San Diego Airport

Project Spotlight

LOCATION:
San Diego, CA

CONTRACTOR:
Inland Pacific Tile
San Bernardino, CA

ARCHITECT:
HNTB
San Diego, CA

ARCHITECT:
URS
San Diego, CA

TILE SUPPLIER:
Walker Zanger
Sun Valley, CA

LATICRETE SUPPLIER:
Daltile
Redlands, CA
As the largest improvement project in its 80-plus year history, the San Diego International Airport’s ambitious Green Build program will help meet the airport’s current and future demand for travel, while improving customer service and serving as an economic stimulus for the San Diego region. The $1 billion project, designed by architectural firm HNTB and URS, will add 460,000 square feet, 10 new gates to reduce terminal congestion and provide more comfortable passenger waiting areas, enhanced concession and shopping areas, and a new dual-level roadway that separates arriving and departing passengers. The project, which incorporates sustainable design principles, is targeted to receive a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification from the United States Green Building Council, and is moving toward a summer 2013 completion date.

Marrying the existing and new structures so that they blended seamlessly was no easy feat. The existing portions of the terminal utilized hard-working terrazzo flooring and luxurious Jerusalem Gold travertine on the walls, which radiates the sunny San Diego feeling at all times of the day. Designers specified similar materials in the Terminal 2 expansion, adding 40,000 square feet of Jerusalem gold limestone veneer to the walls of the new concourse.

“The veneer goes 15 feet high in most places and terminates into 3 cm thick black granite base,” said Tom Page, Vice President of Inland Pacific Tile, Inc. in San Bernardino, Calif.

Although the bids for the work were competitive, Inland Pacific Tile, Inc. was awarded the project thanks to the installation team’s expertise and the promise that they could accomplish a certain number of feet per day to keep the project moving. The secret to their fast installation times: LATAPOXY® 310 Stone Adhesive.

LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive is a two-component, high strength epoxy adhesive, formulated for spot bonding of tile and stone installations on vertical surfaces. LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive maintains its non-sag consistency at high temperatures up to 95°F (35°C) and offers a fast, permanent bond with a 45-minute to one-hour set time. It’s also easy to use thanks to its 1:1 mixing ratio by volume.

Stone veneers require well thought-out, highly technical installation planning in order to ensure proper adhesion and durability, and projects like the San Diego Airport, which feature 16x16-inch and 16x22-inch limestone tiles, require even more attention. A totally flat substrate is an important consideration for direct-adhered veneers which require full contact adhesive coverage, and one of the challenges the installers faced was that they were dealing with walls that in many places had highly uneven surfaces due to framing, and attachments behind the backerboard which cause bowing or out of plumb substrates.

“We used LATAPOXY 310 adhesive, which gave us several advantages,” Page said. “When you are going over Backerboard walls that will not be perfectly flat or plumb as well as trying to keep the stone flush where it terminates at doors or accessories, it helps to straighten and level out that problem.“ In
areas where we needed to build out the stone the LATAPOXY® 310 Stone Adhesive did this with ease and in one step.

In addition to leveling out the stone over uneven walls, LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive also increased productivity and helped to lower labor costs and time frame. The adhesive allows a two-man crew to install more than 200 square feet accurately per day along with the help of using the LATAPOXY 310 Cordless Mixer. The LATAPOXY 310 Cordless Mixer is an exclusive dual component cordless mixer that quickly and easily dispenses LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive onto ceramic tile, porcelain and stone veneers.

“A full spread epoxy was going to slow them down even more than if they were using regular thinset adhesive,” said Gerard Meyers, distributor sales representative for LATICRETE. “LATAPOXY 310 is much faster than thinset. Even though the product cost more than traditional thinsets, it saved them on time and labor and allowed them to get double the production in one day.”

The adhesive is also much easier to work with than traditional methods that require pins, and also allows for quick and easy plumb adjustments when the stone thicknesses are uneven.

“It worked pretty well,” said Gary Rodocker, Superintendent for Inland Pacific Tile, Inc. who oversaw the job. “310 is a good design for the fact that you can build it out easier than you could the typical way, which was important for us because this let us have full control on adjusting the stones (i.e. pressing in / pulling out, etc...) during the installation.

Inland Pacific’s team also installed porcelain tile in the airport’s new public bathrooms. They specified 4-XLT mortar for walls and floors. The mortar’s Water Dispersion Technology lets the installer select the desired consistency for their specific application. It also offers tremendous utility for non-sag wall installations, medium bed build up to ¾-inch and thin-set application of floors. The team then finished the installations with SPECTRALOCK® PRO Premium Grout for its high performance, color uniformity, durability and stain resistance.

With 18 million passengers passing through San Diego International Airport each year, it is projected that the airport’s passengers will increase from 27 to 33 million by 2030. According to airport officials, The Green Build project will help meet the airport’s current and future demand for travel, while improving customer service and serving as an economic stimulus for the San Diego region. It will create 1,000 jobs at peak construction. Travelers can expect to take advantage of the finished facilities in 2013. These travelers will be spending time in a state-of-the-art facility that includes stone material installed with the most up-to-date, highest performance, safest and greenest installation products to be found.

Of course, these products are from the LATICRETE SYSTEM.