Lansing City Hall, with its adjoining office building for the municipally owned Board of Water and Light, frame the approaches to the Capitol; the second tallest bank tower and a major addition to the tallest are between these two; a multi-level parking ramp for the Michigan National Bank is one of the few buildings in Lansing to display a color scheme of yellow and blue; a block away is the different, but equally fresh and clean, Lansing Public Library, its skin of precast panels displaying in bas-relief the identifying coats of arms or "colophons" of various American publishing houses. Many other buildings throughout Lansing and on the MSU campus are Black's as well as many in other communities in Central Michigan. Most of us are familiar with the mammoth Events Building next to Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor, done by Black in conjunction with Daniel Dworsky of Los Angeles, and some of us have had experiences in one of the several contributions this firm has made to the University Hospital at the other end of the U of M campus. In all, buildings for numerous different science specialties have been done by the firm at both the U of M and MSU, one of the most interesting of which is no doubt the Cyclotron Building at MSU. Religion is represented too, in the East Lansing Ward and Stake Building of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Long concerned and busy with the affairs of the profession, Ken has been active in many posts in the AIA and the MSA, of which he is a past president and whose Gold Medal he received in 1962. He was elected to Fellowship in the Institute in 1952 for service to the profession. He served on the Michigan Planning Commission for several years and is a member of the Lansing City Planning Commission and the Michigan Association of the Professions.

Ken's father, Lee Black, practiced architecture in Lansing as a partner with his son from 1932 until his retirement in 1958. The firm is still very much a family affair with Ken's brother Bill (who was chairman of the 1967 MSA Convention in Lansing) and his son Duncan playing big roles in its function. Ken is a thorough Lansingite and Michiganian. Born and bred in Michigan, he studied architecture at the U of M, as did his brother and his son, where he received several honors including the Booth Traveling Fellowship which provided study at the American Academy in Rome. He was a member of a specially selected design class while at Michigan taught by Eliel Saarinen. In addition to a long list of public service posts on both the city and state levels, Ken is exceptionally well and widely traveled, with a trip around the world and several visits to Europe and Latin America.

Custom designed works of art and the skillful use of landscaping have always marked Ken Black buildings. Even such unlikely structures as Lansing's Water Conditioning Plant boasts heroic scale sculpture, and one of his early works, the Bank of Lansing Building, presents minutely detailed gargoyles, corbel blocks and other trim (by artists Ricci and Zari,) that provide the honest expression of the neo-gothic styling of the building. Black's own home in Lansing boasts an enormous wall panel hanging, hand painted on linen by Jose Svasta, as well as one of the high points in his use of exterior landscape design and other significant art works in several media. Springing partly from his extensive European travel and study, this sensitive and zestful use of all media gives Ken Black a well deserved reputation in his discipline. His capable wife Marie, who is a Columbia graduate in her discipline. His capable wife Marie, who is a Columbia graduate directs the interior decorating phase of the practice.

The Bulletin raises its hat to one of the significant practitioners of this profession in this state, and wishes him long life and continued success.
All Of These Companies Went Off In Different Directions And Ended Up At The Same Place!

De Clerk Industries

Each architect had his own unique design problems. The general contractor's construction details were uncommon to the other structures on the "road sign" yet all of these companies selected DeClerk and its subsidiary, American Prestressed Concrete Inc., to help them with their prestressed and precast concrete requirements.

They know it's nice to do business with the people who care.
Lake". I guess one Travel Folder author copies from another. Pitch Lake of course is of historical interest—Sir Walter Raleigh stopped there—and I believe there is only one other in the World but it is not worth the 1 1/2 hour ride (one way) to get there. The country is beautiful, always in color, the only trouble is your zippers rust up. I know I told you this before and you sent a number of solutions for which I am grateful but we don’t have safety pins here.

The People here are Negro, Indian—Muslim and Hindu, some Chinese and white descendents from the French and English. There is no real race problem. I am sure it is safer here than in Detroit and some other cities in the U.S. People are very friendly. There is considerable unemployment which the Government is making a desperate effort to correct. One gets the impression that this is an underdeveloped country on the make. One thing for sure is that the Government is stable and of course this was a problem when I was in Korea and Viet Nam.

I almost forgot to mention our Earthquake last Thursday. This was the damndest experience. It hit at 2 a.m. and the bed shook as if it was spooked, with much force. I don’t like to be spooked at 2 in the morning, neither does Haze. There is considerable damage around Port of Spain but insignificant damage here at the Job. The action of the quake on these concrete buildings is also of interest.

I should mention that because of the U.K. influence, we do have our tea at the job — “no lemon please” — and Hazel too is exposed to this with some of her U.K. Bridge friends. She says to tell the Girls “to be correct, Darling you must use only cold milk for tea and warm milk for coffee — and Darling! — another thing, always pour milk in the teacup first.” Why? well then the tea doesn’t stain the cup. Well, makes sense doesn’t it? Now aren’t you girls glad you read this far?

In closing, may I also give some advise. This is to the young man who is thinking about locating in Trinidad — Never, never park your car under a Coconut Tree!

Sincerely,
Joe Leinweber
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CALENDAR

December 7
Continuing Education Seminar Sponsored by MSA, at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

1969
January 21
WALD Meeting at Detroit Institute of Arts, Gallery Lecture, "Michigan Artists Exhibition."

January 22
Detroit Chapter Meeting—ESD

February 12
"Feed Forward Seminar"—ESD

February 21
WALD Evening Wine Testing Party
March 19, 20, 21
55th Annual MSA Convention Statler Hilton Hotel, Detroit

Wanted: Job Captains and Senior Draftsmen. For permanent position with progressive firm. Call or write Bruce Smith, Smith & Smith Architects, 304 S. Main, Royal Oak; telephone: 398-1800.
Georgian Inn installs heat regenerating wheel and becomes newest motel in Southeastern Michigan to go all-electric.

Large dining room-kitchen complexes, like that at Georgian Inn, have a ventilation problem. Frequent air changes are necessary but in the process there are excessive heat losses. At Georgian Inn, Roseville, Michigan, there's a neat solution. A heat regenerating wheel. With it, 80% of dining room-kitchen heat can be saved and re-used. It enabled Georgian Inn to be what the owners wanted it to be—all-electric. From electrically heated swimming pool to electrically heated and cooled rooms. And it's interesting to note that electricity costs only 32¢ per day per sleeping room. That's a pretty modest sum to invest in warm hospitality. That's why the future belongs to electric heat.

EDISON
The new $5,000,000 Michigan International Speedway achieves maximum skid resistance with a specially mixed asphalt surface using slag aggregate...

The designers of one of the world's finest racing complexes—the Michigan International Speedway—wanted the most skid-resistant surface available. They chose an asphalt wearing course with a special mix using 100% crushed slag aggregate.

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