



Innovative Tile and Stone  
Installation Systems

## The Aman New Delhi Project Spotlight: July 2010



**LOCATION:**  
The Aman New Delhi  
New Delhi, India

**LATICRETE SUPPLIER:**  
Direct (MYK LATICRETE)  
Hyderabad, India

**CONTRACTOR:**  
National Decorators & Contractors  
New Delhi, India

## LATICRETE, India's Problem Solving Installation System Saves New Delhi Hotel's Pools

By Eric Carson

Amidst the everyday hustle and bustle of New Delhi, the second largest metropolis in all of India, sits a protected urban oasis for business travelers and pleasure-seeking tourists alike.

The Aman New Delhi provides an elegant haven for its guests among the many historical landmarks and monuments of this colorful, cosmopolitan city. And though it does boast a five-star rating for its service and amenities, the Aman New Delhi stumbled out of the gates before the decision was finally made to call upon LATICRETE® tile and stone installation products to solve a major issue with potentially serious long-term implications.

Besides the peaceful, retreat-like setting just minutes from city center, the Aman New Delhi's signature amenity could quite possibly be the suspended/plunge pools inside the 43 rooms and suite. These beautiful, 15 square-meter pools (161 ft<sup>2</sup>) offer the ultimate in private relaxation for guests, but they also caused the ultimate headache for ownership when they began leaking after the hotel first opened in January of 2009. This lasted until LATICRETE waterproofing and installation products arrived on the scene to solve the problem.

As the first guests arrived the Aman New Delhi discovered it had a major problem with the construction and installation of the plunge pools. Whether it was the result of poor craftsmanship or sub-par waterproofing and tile installation materials, the pools were leaking and causing water damage or seepage to the foundation. Several tile and stone installation products manufacturers were called in to try and correct the issue but their materials repeatedly failed. The leaking pools eventually caused the hotel to cease operations until the problem could be eliminated once and for all by demolishing each pool and starting over again with LATICRETE methods and materials now in the fold.

Based in the U.S., LATICRETE has over 50 years dedicated to the research and development of innovative systems for the installation of tile and stone hard surfaces. As a recognized global leader in its field, LATICRETE has manufacturing facilities

on six different continents including India. For this particular issue at the Aman New Delhi, LATICRETE features a revolutionary waterproofing and anti-fracture membrane much needed to fix the leaking pools and protect the hotel resorts upscale rooms.

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 for fast, efficient installations of tile and stone. In addition to not requiring the time-consuming task of installing a more traditional membrane with fabric, LATICRETE Hydro Ban bonds directly to PVC, plaster and metal plumbing fixtures\*. And equally as impressive, LATICRETE Hydro Ban can be flood tested in just two hours\* at 70°F (21°C) and higher\*\*.

But before National Decorators & Contractors of Delhi, the installer recommended by LATICRETE, could even get to the waterproofing and anti-fracture membrane application there was plenty of work to be done. The original tiled surface and installation materials were completely removed. The pools substrates were cleaned and prepared for the first step of applying a slurry bond coat of LATICRETE 3642 concentrated latex admix diluted with water. Next, National Decorators & Contractors prepared a 25 mm thick (1") plaster of 1:4 parts sand and cement mixed again with LATICRETE 3642. When traditional portland cement is modified with LATICRETE 3642 the physical characteristics of the resulting adhesive mortar greatly improve.

"LATICRETE recommended a system approach taking extreme care in each step of the waterproofing process," said Mr. Gayur Choudhary, Director of National Decorators & Contractors. "By using LATICRETE 3642 as an admixture the substrate was more dense and elastic, this resulted in a drastic reduction of hair line cracks. The previous manufacturers that tried to solve the leaking problems did not have international partners like LATICRETE. They had recommended the gunite method, which forms a very high bond between the concrete but can not prevent water leakage through micro pores."

