NEWS & EVENTS
LATICRETE MIDDLE EAST
OPEN HOUSE (QUARTER 1, 2018)

FEATURE FOCUS
MUSCAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPANSION

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MARBLE AND GRANITE TILES
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Marbles and granites have become increasingly popular over the past several years. Much of this is due to newer technology and techniques that lower production and installation costs. While marble and granite were once playthings of the idle rich, the cost is now increasingly affordable.

The variations in marble, travertine, dolomite, granite, sienite, gabbro, etc. are what give each stone individuality and character. A basic knowledge of these differences and the proper usage and limitations of each stone will help your customer select the one that is best suited to their needs and tastes. Let us discuss some basic facts that are common to most marble, granite and other stones.

Marbles and granites are either mined or quarried out of caves and mountains. They are taken out in large blocks. These blocks are then cut into slabs or tiles of whatever thickness is desired. The slabs or tiles are then polished, honed, or flamed depending on the desired texture and appearance of the surface. After this, they are sold as is in bundles or cut further and worked into various sizes and shapes.

Marble and granite tiles are customarily cut into 12”x12” (300 mm x 300 mm) squares and gauged to uniform thickness. Then, they are sent through a machine that hones a slight bevel into the edge of each piece. This creates a “cushioned edge” that will eliminate the sharpness if you were to run your fingers over an installed surface.

Many stone products have a mesh reinforcement adhered to the back surface of the tile. The adhesive used to attach the mesh is not standardized, but is commonly an epoxy or polyester-based adhesive that portland cement mortars may not reliably bond to. Such reinforced stone tile may require the use of an epoxy adhesive (e.g. LATAPOXY® 300 Adhesive).

INSTALLATION TIPS

Marble and granite are generally 12” x 12” (300 mm x 300 mm) in facial dimensions. It is now possible to use thin tiles (approximately 3/8”[10 mm]) due to more sophisticated installation materials.

1. Although “mud”, a 2-3” (50-75mm) bed of cement mortar is often considered the ideal base for tile and stone work, thin-bed applications can also be used. Rigid floor construction is critical for providing long lasting stone installations. The floor structure must meet the minimum standard for deflection of L/480. Resin backed, mesh backed, green marble or moisture sensitive stone or agglomerate tile requires special installation materials. We recommend LATAPOXY 300 Adhesive as the adhesive for these applications.

2. Always use white mortars for installing white or light-colored marbles.
Our first quarter of 2018, saw LATICRETE M.E. successfully compete to win significant contracts and see our products being specified for upcoming projects, within the Middle East and Africa.

The new extension to the Muscat International Airport, with 86 check-in counters, 40 gates, and 29 aircraft stands including jet-bridges, as well as a new control tower was recently opened to the public. Not only were we a part of the initial expansion phase, we aim to continue providing LATICRETE quality and reliability, as the airport undergoes further upgrades to boost the number of passengers to 24, 36 and 48 million passengers respectively.

At LATICRETE M.E. we know that achievements and success don’t come by accident. Breakthroughs come after spending hours of hard work and the successful growth of our company is the direct result of our valued employees. People are and always will be, our greatest asset. Every member of our team at LATICRETE M.E. is important and their contributions will be an important part of our continued growth story.

At our very first OPEN HOUSE for 2018, we were pleased to have a number of team members reach a milestone in their career with LATICRETE M.E. It was our great honor to present our colleagues with their long service awards and to see so many of the team, building their professional and personal lives by being a part of the LATICRETE Family.

It is humbling and motivating at the same time, to see such dedication and perseverance, as we celebrated the important 5 and 10 year service anniversaries with our team. It is also a very special occasion for LATICRETE M.E. as it is a testimony, of the loyalty and belief in our core values, which have been shared by so many of us over the years.

From the LATICRETE M.E. team and myself, we Thank You for your service.

Ritesh Singh
General Manager
LATICRETE Middle East and Africa
Muscat International Airport (formerly Seeb International Airport) is located approximately 32 km west of Muscat, the capital of the Sultanate of Oman. The airport is a hub for the national carrier Oman Air and is the gateway to Oman, improving connections to international destinations such as the Gulf, the Middle East, Europe and the Far East. It is operated by Oman Airports Management Company.

Oman Airports Management Company (OAMC), a closed joint stock company owned by the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, is carrying out an expansion plan of the airport. The project, costing $1.8bn according to the latest government figures, includes expansion of the existing terminal and the construction of a new terminal.

OAMC appointed a joint venture of COWI, Copenhagen Airports and Larsen Architects as the principal consultants for the airport expansion. ADPI, a subsidiary of Aeroports de Paris, has been appointed as the project management consultant.

