

Frank Mruk, FAIA NRMCA





### Leveraging the Properties of Concrete in Net-Zero Buildings



Concrete LC2, designed by Stefan Zwicky in 1980



### Leveraging the Properties of Concrete in Net-Zero Buildings

- **1.** Communication
- **2.** Quality Control and Quality Assurance
- **3.** Optimization of Concrete Design
- **4.** Alternative Cements
- **5.** Supplementary Cementitious Materials

- 6. Admixtures
- **7.** Limitation of Ingredients
- 8. Targets for Carbon Footprint
- **9.** Sequestering CO2 in Concrete
- **10.** Innovation





# Communicate Carbon Reduction Goals

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#### **The Urgent Need to Reduce GHG Emissions**





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# The Concrete Construction Industry Will Play a Pivotal Role in Global Decarbonization

- Embodied carbon from the building materials produce 11% of annual global GHG emissions.
- Concrete, iron, and steel alone produce ~9% of annual global GHG emissions.
- Likely will need to build with more robust materials like concrete.
- How do we minimize environmental impacts?









#### **Environmental Impacts on a Per Unit Basis**



#### **Carbon Impacts of Concrete**



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### In Traditional Mixtures, Cement Drives Concretes' Greenhouse Gas Impact



3000 psi mixture with no SCMs



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#### **Opportunities for Reduction**





RMI Report, Reducing Embodied Carbon in Buildings Low-Cost, High-Value Opportunities July 2021



### We are Seeing....

#### **Collaboration during design process**

- Early on, in meetings and charettes
- Communication of the problem and possible solutions

#### Articulation of goals in Concrete Spec

• Ex. This project has a goal of reducing the embodied carbon footprint over a typical project by 30%

#### **Re-Articulation in Prebid Meetings**

• Re-state the carbon reduction goals and encourage innovation

# No. 2: Ensure Good Quality Control and Quality Assurance





#### **Manufacturer Qualifications:**

- NRMCA Certified Concrete
   Production Facility
- NRMCA Concrete Technologist
   Level 2

### **Installer Qualifications:**

ACI Flatwork Finisher

### **Testing Agency Qualifications:**

- Meets ASTM C1077
- ACI Concrete Field-Testing Technician Grade I
- ACI Concrete Laboratory Testing Technician Level I
- Results certified by a registered design professional



# No. 3: Optimize Concrete Design



Social Media

14117 -

#### Widespread CCUS for hard-to-abate sectors is possible.

A CSHub project investigates how a carbon pipeline network based around the location of "carbon hubs" (nearby industrial facilities) could potentially generate abatement opportunities across sectors. The project has been selected for funding by the MIT Energy Initiative's Future Systems Center, joining a cohort of nine other energy research projects.

#### Read the announcement.

Read the brief.

#### The MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub makes key impacts in three areas:

#### Carbon Neutrality

Carbon neutral concrete is possible. Solutions are available today, and new ones are being developed for the future. One of the major goals of MIT CSHub is to help realize a carbon neutral concrete industry.

#### A Infrastructure

Effective, sustainable infrastructure spending can improve system performance and impact climate change. MIT CSHub investigates how low carbon infrastructure may be built with very finite resources.

#### 👖 <u>Resilience</u>

The risk of hazards like natural disasters and extreme heat is underestimated. Stronger construction to mitigate it is undervalued. MIT CSHub studies how cities can be made more resilient to hazards through investment in stronger, cooler construction.





# **Concrete Materials:**

 Hydraulic Cement: ASTM C150, ASTM C595, or ASTM C1157

# No. 4: Use Alternative Cements

### **ASTM C595**

Туре	Description	Notes			
Type IL (X)	Portland-Limestone Cement	Where X can be between 5 and 15% limestone			
Type IS (X)	Portland-Slag Cement	Where X can be up to 70% slag cement			
Type IP (X)	Portland-Pozzolan Cement	Where X can be up to 40% pozzolar (fly ash is the most common)			
Type IT (AX)(BX)	Ternary Blended Cement	Where X can be up to 70% of pozzolan + limestone + slag, with pozzolan being no more than 40% and limestone no more than 15%			

# No. 4: Use Alternative Cements

Portland-limestone cement is intended to fully replace ordinary Portland cement, 10% reduction in carbon footprint.

