



Innovative Tile and Stone
Installation Systems

Temple Emanu-El Expansion

Project Spotlight: September 2008



LOCATION:

San Diego, CA

OWNER:

Temple Emanu-El, San Diego, CA

TILE CONTRACTOR:

Howard's Rug Company, San Diego, CA

STONE SUPPLIER:

Executive Stone Trading, Varna Ave. North Hollywood, CA

TILE INSTALLATION SYSTEM:

LATICRETE International, Inc., Bethany, CT

LATICRETE DISTRIBUTOR:

Arizona Tile, Miramar, San Diego, CA

Temple Emanu-El Expansion

By Eric Carson

The Temple Emanu-El, a reform Jewish synagogue where the spiritual needs of the congregation are met through worship in accordance with Jewish tradition, was founded in 1964 by Rabbi Morton J. Cohn in San Diego, California.

Located in the upper-middle class Del Cerro neighborhood on San Diego's east side, Rabbi Cohn began with just the 15 to 20 families he drafted on his original door to door search. But with the help of his wife Sally, the Temple Emanu-El had grown to 120 families by the time Rabbi Cohn retired in 1978.

Built on a strong foundation of faith, the Temple Emanu-El continued to grow even after Rabbi Cohn had moved on, up to nearly 300 families in the 1980s and onward to its current membership of 500.

With the continued growth of the Temple Emanu-El came the need to expand the current facilities with a new courtyard, social hall and sanctuary. To realize this delicate expansion, the Temple Emanu-El called on David Raphael Singer Architects in neighboring La Jolla, and the end result is nothing short of spectacular. David Raphael Singer Architects selected Tom Bosworth and the Bosworth Company as the general contractor for the project.

David Singer, principal, designed a new 10,000 square foot wood frame building that serves as two different spaces. Separated by an acoustical wall for most of the year, the new building features a social hall on one side of the acoustical wall and a sanctuary for worship on the other. When the wall is removed, both sides function as one space with a beautiful new courtyard for services.

The Temple Emanu-El will be dedicated in a ceremony on Sunday, September 14, 2008, when the congregation will set their eyes on their new building clad in Jerusalem Stone quarried from Israel. This particular stone, referred to as Jerusalem Gold, was supplied by Noah Tal and Tammy Itzkowitz at Executive Stone Trading in North Hollywood, California. The entire exterior and perimeter on the main level is now clad in this gorgeous, golden-hued stone, including the new courtyard, the perimeter walls and all planters.

At the Temple Emanu-El, all 28,600 square feet of Jerusalem Gold stone was installed with innovative tile and stone installation materials from LATICRETE, a global leader in the manufacturing of systems for the installation of tile and stone.

Jerusalem Stone, a dolomitic limestone underlying much of central Israel, has played an important role in

the history of the city of Jerusalem. The regions most celebrated structures are built from this thickly-bedded limestone, including its sacred Western Wall, all that remains from the holy Second Temple destroyed by the Roman Empire under Titus. In fact, this golden-hued stone is so important to the city of Jerusalem that since 1918 municipal law requires that all buildings in the city be faced with it. Referred to in Arabic as "Meleke," this crystalline limestone is surprisingly soft and quite workable when freshly cut, but once exposed it hardens and provides a durable, high-quality building stone.

Jerusalem Stone is also beautiful, and the installation performed by N.Y. Tile & Marble at the Temple Emanu-El is fine proof of that. For the Jerusalem Gold stone at the new wood-framed, Temple Emanu-El, David Raphael Singer Architects and the subcontractor, Howard's Rug Company, worked with LATICRETE contractor sales representative Gerard Meyers to select a exterior stone installation system from LATICRETE. Howard's Rug Company was supplied with the LATICRETE materials by Jack Pinney at Arizona Tile in Miramar.

"When we specify a product we're looking for something that's tried and true," said John Contasti, an architect at David Raphael Singer Architects. "One that's been proven. Once we find something that's going to work we prefer to stay with that product. We had a great response from LATICRETE. We looked at similar projects they had done with this system and it helped us a lot. Arizona Tile was also involved and Jack (Pinney) was very helpful. All of this really helped. There was a comfort level."

For all four walls of the 18,000 square foot exterior cladding, Nora Yim of N.Y. Tile & Marble was tapped to set the Jerusalem Gold in a Tubza finish in 12 x random size over a brown coat plaster substrate. The specification called for a waterproofing membrane to protect the exterior installation from harmful moisture penetration, but with a brown coat substrate a skim coat of LATICRETE® 254 Platinum was needed to ensure proper adhesion of the waterproofing membrane.

