

Jade Mountain

Project Spotlight: July 2007



LOCATION:
Caribbean Island of St. Lucia

OWNER:
Nick Troubetzkoy

ARCHITECT:
Nick Troubetzkoy

TILE CONTRACTOR:
Eddy Van Rikhoort

TILE SUPPLIER:
David Knox, Lightstreams, Inc.

TILE INSTALLATION SYSTEM:
LATICRETE International, Inc., Bethany, CT

LATICRETE DISTRIBUTOR:
Construction, Equipment & Services. LTD., St. Lucia

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By Eric Carson

In the early 1970s, Nick Troubetzkoy, a young architect from British Columbia, was asked to design a vacation villa on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia.

He never came back.

Instead, he landed in Soufriere, an island village in the shadows of the Piton Mountains, the most recognizable landmarks in all of the Caribbean. Gros (large) Piton and Petit (small) Piton, French for “brilliant green spikes,” rise sharply off the southwest coast of St. Lucia, a steep 2,619 feet at the peak of Gros Piton.

Whether it was the stunning views, the island lifestyle, or the people of St. Lucia itself, Troubetzkoy was smitten with the island, and not long after his wife Karolin packed up and joined him for good.

Ever the entrepreneur, Troubetzkoy soon purchased a popular island resort, Anse Chastanet, and proceeded to expand and modernize the original 14 hillside units into 49 wide open suites that flowed in harmony with nature and the environment.

The Anse Chastanet remodel took years to complete, and the resulting accommodations remain some of the grandest in the world, but what Troubetzkoy did next is nothing short of unbelievable. Inspired by his love of large open spaces in design, and in keeping with his philosophy of building in harmony with the Caribbean landscape, Jade Mountain was born, forever altering the expectations of hospitality the world over.

Resting on a hillside 160 feet above the sea, Jade Mountain’s 24 individualized suites, each complete with a vanishing infinity pool staring directly at the Pitons, represent an entirely new level of creativity and luxury in hotel design.

Built on the same property as Anse Chastanet by Nick Troubetzkoy’s construction company, Grand Caille, Ltd., this resort within a resort has been dubbed “the most exciting new hotel in the world.” With 15-foot ceilings, each wide open suite flows freely without walls from the bathroom, past the bedroom and on through the living room, giving way to a breathtaking view of the Pitons from the invisible edge of an infinity pool where the fourth wall should be. In fact, save a small half-wall concealing each toilet, the suites are

entirely open. Tropical hardwood floors environmentally harvested and personally selected from the rain forest of Guyana grace each floor in 10 different species. The interior walls, and all floors exposed to the weather, are covered with crushed coral quarried in Barbados. Each infinity pool, as well as the tub surrounds and shower walls inside, feature hand-made iridescent glass tiles with a two-sided finish, and all the glass tile at Jade Mountain was installed with environmentally responsible setting materials from LATICRETE, a world leader in the manufacturing of innovative systems for the installation of tile and stone.

Originally, Jade Mountain’s assistant project manager, James Wilson, specified LATICRETE for one of its original products, LATICRETE® 9235 Waterproofing Membrane, long the industry standard for all waterproofing applications. Driven by the desire to innovate, LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane was developed by LATICRETE in 1963 and brought to market as the first thin, liquid applied load bearing waterproofing membrane in the world. Rated TCA “Extra Heavy,” LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane is easily applied with a paint roller or brush, doubling as an anti-fracture membrane capable of suppressing cracks up to 1/8”. All of these attributes were vital to ensure the delicate install of 25 infinity pools at Jade Mountain. And with Troubetzkoy working as the general contractor on the job, and his dedication to the environment, it was also important that LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane is GREENGUARD Certified, and will protect against stain causing mold and mildew with antimicrobial protection from Microban®. But still, there was more, as part of the LATICRETE 10 Year System Warranty*, the decision to specify the rest of the LATICRETE System became a relative no-brainer for Jade Mountain.

“We started using LATICRETE for the waterproofing,” said Karyn Allard, project coordinator at Jade Mountain. “Then decided to use the whole system to get the warranty, and that’s all the way from the concrete to the final detail. We dealt directly with the director of international sales, Martha Cerlon, and reached an agreement to purchase all the products direct from LATICRETE to keep the project flowing. They were very helpful and timely.”