When the LATICRETE fortified plaster coat had fully cured, it was now officially time to roller apply two



coats of LATICRETE Hydro Ban over the entire surface area of each individual pool in all of the rooms at the Aman New Delhi hotel resort. While LATICRETE Hydro Ban has a long list of attributes including dramatic time and labor-saving benefits, for this particular installation the waterproofing and anti-fracture performance were far more important to the hotel resort.

Once the second coat of LATICRETE Hydro Ban had cured, visibly noticeable as the product turns from a light, sage-like green to a darker olive green, another slurry bond coat of LATICRETE 3642 concentrated latex admix diluted with water was applied for additional protection.

“The system LATICRETE recommended helped us save a tremendous amount of time for several reasons,” said Mr. Choudhary. “LATICRETE Hydro Ban is very easy and fast to apply. With other membranes the first coat is applied and we have to wait until the second day to install the second coat. But using LATICRETE Hydro Ban we can apply both coats in a span of two to four hours depending on the temperature. In the case of the Aman New Delhi it was the best product to use. We were able to very quickly complete the waterproofing and move on to the next step. The owners of the Aman New Delhi were very pleased with the work and happy to be able to welcome guests again very quickly.”

At this point, National Decorators & Contractors was ready to actually install the gorgeous, locally-quarried natural Kherada Stone tiles as the surface finishing material. For a high-strength and durable adhesive, LATICRETE 111 Crete Filler Powder was mixed with LATICRETE 73 Crete Admix for a bond more secure than conventional portland cement mortar. Each Kherada Stone tile was back buttered with the LATICRETE 111 Crete Filler Powder and LATICRETE 73 Crete Admix and set firmly in place.

“LATICRETE 111 Crete Filler Power mixed with LATICRETE 73 Crete Admix produces one the best adhesives available in India,” said Mr. Choudhary. “It has an excellent working time and adjustments to the stone can be made up to one hour. The LATICRETE adhesive has great flexibility and bond strength, and does not cause water marks on the stone.”

To complete this permanent, problem-free installation of the plunge pools at the Aman New Delhi and eliminate any leaking or seepage the specification

called for LATAPOXY® SP-100 Stainfree Grout for Floors N’ Walls. With grout joint widths of 3 mm (1/8”), LATAPOXY SP-100 Grout for Floors N’ Walls was float-spread on and packed into each grout joint for a strong, durable grout joint when cured that resists chemicals and inhibits the growth of stain-causing mold and mildew. LATAPOXY SP-100 Stainfree Grout for Floors N’ Walls offers unmatched color consistency and performance in a 100% solid epoxy grout while providing extraordinary ease of use.

“LATAPOXY SP-100 is a very good epoxy grout,” said Mr. Choudary. “It is very easy to clean and the finish it provides is very good. It’s also highly water resistant and the grout joints do not stain.”

Needless to say, the plunge pools at the Aman New Delhi have never leaked again once LATICRETE products were applied with a comprehensive systems approach. The LATICRETE commitment to developing and perfecting the materials and methods for the installation of tile and stone once again saved the day.

In the heart of New Delhi, there’s a luxury boutique hotelier and more than a few guests that will gladly attest to the quality and performance of products manufactured by LATICRETE.

\* See Data Sheets 663.0 and 663.5 for complete product information.

\*\* LATICRETE® Hydro Ban™ can be flood tested in 2 hours when cured at 70°F (21°C) or above 50% R.H. It can be flood tested in 24 hours when cured at 50 – 69°F (10 – 26°C) and up to 70% R.H. The time for flood testing starts when the second coat has cured from a light sage green to a darker olive green color.



A-2715-0710  
 ©2010 LATICRETE International, Inc.  
 LATICRETE, LATAPOXY, SPECTRALOCK and the logo are Registered Trademarks of LATICRETE International, Inc.  
 ^ United States Patent No. 6784229 B2 (and other Patents).  
 † United States Patent No. 688768 (and other Patents).  
 Kevlar is a registered trademark of Dupont Products Company  
 Microban is a registered trademark of Microban Products Company.