# No. 5: Use Supplementary Cementitious Materials

#### Many Binders Can Be Used in Concrete





Nearly every concrete made today uses some sort of admixture.

# **Concrete Materials:**

### **Chemical Admixtures:**

- 1. Air-Entraining Admixture: ASTM C 260/C 260M
- 2. Water-Reducing Admixture ASTM C 494/C 494M Type A
- High-Range Water-Reducing Admixture: ASTM C 494/C 494M Type F or G
- 4. Accelerating Admixture: ASTM C 494/C 494M Type C or E
- 5. Retarding Admixture: ASTM C 494/ C 494M Type B or D
- 6. Hydration Control Admixture: ASTM C 494/C 494M Type B or D

### **Concrete Constituents**



# Fine aggregates







# Admixtures



# No. 7: Don't Limit Ingredients

All too often, there are seemingly random limits on material ingredients in project specifications that limit the concrete producer's ability to meet performance criteria:

#### **Establish Performance Based Specifications**

- Goal:
- Prescription 
   Performance
- Methods:
- Emphasize ACI 318 Exposure Classes
- Alt testing for durability/design
  - Shrinkage, MOE, RCP, ASR
- Expand acceptable materials
- Extended strength development





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# No. 8: Set a Carbon Budget

Resist the temptation to set carbon footprint limits for individual classes of concrete.

#### **Establish a Carbon Budget**

- Goal:
- Trigger the use of low carbon materials
- Method:
- a) Set Baseline
- b) Collect EPDs
- c) Establish a Carbon Budget





#### **Establish a Carbon Budget**





#### **Establish Comparison Between Benchmark and Project**



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#### **Proposed Project**





#### Life Cycle Analysis





### **Estimating Quantities and Properties**

Concrete Element	Concrete Volume (yd³)	Benchmark Mixes (benchmark)*	Proposed Mixes (IW-EPD)*
Shear Walls	7,630	6,000 psi	<b>6,000 psi</b> 30% slag, 20% fly ash
Columns	366	8,000 psi	<b>8,000 psi</b> 40% fly ash
Floors 2-18	4,533	5,000 psi	<b>5,000 psi</b> 30% slag
Floors B2-1	1,067	5,000 psi	<b>5,000 psi</b> 40% fly ash
Basement Walls	444	5,000 psi	<b>5,000 psi</b> 30% slag, 20% fly ash
Foundation	3,844	6,000 psi	<b>6,000 psi</b> 40% slag, 30% fly ash
*Should be augmented	with local data, knowle	dge, capabilities	



#### **NRMCA Benchmark Mixes**

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EPD	Program	Operator:	NSF Inte	mational			
Prej	pared by:	The Athe	na Sustaina	ble Materials	Institute		
Dec	ember 2021					1	111111
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Download at https://www.nrmca.org/sustainability