Oman plans further expansions in three subsequent phases to boost the airport’s annual capacity to 24, 36, and 48 million passengers when the demand warrants. The site will feature 118 check-in counters and 82 immigration counters, 40 gates and shops and restaurants. The opening of the new 580,000 sqm terminal will prove transformational for the airport in terms of its facilities and capabilities. The terminal will initially be equipped with 29 boarding bridges, 96 check-in desks, more than 7,000 sqm of retail and F&B facilities. The airport will also feature its own 90-room airside hotel. A new 97-metre high ATC tower and more than 30,000 sqm of ancillary buildings are also being built for the phase one opening of the new terminal. They include an 8,000-vehicle capacity car park, aircraft hangars and new inflight catering kitchens.

The airport is currently undergoing a $1.8bn expansion to increase the passenger handling capacity. The first phase of the expansion began in December 2014. The phase 1 included a new runway, air traffic control tower and civil aviation building. A new passenger terminal building is also part of the expansion plan. The building will have 32 boarding air bridges, an additional runway and a control tower. The 29-gate passenger terminal building, which features the latest state-of-the-art technology, will accommodate 12 million passengers annually.

Working with the main contractors, ENKA, Bechtel and Bahwan Engineering Company, (BEB) for the development of the Main Terminal Buildings of the
Muscat International Airport, LATICRETE Middle East provided various products for use with vitrified tiles and granite being used in the main terminal building and the airport hotel, along with products used for over 12,000 square meters of wet area applications.

For the wet areas, the approval and use of LATAPOXY® SP-100 was the product of choice for the contractor. LATAPOXY SP-100 is a stainless, pigment free, colorfast epoxy grout for grouting floor installations of ceramic tile, brick, and stone. It easily cleans with water while fresh and can be used for interior and exterior applications. It is also ideal for kitchen floors, counter tops, bathroom floors, malls, cafeterias, and laboratories.

Another wet area application product used was Hydro Ban® which is a liquid applied, thin waterproofing anti-fracture membrane that combines optimum performance and unmatched productivity. Hydro Ban is rapid drying, allowing for a faster time to tile and flood testing, as well as faster flood testing in cold temperatures and over mortar beds. Hydro Ban does not require the use of fabric in the field, coves or corners and bonds directly to metal and plastic plumbing fixtures.

LATAPoxy BIOGREEN™ 300 Adhesive plays an important role by providing sustainable building materials to the industry. The project saw LATAPOXY 300 being used extensively throughout the swimming pool area in the airport hotel along with the fountains as well.

With the aim of providing a quick turnaround on site and to ensure a quality application, the local team from LATICRETE Oman was on hand providing extensive application training during installation.

Oman’s new Muscat International Airport opened to the officially public on March 18, 2018 with the first flight departing at 6:50 pm, with a capacity to operate 40 flights per hour. The grand opening marks the completion of the first phase of expansion which increases passenger capacity to 12 million — up from the previous 1.2 million passengers recorded in 2017.

Presently the Muscat International Airport is ranked in the top 10 airports in the Middle East, with an average annual growth forecast of 8 per cent.
LATICRETE OPEN HOUSE – QUARTER 1, 2018

The first quarter of 2018 saw us celebrating many achievements, including the pleasure of honoring our team members for their long years of dedicated service and loyalty to LATICRETE Middle East. We had several colleagues who were awarded the long service awards, for completing 5 and 10 years with LATICRETE, and for proudly representing LATICRETE M.E., both professionally and personally. A Big THANK YOU from the team at LATICRETE M.E. to all those who lead the way for the rest of us and shine as true examples of being a part of the LATICRETE FAMILY!”

5 YEARS AWARD WINNERS

SARAVANAN MAHALINGAM

ABU BAKER SIDDIQUE

HEMANT PATEL

FARUK KHALIL

ERVIN MAGNO

KHADIJA ALI

10 YEARS AWARD WINNERS

ARUL VARUVEL

KANNAN THANGAVEL

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5 YEARS AWARD WINNERS

ABDUL HAI
NUR ALAM
DANIEL DAVIS

MOHAMED RAFIQ
JOSEPH DACOSTA
GOPAL MASIH

MOHAMMAD TOHA
JOYNAL KHALIL
BINU ABRAHAM

RODEY PINTUCAN
FLORDELONA PULA
THEY BOTH MAKE DELIVERIES TO THE JOBSITE. THE ONE ON THE LEFT IS BETTER FOR LEVELING CONCRETE.

LATICRETE® SUPERCAP® Ready-Mix Delivery Service.