

National Tile Contractors Association

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TileLetter

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COVER STORY:

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LATICRETE FORTIFIES SOFITEL CHICAGO

One of Downtown Chicago's latest luxury hotels is the Sofitel Chicago Water Tower. The spectacular new building, designed by French architect Jean-Paul Viguier, features commanding views of Michigan Lake and is adjacent to the city's famous "Magnificent Mile."

The hotel, the North American flagship property for Sofitel, the prestige brand of Accor hotels, was chosen by the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects as the "best new building in Chicago in the last ten years."

The hotel is located at 20 E. Chestnut, at the intersection of Chestnut and Wabash streets. This 350,000-square-foot, prism-shaped structure was chosen by 338 of Chicago's leading architects as one of the city's most outstanding achievements in architecture.

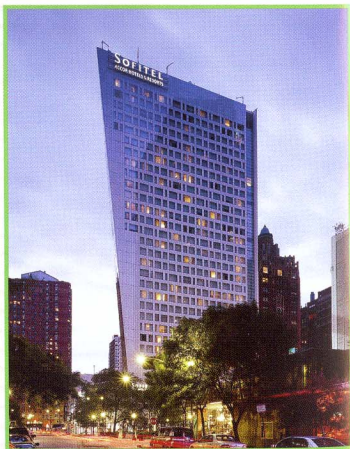
"With its geometric simplicity, attention to detail and careful orchestration of materials, the striking glass triangular tower displays a majestic presence, thrusting forward over the street and narrowing as it rises," the Chicago AIA chapter said in a statement. "Two prominent facades with exposures facing east and southwest allow for substantial natural light. Adding to the building's refinement is its exterior of horizontal cladding of opaque and visible glass in dynamic interaction with its verticality."

Architect Viguier was selected for the

Sofitel Chicago Water Tower project in 1998, during a design competition judged by top Accor executives and several outside consultants. His entry was chosen for its design that best complemented the hotel's exceptional surroundings. Viguier appointed the Chicago-based architectural firm Teng & Associates to assist on the project with engineering services.

"Accor chose architect Jean-Paul Viguier from a number of applicants to lead this one-of-a-kind project," said Sofitel Chicago Water Tower's General Manager Patrick Filatre. "With Chicago's history of renowned architecture, we are proud to have made a significant contribution to the city's striking and awe-inspiring skyline."

The hotel consists of 415 guest rooms



including 32 luxurious suites. All of them feature marble as a prominent material. Bourbon Tile of Buffalo Grove, Ill. supplied and installed the stone work. Bourbon selected and recommended a Laticrete System approach for the installation of all of the tile and stonework in the facility because of their trust in & experience with the Laticrete System. The owner, the architect and builder readily accepted Bourbon Tile's recommendation due to Laticrete's global reputation for stone & tile work on many of the world's leading hotels.

"We have used LATICRETE products for many years," said John Spitz, Estimator for Bourbon Tile. "They were the right products for this job. We feel that Laticrete is usually the right choice for just about all tile and stone jobs"

Laticrete materials used on this project ranged from thin load bearing waterproof membranes to help insure no leaking problems in guest rooms to Laticrete fortified adhesive mortars for the bonded of stone & tile to Laticrete Grouts in a rainbow of colors. Several difficult stone application areas found a solution with LATAPOXY® 310 Rapid Stone Adhesive.

LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane is a thin, load-bearing waterproofing designed specifically for the special requirements of ceramic tile, stone and brick installations. Safe, non flammable, non toxic components composed of a self-curing liquid rubber polymer and a reinforcing fabric are quickly applied to form a flexible, seamless waterproof membrane that bonds to a wide variety of substrates.

LATICRETE® 253 Gold Multi-purpose Thin-set Mortar is a superior polymer-modified, bagged cementitious thin-set to be mixed only with water to install ceramic tile and natural stone using the thin-set method of installation.

LATICRETE® 1600 Series Tri-Poly Fortified Unsanded Grout is a premium, factory-prepared Portland cement grout designed to be mixed with water. Formulated from a blend of high-strength Portland cement, graded aggregates, polymers and color-fast pigments. It provides a grout joint that is hard, dense and durable.

LATAPOXY® 310 Stone Adhesive is BOCA, ICBO, CBCCI, and ICC code approved for stone installations in a wide range of areas including elevator lobby walls, facades and countertops. This high-strength epoxy adhesive is often used for interior and exterior stone & large module ceramic tile cladding installations and is backed by a 10-year Systems Warranty.

LATICRETE International is a global leader in the manufacture of environmentally responsible tile and stone installation systems. Produced and available in major population centers worldwide, the LATICRETE brand is known, respected and trusted for industry leading innovation and superior technical support. Comprehensive LATICRETE and industry information can be found at: www.laticrete.com. For additional information and answers to your unique installation or application questions contact support@laticrete.com or (800) 243-4788 ext 235 (in USA), or (203) 393-0010, ext 235 (outside USA). LATICRETE® is a registered trademark of LATICRETE International, Inc.