In typical LATICRETE fashion, Mitch Hawkins, a top



representative from LATICRETE technical services at world headquarters in Bethany, Connecticut, traveled to St. Lucia to provide hands-on training and demonstrations of the LATICRETE System. And while preparing the substrate of the pool presented few challenges, the hand-made glass tile created by David Knox of Lightstreams for the 25 infinity pools was an entirely different matter. Knox, who literally threw away the mold used for the Jade Mountain project, manufactured 28,000 square feet of 4" x 4" custom glass tiles in 24 different colors, one for each pool, with the Celestial Terrace pool on the top level using a combination of every color. Complicating the installation, each tile was made with two distinct surfaces, one smooth and iridescent, the other side a more textured finish. With the iridescent reflective side face up in the pools, Jade Mountain needed a thin-set with perfect color uniformity and smooth consistency, and LATICRETE 254 Platinum was the ideal solution.

"The tile itself was extremely smooth and provided very little grip," said Wilson. "The thin-set had to be absolutely perfect because you can see right through the tiles. We needed a uniform color and we couldn't have any bubbles visible. We had tried other thin-sets but the tiles popped right off. With LATICRETE 254 Platinum they adhered like crazy. It was a tenacious bond, which we needed to compensate for the contraction and expansion of the tiles during the day in the heat."

The tile contractor at Jade Mountain, Eddy Van Rikhoort, worked on 12 pools at a time with a team of 50 installers for over one year on this delicate project. First, the poured concrete substrate was treated with LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane, which was protected with a 1/2" mortar bed that also helped ease the unusual slope, consisting of a mixture of LATICRETE 4237 Latex Additive and LATICRETE 211 Powder.

The next step, important for both aesthetics and performance, was to set the tile using LATICRETE 254 Platinum. Because the iridescent custom made tiles had transparent qualities, Jade Mountain could not afford to have a thin-set without perfect color uniformity, and one with a smooth consistency to ensure there would be no visible bubbles or air pockets. LATICRETE 254 Platinum provides a tenacious bond and unsurpassed strength backed by the LATICRETE 10 Year System

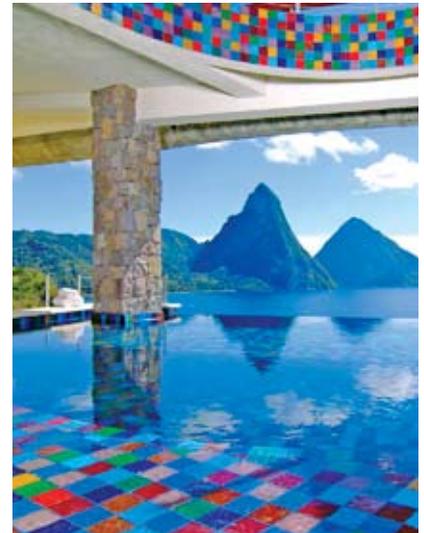
Warranty*, making it ideal for this continuous submersion application. Rikhoort and his crew back-buttered each individual tile with 254 Platinum, then set them with 1/8" grout joints in preparation for another revolutionary product from LATICRETE.

LATICRETE® SpectraLOCK® PRO Grout, a three-part epoxy offering unmatched performance, color uniformity, durability and stain resistance with extraordinary ease of use, also doubles as a design element with 40 different lifestyle colors available. At Jade Mountain, with 24 different colored custom made glass tiles installed in 25 infinity pools, a total of eight colors were specified for a harmonious design flow. LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout is GREENGUARD Certified and protects against stain causing mold and mildew with antimicrobial protection from Microban®, and with excellent chemical resistance will retain its color for the life of the installation. For the final step, the joints, corners and any changes in plane were treated with LATICRETE Latasil™, a 100 percent silicone sealant that will provide extra protection against moisture damage for Jade Mountain's infinity edge pools.

Perhaps more than most projects, Jade Mountain provides unique insight into the LATICRETE commitment to the research and development of innovative systems for the installation of tile and stone. The first product ever brought to market by Dr. Henry M. Rothberg, LATICRETE 4237 Latex Additive, led to the thin-set method of installation, which opened the floodgates for the widespread consumption of ceramic tile and stone. LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane, the first thin, load bearing membrane ever introduced to the industry, remains every bit as important as it was some four-decades ago. And after 50-plus years, several other innovations, from remarkably versatile thin-sets like 254 Platinum, to revolutionary epoxy grouts like SpectraLOCK PRO, that very tradition continues today.

From Connecticut to the Caribbean, LATICRETE is the name known and trusted for the permanent, problem-free installation of tile and stone.

*See Data Sheet 230.12 for complete warranty information.
*United States Patent No.: 6881768 (and other Patents).





Corporate Headquarters:
LATICRETE International, Inc.

One LATICRETE Park North
Bethany, CT 06524-3423 USA
800.243.4788
203.393.0010

www.laticrete.com

Asia Pacific: 852.2526.6660

Australia: 61.3.9933.6111

China: 86.21.139.1812.3215

Europe: 34.96.649.1908

India: 91.40.3041.3100

Latin America: 1.203.393.0010

Middle East: 971.7.244.6396

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