

A show first . . . 'And a river runs through it'

The Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association will bring a touch of Texas to the International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show with its Riverwalk Gardens sponsored by Home Window Co.

A 400-foot-long river, modeled after the river gardens of San Antonio, will run through Cobo Center, surrounded by 86,000 square feet of landscaped gardens (that's nearly two football fields) at the 76th annual show March 19-27. The show is sponsored by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan.

"I think it's quite amazing to build a river inside Cobo Center," said Larry Wright, MDLA president and CEO. "This will be a first, and we are all very excited about this project."

The eight-foot-wide river features two landscaped ponds (40 feet in diameter) with water fountains at either end and a waterfall cascading into one of the ponds.

Sixteen Michigan landscapers represent the Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association at Riverwalk Gardens, including the Michigan State University Department of Horticulture & Institute of Agricultural Technology. (See Page 7 for a complete listing). The MDLA is based in Bingham Farms.

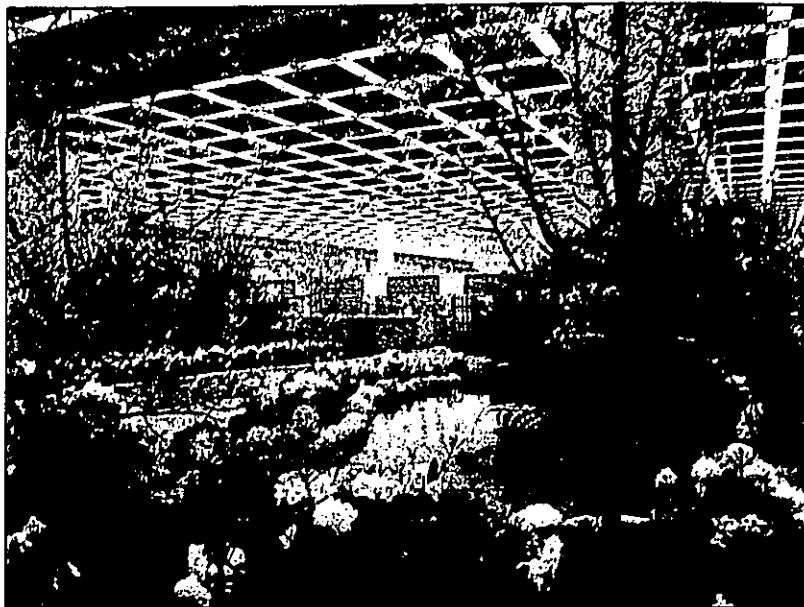
Black Forest Building Co. will construct three styles of bridges to cross the indoor river. Stonework by Oaks Precast will line the inside of the river, completing the authentic San Antonio look.

"Instead of the gondolas like in San Antonio, we have ducks," Wright said.

Each evening, a duck race will be sponsored by the Rotary International District 6400, which includes clubs in southeast Michigan and parts of Canada. Official plastic ducks will sell for \$3 each or two for \$5. The purchaser of the first-place duck wins \$2,000; the second-place prize is \$500; and the next eight place winners land \$100 each.

All proceeds go to the Rotary Foundation in Evanston, Ill., and will be directed to various charities and relief projects.

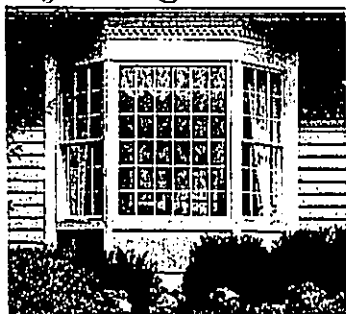
See RIVER, 7



Indoor oasis: Walkways along a 400-foot-long river inside Cobo Center will awaken thoughts of spring for visitors to the International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show.

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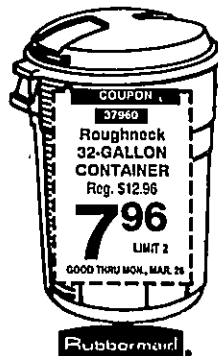
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