### **Regional EPDs**





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#### **Regional EPDs**



Download at https://www.nrmca.org/sustainability



#### **Regional EPDs**

≡ 1,000

\$5,1,000

0.000 500

100

GMP Is DOOM 500

#### **Concrete EPD Availability by State**





#### **NRMCA Benchmark Mixes**

Shear Walls			,630	6,000 psi			<b>6,000 psi</b> 30% slag, 20% fly ash			
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Results Tab	le E2-Eastern LCA I	Results (per	cubic yard)							
Strength	psi @28 days	2,500	3,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	8,000	3000LW	4000LW	5000LW
Core Manda	ory Impact Indicator									
GWP	kg CO2e	183.29	201.48	240.22	289.03	305.26	360.51	395.35	437.90	480.10
ODP	kg CFC11e	5.91E-06	6.36E-06	7.32E-06	8.52E-06	8.96E-06	1.03E-05	1.47E-05	1.58E-05	1.69E-05
AP	kg SO2e	0.67	0.71	0.81	0.93	0.98	1.12	2.10	2.22	2.33
EP	kg Ne	0.24	0.26	0.30	0.36	0.37	0.44	0.69	0.74	0.79
SFP	kg O3e	14.31	15.21	17.18	19.61	20.57	23.34	29.65	31.81	33.89
ADPf	MJ, NCV	400.61	412.16	442.07	482.50	503.70	548.75	2,225.23	2,290.96	2,344.41
ADPe	kg Sbe	1.28E-04	1.30E-04	1.36E-04	1.42E-04	1.48E-04	1.55E-04	1.71E-04	1.79E-04	1.87E-04

Download at https://www.nrmca.org/sustainability



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#### 3<sup>rd</sup> party verified & registered documents that communicate transparency





#### **Compare to NRMCA Industry Wide EPD Mixes**

Shear Walls			7,63	30 6,0			6,000 psi			<b>6,000 psi</b> 30% slag, 20% fly ash		
duct claratio	on	NRMCA		Tribue Inconsector Recented Consector Sector Recent	ed and Energy Flore Standards 4770 Resp. (5) 1970 Flore (5) 1970 Flore (5) 1970 Flore (5) 1970 Flore (5) 1970 Flore (5) 1970 Flore (5)	How to Use This? Metrick mandem owner project was our to be to use when 200 Meer parts	Table Autory in this to other compliance for expression the s	1	C 10 Decisional Decisional Decision (MAT) C 10 Decisional Decisio	a decidi at (20) of more dig processing of the second second second second second processing second second second second processing second second second second processing second second second second second second second second second second second second second second second second second second second sec		
Table 10	b. Summary Resu	ts (A1-A3): 5001	-6000 psi (34.5	-41.4 MPa) RM	AC product mi	ix design, per	cubic yard					
		Minimum	Maximum	5001-6000- 00-FA/SL	5001-6000- 20-FA	5001-6000- 30-FA	5001-6000- 40-FA	5001-6000- 30-SL	5001-6000- 40-SL	5001-6000- 50-SL	5001-6000- 50-FA/SL	
Core Mand	atory Impact Indicator	221.47	277.44	277.44	222.62	202.01	261.72	200.02	261.07	222.14	221.47	
	kg CSC11e	6 505-06	9 715.06	9.165-06	7 905-06	7 225.06	6 505-06	9.495-06	9.605.06	9 715-06	231.47	
AP	kg SO2e	0.81	1.10	1.07	0.95	0.88	0.81	1.08	1.09	1.10	0.97	
EP	kg Ne	0.30	0.45	0.45	0.39	0.35	0.32	0.37	0.34	0.32	0.30	
SEP	kg O3e	17.76	23.30	22.81	20.42	19.13	17.76	23.10	23.20	23.30	20.73	
ADPf	MJ, NCV	503.28	575.31	575.31	541.31	522.84	503.28	550.69	542.48	534.27	515.21	
ADPe	kg Sbe	1.21E-04	1.50E-04	1.50E-04	1.36E-04	1.29E-04	1.21E-04	1.36E-04	1.31E-04	1.27E-04	1.22E-04	
		Cartified Environmental Product Declaratio		init and pr initiation Bho	10406-1407 - 12009 4940-1408 - 12049 4940-1408 - 12049 4940-1908 - 10049 4940-1908 - 10049 4940-1908 - 10049 4940-1908 - 10049 4940-1908 - 10049 4940-1908 - 10049 10000000000	DD and res many feature     At university of the second seco	kom fingel fo disco dramowi presidentifica		" JBD 75C C See HELLING S Produ	Man Conservice	5	

