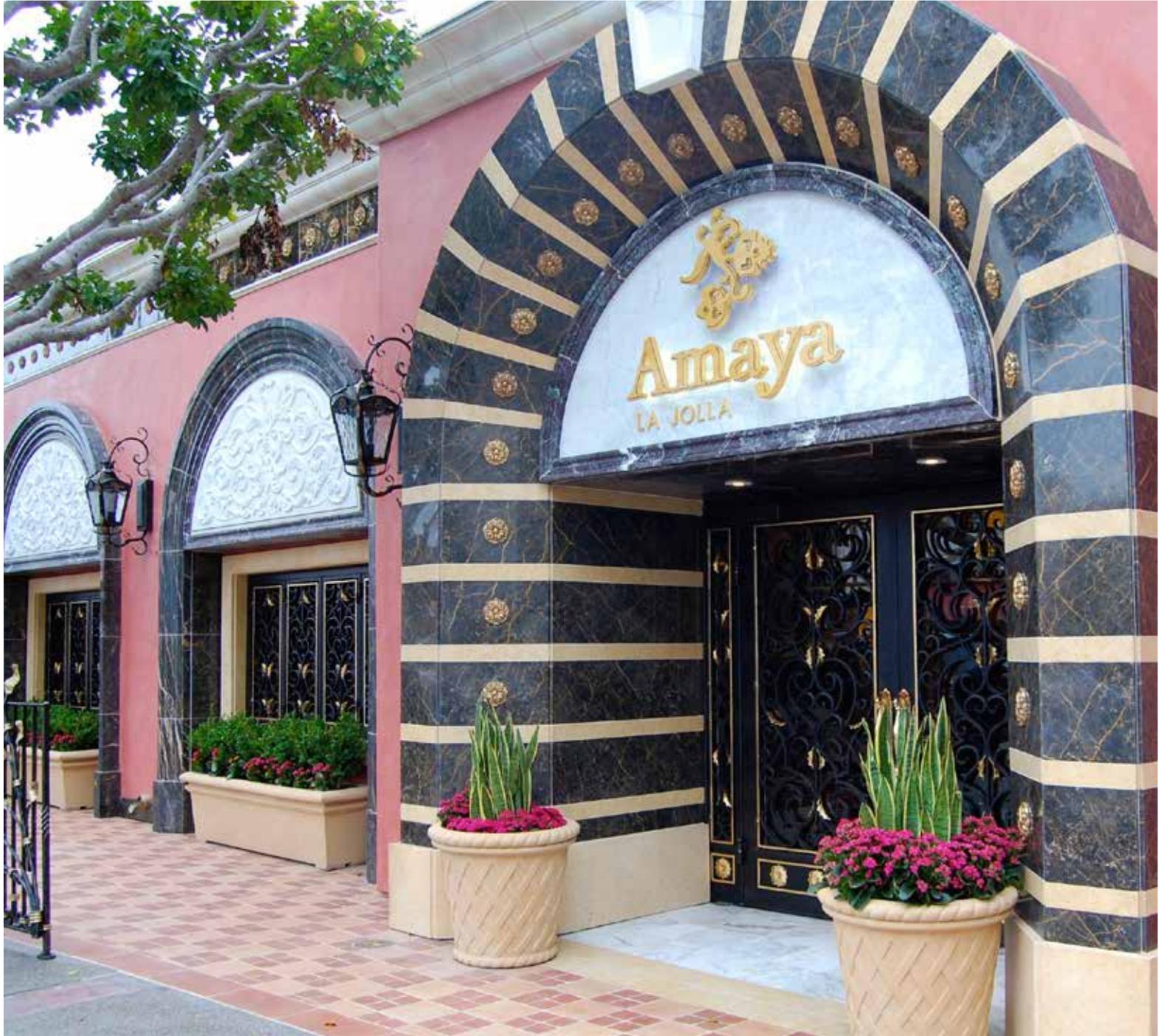




Globally Proven
Construction Solutions

Amaya La Jolla Restaurant

Project Spotlight



LOCATION:
La Jolla, CA

INTERIOR DESIGNER:
Warren Sheets, Inc
San Francisco, CA

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Manchester Financial
Westlake Village, CA

LATICRETE SUPPLIER:
Daltille
Escondido, CA

TILE & STONE CONTRACTOR:
Vascan Tile
Escondido, CA



New Restaurant's Renaissance-Quality Stonework Fortified by LATICRETE

by Ron Treister

The ambiance of any high end restaurant is an extremely important item for restaurateurs to consider. Because every restaurant is unique in its own way, design treatments to be considered are limited only to the imagination of the designer. The oldest and most endearing design/building material known to mankind, natural stone, still offers this limitless potential. But, only if it is installed safely and correctly. The owners of Amaya La Jolla, a restaurant which recently debuted in trendy La Jolla, California clearly recognized this and made major investments to give their new restaurant beautiful stone designs, both indoors and outdoors, like no other.

