



Innovative Tile and Stone  
Installation Systems

## Cappella Singapore Sentosa Cove Project Spotlight: September 2010



**LOCATION:**

Capella Hotels & Resorts  
Sentosa Island, Singapore

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:**

Belt Collins International  
Singapore

**LATICRETE DISTRIBUTOR:**

LATICRETE Southeast Asia Pte Ltd

**STONE INSTALLER:**

DP Architects Planners and Engineers Pte Ltd  
Singapore



## LATICRETE® Continues to Play a Major Role in Singapore with Capella Hotel

By Eric Carson

With the United States mired in what global markets hope is the tail end of a crippling economic downturn, the city-state of Singapore continues to flourish and enjoy its position as an important engine of growth and stability for Southeast Asia.

Fueled in large part by recent modifications designed to promote private banking and foreign wealth management, the island of Singapore has exploded with new developments in both residential and commercial construction.

LATICRETE, a global leader in the manufacturing of products for the installation of tile and stone, has been there every step of the way, realizing increased demand for its materials and methods as Singapore embraces its relatively new role as a financial hub and tourist destination.

LATICRETE established a local presence in Southeast Asia over 20 years ago, but as Singapore continues to grow and develop world-class retail and hospitality settings the U.S.-based manufacturer opened LATICRETE Southeast Asia Pte Ltd in 2009.

With single-source responsibility provided by a local supplier offering readily available technical support, LATICRETE has been specified for a number of Singapore's latest and most exclusive building projects. Among the most prestigious is the stunning new Capella Singapore on Sentosa Island, the crown jewel of the Capella Hotels and Resorts brand in all of Asia.

Sentosa Island is a 964-acre (390 hectare) former fishing village turned military base, turned idyllic tourist haven of late, located just a few short minutes from downtown Singapore. Easily accessible by car or a four-minute trip on the Sentosa Express monorail, nearly five-million people visit each year. Here, elevated on a lush island knoll, the Capella Singapore is a 30-acre (12 hectare) luxury resort housed in two historic bungalows complemented by the addition of modern, curved villas for a perfect fusion of old and new.

The six-star hotel was also realized with a blend of old and new from the LATICRETE® product range. After 50-plus years in the research and development

of tile and stone installation systems, LATICRETE features tried-and-true products from its original portfolio as well as revolutionary materials engineered more recently as it continues to advance the industry.

These days more and more architects and designers have moved toward tile or stone for vertical exterior applications and the Capella Singapore utilized this methodology with help from a pair of innovative products from LATICRETE.

The luxury resort features stunningly beautiful granite as the prevailing theme for the exterior landscape, highlighted by natural granite rubble walls that run along the entire front of the entrance. As the central component of the Capella Singapore's exterior design, the natural granite rubble walls begin again each time the property transitions another level down to the pool area. The original plan was to use the more traditional mechanical anchor method, but spacing constraints relative to the gap area between the stone and the concrete substrate forced the hotel resort to look for an alternative. LATICRETE, with local representatives based on the Mainland at the LATICRETE Innovation Centre, had the ideal solution to allow the Capella Singapore to stay with its intended design and reduce labor costs at the same time.

The answer, LATAPOXY® 310 Stone Adhesive, easily applied with the LATAPOXY 310 Cordless Mixer, represents groundbreaking technology for installing tile or stone on vertical surfaces. LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive is a high strength, two-component epoxy adhesive specifically designed with unmatched strength for the spot bonding of tile or stone on vertical surfaces. In the case of the Capella Singapore, the usage of LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive made the granite rubble wall possible since the thin nature of the material and the direct adhered application reduced the space between the surface finish and the substrate to as little as 1/8" (3mm).

"Mechanical anchoring was proposed initially for the project," said DP Architects Planners and Engineers Pte Ltd. "Due to spacing constraints we were forced to look for alternatives. Since the wall base substrate was new and quite flat, we needed only to apply LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive at a thickness of 1/8"

(3mm) for each piece of stone. The adhesive allowed us to make adjustments to the stone while in place for instances where the wall was slightly uneven.”