After the skim coat, the next step was to roller apply LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane on all four exterior walls. LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane is a thin, liquid applied, load bearing waterproofing/anti-fracture membrane that inhibits the growth of stain causing mold and mildew with anti-microbial protection from Microban®. Long considered the standard for wet or continuous submersion applications, LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing



Membrane is rated “Extra Heavy,” meets all ANSI A118.10 requirements and provides peace of mind as a component of the LATICRETE 10 Year Systems Warranty* for the Temple Emanu-El.

After the waterproofing membrane had been installed it was time to set the large-format tiles, and N.Y. Tile & Marble once again turned to LATICRETE® 254 Platinum. Over the LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane, N.Y. Tile & Marble troweled on LATICRETE 254 Platinum and set the tiles in the ultimate one-step, polymer fortified thin-set that provides unsurpassed strength. Far exceeding ANSI A118.4 and ANSI A118.11 requirements, LATICRETE 254 Platinum is ideal for exterior and interior wall and floor applications over virtually every substrate. LATICRETE 254 Platinum is GREENGUARD certified and inhibits the growth of stain-causing mold and mildew with antimicrobial protection from Microban.

For the exterior cladding stone installation, Howard’s Rug Company selected LATICRETE 1500 Sanded Grout in the Lifestyle color Mushroom. With the Jerusalem Gold in the rough Tubza finish, N.Y. Tile & Marble “bag grouted” the entire exterior, filling each grout joint by squeezing the grout from a bag, like frosting on a cake. LATICRETE 1500 Sanded Grout eliminates shading and blotching caused by minerals and particles commonly found in water, and will inhibit the growth of stain-causing mold and mildew with antimicrobial protection from Microban.

“I’ve been in the tile industry for 31 years,” said David Hunter, project manager at Howard’s Rug Company. “I remember LATICRETE from way back. They have top-notch products, especially with the warranty package. LATICRETE 254 Platinum is very, very good. We have all the confidence that what we put up is going to stay. We had to change one of the stones around the window. It literally took hours to get that off. We had to destroy the mortar bed behind it to get the tile off.”

For the interior floors, 2,000 square feet of Jerusalem Gold in a honed finish was installed over a concrete slab substrate. After floating a dry-pak, N.Y. Tile & Marble once again roller applied LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane to protect against harmful moisture penetration and seal the slabs to protect against cracks in the concrete from telegraphing through to the finished installation.

For the flooring inside, LATICRETE 220 Marble & Granite Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive was specified for the sanctuary and social hall.

LATICRETE 220 Marble & Granite Mortar, designed to be mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive, is specifically formulated to provide a one-step installation for large format tile and stone.

Inside, the beautiful Jerusalem Gold in a honed finish was set with the finest grout available today. LATICRETE SpectraLOCK® PRO Grout** offers the same high performance, color uniformity and durability of an epoxy grout with extraordinary ease of use. LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout meets ANSI A118.3 and is GREENGUARD certified for low VOC content. In addition, with 40 different lifestyle colors, including the color Mushroom used on the interior floors at the Temple Emanu-El, LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout makes grout a design element instead of a design challenge.

Moving back outside to the 6,200 square foot stone courtyard, N.Y. Tile & Marble installed Jerusalem Gold from Executive Stone Trading in a bush hammered chisel finish for added slip resistance. Hunter at Howard’s Rug Company recommended LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane to protect against moisture penetration and the potential shifting and cracking of the concrete.

In a parquet pattern, N.Y. Tile & Marble set the Jerusalem Gold in the same 12 x random size (approximately 24”) with LATICRETE 220 Marble & Granite Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive. The resulting mortar bed provides incredible strength and will protect the integrity of the stone courtyard for the life of the installation.

LATICRETE was utilized in one more special place at the Temple Emanu-El. Inside, directly behind where the Rabbi delivers his sermon there is a 600 square foot Bimah Wall clad with random sizes of Jerusalem Gold in a Peel finish, the most natural finish of the four options used at the Temple Emanu-El. Given its position, suspended on the wall above the Rabbi, the Bimah Wall was mechanically fastened but the tiles were also back-buttered and set in place with LATICRETE 254 Platinum for added peace of mind.

In the Old City of Jerusalem, particularly when the sun rises and sets, a soft golden hue is cast by the gorgeous stone that faces all its buildings. The peaceful, warm setting is unlike any other in the world, an experience unto itself. Now, at the newly constructed Temple Emanu-El, the congregation can rejoice in this almost surreal experience, a lasting connection to its Jewish faith in the sunshine of California.

