



Innovative Tile and Stone
Installation Systems

The Wynn Macau

Project Spotlight: March 2009



LOCATION:

Macau, China

OWNER:

Wynn Resort (Macau) S.A., NAPE, Macau, China

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Leighton-China State Joint Venture, Macau, China

ARCHITECT:

Wong & Ouyang (HK) Ltd, HK, China

STONE CONTRACTOR:

Best Cheer Stone (Macau) Limited, Macau, China

TILE INSTALLATION SYSTEM:

LATICRETE International Inc., Bethany, CT, USA



Wynn Macau Five-Star Resort with Five-Star Tile and Stone Installation

By Ron Treister

Situated on a peninsula on the Southeast coast of The People's Republic of China, just a 50-minute ferry ride from Hong Kong, Macau has long been referred to as the "Monte Carlo of the Orient." Since the 1850s, legalized gambling has played a significant role in the economy of this Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, but in 2002 the government ended a monopoly syndicate that was in place for the last four decades and opened the door for a major influx of Western gaming operations. Today, gambling plays an even bigger role in Macau, generating an estimated 70 percent of the government's income from gambling taxes alone. No fewer than six new Western-style casinos have opened in Macau since the monopoly was lifted, earning it a new nickname: East Las Vegas. With this world-class tourism offering luxury hotels, magnificent restaurants and now even more legendary casinos, Macau is recognized as being one of the richest regions in the entire world.

Clearly, a thriving region would have amazing casino resorts. Wynn Macau is just that. Owned by Wynn Resorts, it offers gaming combined with a deluxe hotel, restaurants, designer shops, a world-class spa and a choreographed performance lake. And, it is the first Las Vegas-style blended resort in Asia. As far as awards go, Wynn Macau is the only hotel in Macau, (and one of only five in Asia) to achieve Mobil Travel Guide's prestigious Five-Star ranking. When it came to construction, only the finest materials were specified for this magnificent building project.

LATICRETE products played an important role in Wynn Macau's Phase I installation. The hotel's 600 guest room bathrooms had 12" x 12" natural stone tiles installed both on the walls and floors. To ensure there would be no water intrusion problems, LATICRETE® 9237 Waterproofing Membrane was applied in all guest room bathrooms, both on the drywalls and concrete floors. In addition, the main entrance as well as all guest room floors, including those areas which ultimately were carpeted, called for LATICRETE 3642 Concentrated Latex Admix, which was diluted with water on-site and used as the leveling screed.

"A project like Wynn Macau is a perfect match with the LATICRETE System," said Art Mintie, LATICRETE Director, Technical Services. "In fact, the LATICRETE System has been specified and used in various casino and hotel architecture applications all over the world. LATICRETE provides a full range of technical and architectural support during all phases of planning, design and construction, and is committed to creating effective and concise application systems for the installation of ceramic tile and stone in all types of demanding projects including five-star casino resorts like Wynn Macau."

In a five-star blended casino resort such as Wynn Macau, the installation of an architecturally-proven, time-tested waterproofing membrane was of the utmost importance to protect the finished tile work. And also, to ensure that the costly issue of tile installation failure would never disrupt

any of the hotel's business. In areas subject to constant water and moisture, such as the 600 guest bathrooms in the hotel, LATICRETE® 9237 Waterproofing Membrane was specified to prevent pre-existing cracks in the substrate from telegraphing through to the finished tile work as well as preventing new cracks from forming as the concrete continued to cure. In addition, LATICRETE 9237 Waterproofing Membrane was selected to protect the substrate from harmful moisture and/or water that could potentially seep through the finished tile work over years of guest use, thus eliminating the threat of mold and mildew forming in the process. When water intrusion and resulting mold and mildew are allowed to do their dirty work, the result is often a mélange of cracked tiles, lippage, unhealthy bacteria . . . and ultimately, substrate damage to threaten the integrity of the entire installation. With thousands of guests shuffling through to their rooms each day, this type of commercial installation is subject to much more wear and tear than a typical residence, making it even more necessary to avoid future repairs due to not using the most efficient waterproofing system.

After the substrate had been prepared for tile fixing at the resort, 12" x 12" natural marble tiles were installed in each bathroom on both the floors and the walls. This beautiful stone material was installed with LATICRETE 325 Premium Thin-set Mortar over the cured LATICRETE materials which were previously applied. To ensure the optimal, long-term performance of mesh-backed marble tiles located at Wynn Macau's main entrance, LATICRETE 325 Premium Thin-Set Mortar was mixed with LATICRETE 282 Grout & Mortar Fortifier to improve the physical characteristics of the

thin-set while increasing bond strength between the tiles and the adhesive throughout that highly trafficked area.

"In conversations with the site manager for the Leighton-China State JV, Mr. Paul Collis has expressed his satisfaction with the performance of the LATICRETE products, as well as our on-site technical support," said Phoebe Li, LATICRETE regional manager for the Asia Pacific region. "We feel very confident that the LATICRETE System specified was the right one, and that both the floor and wall installation of the marble tiles will stand the test of time for the casino resort and its guests. The tile work has been completed beautifully, and LATICRETE is proud to have played a role in this very important development."

The man behind Wynn Macau, legendary Las Vegas hotel/resort developer Steve Wynn, didn't have to roll the dice when conceiving this architectural masterpiece. His company, Wynn Resorts, made sure this mega building project was done right. It appears that nothing in the construction phase was left unnoticed, no rock was left unturned. And for the exquisite marble tile used throughout the hotel, it was no surprise that world-class LATICRETE installation materials were insisted upon.