And while LATAPOXY® 310 Stone Adhesive was the lynchpin for the granite rubble wall application, the first step for all of the granite installed at the Capella Singapore on Sentosa Island involved a revolutionary waterproofing and anti-fracture membrane. This part of the specification was a crucial element in the long-term protection of the stone work since a good amount took place in the pool area and all of it took place outside.

To protect the luxury hotel resort installation the system included LATICRETE® Hydro Ban™ for the substrates of the granite rubble walls, the granite pavers for the private driveway, main entrance, the staircase down to the pool, as well as the granite for the pool deck surround.

“There was some importance attached to the thinness of LATICRETE Hydro Ban with the spacing concerns already present,” said DP Architects Planners and Engineers. “Also, it’s very easy to use and cures quite quickly. Much faster than other membranes we have worked with in the past. Most importantly, using the waterproofing membrane will ensure the project’s durability and long-lasting beauty. Singapore is very humid most of the year, but also the monsoon season can bring high winds and rain. This was a concern for the exterior tile installation including the pool area for the Capella project.”

Representing the new industry standard for the category, LATICRETE Hydro Ban™ is a thin, liquid applied waterproofing and anti-fracture membrane that does not require the use of fabric\* in the field, coves or corners. Quickly and easily applied with a paint roller, brush, trowel or airless sprayer, LATICRETE Hydro Ban bonds directly to PVC and metal plumbing fixtures, and can be flood tested in just two hours\*\*. LATICRETE Hydro Ban™ will prevent new or existing cracks up to 1/8" (3mm) from telegraphing through to the finished stone work. The speed and ease of application offered by LATICRETE Hydro Ban provided time and labor-saving benefits to help reduce the overall costs of the tile installation at the Capella Singapore.

For a little of the tried-and-true from the LATICRETE product range, the granite tiles used for the balcony

façade, all the granite tiles by the pool and the pavers that traverse the property were installed with the original latex additive technology the global manufacturer used to modify traditional portland cement mortar. LATICRETE 4237 Latex Additive mixed with LATICRETE Crete Filler Powder simply never goes out of style for tile or stone installations requiring superior bond strength with a climate resistant adhesive mortar backed by 50-plus years of proven performance.

With the exception of the dry-stacked granite rubble walls, the granite tiles and pavers on the property were grouted with LATICRETE SpectraLOCK® PRO Grout<sup>^</sup>. The patented, high-performance epoxy grout offers unmatched stain resistance, color uniformity and durability. In addition to the superior quality and aesthetic value provided by LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout, the material is remarkably easy to use. Its ability to be quickly and easily cleaned up is one of the major benefits for contractors.

Throughout its existence, the LATICRETE faith in private enterprise has allowed the global manufacturer to avoid short-term economic issues that can disrupt other organizations. While some fall back and others fall off, LATICRETE continues to move forward, innovate and even expand with industry-leading technology.

The guiding principles that propelled the LATICRETE brand to its position as a recognized leader in its field can be found in its continued growth and presence in Southeast Asia. It can be found in Singapore, specified as the tile and stone materials supplier of choice in several of the city-state’s signature new construction projects.

LATICRETE innovation can be found among the peaceful tranquility offered at the luxury Capella Singapore on Sentosa Cove.

\*See Data Sheets 663.0 and 663.5 for complete product information on LATICRETE® Hydro Ban™.

\*\*LATICRETE® Hydro Ban™ can be flood tested in 2 hours when cured at 70°F (21°C) or above 50 percent relative humidity. It can be flood tested in 24 hours when cured at 50 - 69°F (10 - 20.6°C) and up to 70 percent relative humidity. The time to flood test starts when the second coat has cured from a light sage green to a darker olive green color.

<sup>^</sup> Grout: United States Patent No.: 6,881,768 (and other Patents).

