



CANDY TILE COMPANY
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RON TREISTER

"Glass tiles are increasing in popularity. Before a project even begins, there are a lot of things to consider when a glass tile is chosen as the finish. I spoke with one of the top experts in the USA, Art Mintie, currently Technical Services Manager of Laticrete International and formerly a tile installation contractor. Here are items he recommends to consider:

- Where will the glass tile be used? Countertops - Walls - Floors - Submerged
- How is the glass tile mounted?
- Is it paper faced mounted or rear mesh mounted? Working with paper-faced mosaic glass tiles requires more skill and accuracy than other type of glass mosaic tile applications where the tile is generally back dot-mounted or rear mesh-mounted. The installer used should be familiar with the type of glass being used. If it is rear mesh mounted, what type of mesh / resin backing is on the glass? Can that backing withstand total water submersion?

• If the glass is translucent, what effect will the color of the adhesive mortar have on the finished appearance of the tile? Most glass tile manufacturers will suggest that a white colored thinset mortar be used. You can change the appearance of the glass and the total finish by experimenting with different colored liquid latex fortified Portland cement adhesive mortars.

• What method of installation do I choose? There are two basic methods; the conventional two-step method, where the tile is set in one day and then grouted the next day. Or the one-step method, where, a special latex fortified Portland cement based colored adhesive mortar is used to install the glass mosaic tile.

In this method, you would 'back-butter' the mosaic sheets with the same colored adhesive mortar that is spread on the substrate, in effect pre-filling the grout joints with a colored adhesive mortar. With this method you are actually setting and grouting at the same time. You only need to touch up the grout joints at the sheet ends and any small voids. This method is ideal for paper-face mounted glass mosaics. It also saves a tremendous amount time from having to scrape out the adhesive mortar from the grout joints.

* There are also many glass deco and trim pieces that may be installed on the same project that differ in thickness. There are adhesive mortars that can accommodate this difference. Some of these high quality medium bed mortars can be built up to a greater (19mm) thickness. So, therefore, you can set dissimilar tiles in the same application. They can also be used as a regular multi-purpose high strength thinset mortars for most other applications, as well. These mortars can also be used to install tiles and stones that may vary in thickness as well as large format finishes that require complete bedding and support.

Whereas numbers are not always exact, it is written by credible sources that 5% of the \$3 billion United States ceramic tile marketplace consists of 'specialty tiles.' What percentage of this category consists of glass tiles is hard to gauge. Certainly, it is growing on a daily basis. Sales of glass tile material mainly take place in the regions where contemporary designs are most accepted such as Florida; California; Dallas, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia and New York. All of these products from all over the world will be on display during the next edition of Coverings, which takes place 3 -6 May of 2005 in Orlando, Florida."



Ardex on the fast track for Ferrari dealers

When a prestigious Ferrari dealership in Nottingham required a new showroom floor they teamed up with Ardex UK and refurbishment specialists, Talbot Construction, to ensure a winning result.

The Sytner Group plc, one of the UK's largest prestige motor groups, stipulated that their £5.5 million Ferrari dealership in Nottingham required a flat and hard sub-floor, which would provide the perfect base for the fixing of large format Ferrari-branded 600 by 600mm ceramic floor tiles and, of course, the showroom vehicles.

Talbot Construction's northern office in York, who are specialists in the construction and refurbishment of motor vehicle dealerships, chose Ardex as they knew that their fast track flooring systems would easily achieve the timescale and performance criteria vital for this project. The existing uneven sub-floor received a 15mm pumped application of Ardex's advanced levelling compound, Ardex K 15-B, which has been specifically designed for thicker levelling applications from 7mm to 35mm. In addition, Ardex K 15-B is perfect for use in installations where fast track performance is necessary, as it combines innovation, cost effectiveness and ease of use to deliver outstanding results.

Ardex's Rapidity Formula technology, incorporated within Ardex K 15-B ensured rapid drying and hardening, so that it was hard enough to walk on just two hours after application and the specially designed Ferrari ceramic floor tiles could be fixed after only four hours.

"We provide our clients with a superior level of service, and therefore only utilise exceptional products such as those manufactured by Ardex. As expected, their Ardex K 15-B levelling compound provided a highly superior result for this prestigious Ferrari dealership which delighted both us, and our client," explained Ian Carter of Talbot Construction.



A major refurbishment at the Buttercrane Shopping Centre in Newry, Northern Ireland included installing tiles from the Ariostea's 9mm Fioridimarmo range of through-bodied porcelain over existing floor tiles throughout the main shopping mall and two existing entrances, along with a new entrance. First, the original surface had to be de-greased, to remove the build-up of cleaning materials. Then, before the new 400 by 400mm tiles could be fixed onto the existing 200 by 200mm format, the floor had to be levelled, using Evode Evostik Technik self-levelling compound.