Download at https://www.nrmca.org/sustainability



### **Identify Global Warming Potential**

Concrete Element	Concrete Volume (yd³)	Benchmark Mixes GWP (Eastern Region)	Proposed Mixes GWP (IW-EPD)*
Shear Walls	7,630	305	<b>232</b> 30% slag, 20% fly ash
Columns	366	361	<b>303</b> 40% fly ash
Floors 2-18	4,533	289	<b>277</b> 30% slag
Floors B2-1	1,067	289	<b>249</b> 40% fly ash
Basement Walls	444	289	<b>220</b> 30% slag, 20% fly ash
Foundation	3,844	305	<b>166*</b> 40% slag, 30% fly ash

\*Should be augmented with local data, knowledge, capabilities



# NRMCA Concrete Carbon Calculator

NRMCA

### Producer



6,000 306.4

4000 347.3

1.001.000

4,000,000

1.101.00

Contractor: ABC Construction

Ready Mix Producer: NRMCA Member Prepared by: bwray@mmca.org Pruit Technology Inc. - New Office Campus Serve, Calibrate

275

190

#### This report was generated using the NRMCA's Concrete Carbon Ca this analysis indicate that an estimated -25.11 % reduction in embiscope on Fruit Technology Inc. - New Office Campus". The baselin NRMCA v3.2 Pacific SW.

8,600

1,000

"This study includes the following life cycle stages.

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**Concrete Budget Report** 

#### **NRMCA** Concrete Carbon Calculator

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The NRMCA Concrete LCA and Project Budgeting Tool provides a simple and efficient way for ready-mix suppliers and concrete contractors to calculate the environmental impacts of concrete, assess the impact of lower carbon alternates, and demonstrate compliance with a pre-determined carbon budget on individual projects. Developers and designers can also use this tool to establish regionally appropriate carbon budgets for their projects.



Build with Strength is an initiative of NRMCA to educate the building and design communities and policymakers on the benefits and proper use of ready mixed concrete for building construction.



Access at https://nrmca.climateearth.com/

Designer

1 Basic Information	Project Settings	3 Project D	ata	- 4 Online Report
-				
Project Basic Information	Description *	P	Project type *	
Residential Tower - Boston	18 Story CIP Frame	2	Building	*
Project Address				
Street	City *	State *	Zip Code *	



Start New Project	<ul> <li>NRMCA Benchmarks v3.2</li> <li>National</li> </ul>
Basic Information     Project Settings	<ul> <li>8 Regions</li> <li>GSA (General Services Administration)</li> <li>City of Portland</li> </ul>
Basic Settings Unit of Measure System * Total Project Area * imperial  v 500000	<ul> <li>CLF Baseline (Carbon Leadership Forum)</li> <li>CalGreen (In-Progress)</li> </ul>
Carbon Budget Source Settings	More to be added in the future
Source for carbon budget * I will use an industry or local policy baseline - C	Source for baseline * NRMCA v3.2 Eastern
Reset Cancel	<pre>     Previous Next &gt; </pre>



Basic Info	mation			2 Project Set	tings				3 Project Date	а		Online Repo
	MixID	Strength P\$I	Міх Туре	Application	Total Volume yd²	Proposed Mic kgC02e/y	x GWP d <sup>y</sup>	Carbonation Factor kgC02e/yd <sup>3</sup>	Baseline GWP kgC02e/yd <sup>a</sup>	Baseline GWP Budget kgC02e/project	Proposed Project GWP kgC02e/project	Total Achievable Carbonation kgC02e/project
	1	6000	Norm +	Shear Walls	7630	232		-7.6	305.3	2,329,439	1,770,160	-57,988
	2	8000	Norm *	Columns	366	303	•	-17.8	360.5	131,943	110,898	-6,5 <mark>1</mark> 5
	3	5000	Norm *	Floors 2-18	4533	277		-12.4	289	1,310,037	1,255,641	-56,209
	4	5000	Norm *	Floors B2-1	1067	249	8	-17.7	289	308,363	265,683	-18,886
	5	5000	Norm *	Basement V	444	220	8	-18,6	289	128,316	97,680	-8,258
	6	6000	Norm	Foundation	3844	166.4	•	-0.7	305.3	1,173,573	639,642	-2,691
			-				123	B				



