



2010 WINTER  
OLYMPICS



DRAWING BOARD

The rink's refrigeration hoses are compartmentalized in the concrete slab, allowing solutions of different temperatures to be pumped through.

Six infrared sensors hanging from the ceiling monitor the surface temps of the ice so they can be kept at 17.6 degrees in the straights and 21.2 in the curves.

## Nice Ice

Canadian engineers have devised the fastest speed-skating rink that ever froze BY ALISON KELMAN

We saw it with the Beijing Water Cube aquatics center and now again with Vancouver's \$177 million Richmond Olympic Oval: Host nations love it when world records fall on their soil, so they build venues that up their chances. The Vancouver Olympic Committee is claiming to have created the fastest skating track in history by making it possible to moderate the ice temperature to be warmer and grippier in the curves, for less slippage, and rock-solid in the straight-aways, for all-out sprints. Here's how it's done.

Computers compare surface temperature with readings from thermostats embedded in the slab and along the cooling pipes to keep them constant.