"It was of paramount importance to guarantee the long-lasting integrity and appearance of the 4,500 sq. metres of tiled floor," says Roger McClenaghan of Lomac House of Tiles, which carried out the work. "So we recommended an entire solution package to the architects, from Schluter Systems." One of the main criteria was to protect the tiles from movement by using stress-relieving expansion joints to create independent tile fields which move independently from each other, preventing bulging, cracking and de-bonding. "Schluter profiles with edge protection, comprising a soft, synthetic rubber movement zone within aluminium side anchoring legs, were installed above existing expansion joints in the floor that we tiled over," says Roger McClenaghan.

Another recommendation to Londonderry-based architects WDR & RT Taggart, was the relatively new Schluter Reno-Ramp, used as a smooth transition where the new tiles in the mall met the existing tiles in shop doorways, which were at a lower level. "Because we were fixing on top of existing tiles, it meant our tiles were approximately 10 to 11mm higher than the existing shop floors, so we used this special transition profile to ramp down to the existing floor in every shop entrance. It gives a heavy-duty gradient transition between the two heights. The shallow 10-degree angle makes it easy for wheelchairs to get in and out of the shops, and ensures that people don't trip."

Where wall-tiling and columns met the floor tiles, the aluminium Schluter Schiene-AC was used as an edging piece, giving a square-edge protective finish.

The work was part of an overall £1m refurbishment at Buttercrane, which was handled by contractors McLoughlin & Harvey.



On 11th September 2001, approximately 275 residents of Nassau County, Long Island, a suburb of New York City, lost their lives in the infamous terrorist attacks. To commemorate the loss, Nassau County has commissioned a memorial to be constructed in Eisenhower Park, a park that has hosted the Goodwill Games and has been discussed in plans for New York's bid for the 2012 Olympics. The memorial design chosen is one that embodies the sentiments and emotions of county residents, as well as the theme requested by the memorial committee - A place to remember; a place to reflect.

The memorial design was created by Striga GA, a design collaborative, based in Nassau County. Laticrete has pledged to donate the tile and stone installation materials to ensure the memorial lasts a lifetime. These will include a slurry bond coat Laticrete 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive, 211 Crete Filler Powder, 3701 Mortar Admix, 226 Thick Bed Mortar, 9235 Waterproofing Membrane, SpectraLock Grout and Latasil Tile and Stone Sealants. "I have used Laticrete products for many years," explained Project Architect, Phil Gavosto. "There are no other products I would trust for this memorial. There must be no leaks and no cracking."

The central focus of the Nassau County 9/11 Memorial Project is two interconnected polished aluminum towers that are constructed from aluminum struts that rise some 30 feet above the reflecting pool. The interlocking towers will be semi-transparent depicting the moniker that has been a fixture of the NY skyline. The towers will be placed upon a raised base of polished black absolute granite which also makes up the floor of the reflecting pool. The outside of the pool's vertical base sides and the seating area will be a design of red flamed treated granite. The pool will also contain a water feature of narrow vertical fountains to create a background of water sounds. All other walking surfaces in the memorial will be concrete. Two steel artifacts salvaged from the Trade Center will be fixed in the pavement surrounded by a starburst cobble configuration. The reflecting pool is located at the centre of the memorial in an irregular shape to represent the lower geographic perimeter of Manhattan.

Mapei range features in MetroCentre refurb

Billed as "the largest shopping and leisure centre in Europe", MetroCentre in Gateshead is renowned for offering a wide range of retail and leisure facilities. Mapei's ceramic products and systems have been used throughout the re-tiling of the Red Mall. A 10 week project meant the lifting of old tiles and the packing of the floor in readiness for new tiles. Plunkett Tiling Co in Prudhoe completed the re-tiling of the mall using Mapei's Adesilex P4, a high performance, rapid-setting full contact adhesive for ceramic tiles and stone materials. It proved an ideal self back-buttering pourable adhesive (also suitable in some circumstances, as a levelling compound) for the large format slabs that were fixed onto the floor of the existing Red Mall. Installing the Jura Limestone slabs measuring 900 by 450 by 20mm, with Adesilex P4 meant that the floor could be ready for light foot traffic after approximately four hours.

The public toilets at the Blue Mall were also refurbished using Mapei products. Ultracolor polymer-modified cement based grout in Cement Grey was used to grout the floor joints between the porcelain tiles. Keracolor FF was used for grouting wall joints and Mapeisil AC silicone sealant was used to provide a flexible sealant joint that matched the grout colours. Ultracolor is available in 26 varied shades, Keracolor in 10 colours, with Mapeisil available in all matching shades, plus transparent.