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For calculating impact of a Proposed Mix GWP for 'Mat Foundation' proposed 70% SCM replacement in foundations Material Quantity per yd<sup>3</sup> UoM Important information This result is NOT an EPD. This GWP was calculated using the same LCI data sources as Batch Water \* 32 V GAL 2 Project Settings 3 Project D prescribed in Table A1 of the PCR for Concrete, NSF International, August 2021 v2.1. A3 is assumed to be 9.04 kg CO2eq/m3 per NRMCA's Benchmark Report v3.2. This . Portland Limestone Cement (Type IL)/ASTM C595 - Domestic 282 V LB \* Carbonation Baseline GWP is strictly an estimate and is based on Total Volume Proposed Mix GWP industry averages, regional data, and average Application Factor GWP yd3 kgC02e/yd3 transportation impacts and should be used kgC02e/yd3 kgC02e/yd for estimation purposes only. For more Fly Ash 112 V 1.8 \* accurate results, it is recommended that a Shear Walls 7630 232 == -7.6 == 305.3 Type III Third-Party Verified Product Specific EPD be developed. Columns 366 303 88 -17.8 88 360.5 For a more accurate plant specific estimate, Slag Cement/ASTM C989 - Imported 170 V 18 . \* use your EPD tool provider's EPD estimator. 4533 277 = -12.4 = Floors 2-18 289 . Crushed Coarse Aggregate/ Crushed Fine Aggregate -1650 V 18 88 Floors B2-1 1067 249 **1** -17.7 289 = Basement V 444 220 -18.6 289 1350 V LB Natural Fine Aggregate -8 88 Foundation 3844 166.4 305.3 . Plasticizer and Superplasticizer 24 ✓ FL.OZ \* 8 田 Download Mix Design File Cancel Calculate TOTALS 17,884



#### For calculating the carbonation potential of each element.

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ings			3 Project Date	ta		Online Rep	Use type *
Total Volume yd <sup>9</sup>	Proposed Mix GWP kgC02e/yd²	Carbonation Factor kgC02e/yd <sup>9</sup>	Baseline GWP kgC02e/yd <sup>3</sup>	Baseline GWP Budget kgC02e/project	Proposed Project GWP kgC02e/project	Total Achievable Carbonation kgC02e/project	Reference Service L
7630	232	-7.6	305.3	2,329,439	1,770,160	-57,988	
366	303 🛃	-17.8	360.5	131,943	110,898	-6,515	Exposure category
4533	277	-12.4	289	1,310,037	1,255,641	-56,209	Percent clinker in co
1067	249 🖬	-17.7	289	308,363	265,683	-18,896	
444	220 🛃	-18.6	289	128,310	97,680	-8,258	Percent silica fume
3844	166.4 🞛	-0.7	305.3	1,173,573	639,642	-2,691	
	8	8					
17,884				5,381,671	4,139,704	-150,547	

Carbonation Factor	
Use type *	•
Reference Service Life (RSL) (years) *	Exposed surface (yd²/yd²) *
Exposure category*	Cement content (lb/yd³) *
Percent clinker in cement (%) *	Percent limestone in concrete (%) *
Percent silica fume in concrete (%) *	Percent fly ash in concrete (%) *
	Cancel Calculate



Concrete Budget Report	Concrete Budget Report	Concrete Budget Report
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sources; climate serie)	Annual Cimale Courts	reconstruction distalle earth)









### **Final Results**

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Project	Project GWP (kg)	Weighted GWP (kg/yd³)	GWP Reduction
Benchmark Mixes	5,382,000	301	0
Proposed with Fly Ash and Slag Mixes	4,140,000	232	- 23%
Establish Carbon Budget	4,300,000	240	- 20%*

\* Consider added buffer/tolerance



# Set Targets for Carbon Footprint

### <u>Concrete Materials:</u>

A.Supply concrete mixtures such that the total Global Warming Potential (GWP) of all concrete on the project is less than or equal to 4,300,000 kg of CO2 equivalents or a weighted average of 240 kgCO2e/yd3

# No. 9: Sequester Carbon Dioxide w/Carbonation

Carbonation is a naturally occurring process by which  $CO_2$  penetrates the surface of hardened concrete and chemically reacts with cement hydration products to form carbonates.





# **Concrete Materials:**

- A. Normal-weight Aggregate: ASTM C33
- B. Lightweight Aggregate: ASTM C330
- C. Recycled concrete aggregate (crushed concrete) meeting the requirements of ASTM C33 or ASTM C330 may be used in structural concrete up to 10% of the total aggregate.
- D. Artificial limestone aggregate meeting the requirements of ASTM C33 or ASTM C330 is permitted.
- E. Carbon mineralization by injecting CO2 into concrete during manufacturing or curing in CO2 atmosphere shall be permitted. 49

# No. 10: Encourage Innovation

- Ground Glass Pozzolan
- Carbon Storing Aggregate
- Carbon Negative Cement
- Carbon Dioxide infused fly ash
- Biochar
- Limestone Calcined Clay Cement
- Biogenic Limestone Cement
- Geopolymer Cement
- Metamaterial Cement

#### The Competition Landscape of Low-Carbon Cement

## The Competition Landscape of Low-Carbon Concrete

Concrete Technology Tracker From istructe.org Jan 2024



Exhibit 1: Competition landscape across the three Rs of low-carbon cement

Competition Landscape





#### Is cement the solution to storing renewable energy? Engineers at MIT think so.

Supercapacitors could make powering your home and electric vehicles easier and more sustainable

By Macie Parker Globe Correspondent, Updated August 22, 2023, 9:36 a.m.

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At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from left, professor Admir Masic, visiting scholar James Weaver, postdoc Damian Stefaniuk, and professor Franz-Josef Ulm surrounded a supercapacitor, which can store renewable energy using cement, water, and carbon. SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

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#### MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub





Over the last 2 years, more than \$500 Million has been invested in lower-carbon concrete startups.





Scalable lower-carbon pathways for concrete must have adequate and distributed raw material supply, align w/existing capital investments, and be understood by the concrete and construction workforce.

MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub



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#### World Bank 🤣 @WorldBank · 7h

Did you know that a #PriceOnCarbon is increasingly being considered in new sectors such as aviation, shipping and waste? Check out the "State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2024" report to learn more: wrld.bg/BUtX50SnzCe

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\$250M allocated to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help manufacturers develop Environmental Product Declarations (SEC. 60112) \$100M Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) issued in October 2023 Proposals were due January 2023 NRMCA applied to provide funding for producers to publish EPDs NRMCA was selected for a grant for \$9.63M Public announcement happened on 7-16-2024 Grant will likely start funding in October-December 2024 timeframe



#### **Insurance Costs**

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#### **Progress to Date**





#### **NRMCA** Resources

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**CARBON FOOTPRINT** 





Carbon Footprint

The Top 10 Ways to NRMCA Environmental Product Declaration Reduce Concrete's (EPD) Program Flyer







Concrete's Environmental Impact: What You Need to Know



Guide to Improving Specifications for Ready Mixed Concrete





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### Leveraging the Properties of Concrete in Net-Zero Buildings



Concrete LC2, designed by Stefan Zwicky in 1980