Designs for the establishment's 10,000 square foot space are comprised of dazzling architectural detail and sumptuous natural materials that include hand-carved natural stonework and, many other custom designs stretching from floor to ceiling.

The owner of this seaside eatery, Manchester Financial, spared no expense in procuring this natural stone. Many design templates to be used for the cutting and fabrication of the stonework (such as the exquisite columns and intricate medallions) were brought to Italy, where most all of the stone for the restaurant was selected. Once selection was made and the meticulous stonework was completed, the various stone items were professionally packaged and then shipped from Italy to the jobsite in La Jolla, where they were put together piece-by-piece.

"The custom cosmetic stone artwork which was used throughout the restaurant was very heavy," stated Gerard Meyers, LATICRETE Technical Representative. "Much of it was being anchored to the walls via

mechanical methods, but to ensure that it would stay firmly attached, decisions were made to use adhesive material, as well. Ultimately, LATAPOXY® 310 Stone Adhesive was selected to give the extra protection that was absolutely needed.

"There were stone chair rails, baseboards and wainscoting, all of which were heavy items. We knew that LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive would provide the necessary bond, but were concerned if the substrates used would be able to support the weight of these pieces, as well, without any de-lamination or being pulled apart," continued Meyers. "Using LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive on the back of each stone piece, ultimately worked fine with the chosen substrate, which was cement backerboard."

Why was LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive an ideal choice to adhere heavy stone items to the walls of Amaya La Jolla? It is a two-component, high strength epoxy adhesive, which is formulated for the spot bond fixing method of tile and stone installations on vertical surfaces. LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive maintains its non-sag consistency at high temperatures up to 95°F and withstands shock and vibration. It provides a durable permanent bond and will not deteriorate over time.

The intricate installation of this stonework and stone flooring was performed by Vascan Tile of Escondido, California under the direction of the firm's President, Julio Lara and Vice President/Co-owner, Carlos Blanco. "This wasn't an everyday project," Blanco stated. "We were dealing with many custom stonework designs which were in most cases, one-of-a-kind objects. If they weren't anchored in place perfectly and securely, they could fall off and break. Not only would this cause

problems in the restaurant, but trying to replace a precisely cut-to-size stone medallion that was crafted overseas by Italian craftsman, is a much more time-consuming and expensive task than replacing broken or de-laminated wall tile."

Blanco described how the restaurant's interior begins with an entry "veranda" leading to the "tavern" that includes three rectangular dining areas. The floor of the tavern incorporated high-end, colorful stone material consisting of Jerusalem Gold, Absolute Black, Rosso Levanto, Empress Green and White Calacatta (both polished and honed) combined with light and dark terra cotta tiles. "The designer was very specific that there were to be no clipped corners or borders," Blanco stated. "We had to make a floor plan which was perfectly in sync with his designs. And, then, stick to it with no mistakes!"

"The Veranda (hallway) was my favorite part of the installation, and it clearly was the most challenging. There was a lot of floor preparation prior to installing any tile material. To begin with, we needed a crack-isolation membrane, so we used HYDRO BAN® on the entire hallway. Electric floor heating was then installed. From there, to make sure the floor was completely level, we covered the heating element with NXT™ Level, a self-leveling underlayment that performed just as promised. After it quickly cured, we used a variety of high performance LATICRETE polymer fortified stone and tile installation products that were appropriate for the selected finishes all of which was custom cut by Vascan Tile. This included an inset 'Arabian rug' created with 4" x 4" travertine tiles and intricate borders of Empress Green and Rosso Levanto."

The entrance to the veranda included six stone columns of custom-cut Calacatta marble with bases of Michaelangelo and Empress Green marble. These were installed using a combination of mechanical anchors

and LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive. Because these columns were shipped directly to La Jolla, California from Italy, some minor breakage occurred. "We had to restore these stone columns, so we simply used LATAPOXY 310 Stone Adhesive for this function," commented Blanco. "We were pleased, as was our client, that we were able to restore the columns to their original polished form."

Another challenging part of this incredibly labor-intensive stone installation took place on the restaurant's main entry, the largest of three archways on the front of the building which opens to the veranda hallway. "Stones which were installed around this entryway's border came from Italy and were large and very heavy," stated Blanco. "They were ten inches thick and eight to ten inches wide. Each piece weighed between 120 and 180 pounds, and all of these were used on this exterior wall. We used LATAPOXY 310 Adhesive to cover 10% of each, and 254 Platinum for 90% in addition to the mechanical anchors."

Handcrafted stone medallions were affixed to the restaurant's walls using the same process. Some of these, according to Blanco, weighed up to 700 pounds.

"I want to go home after a day's work knowing that the work our team did would result in a safe installation. We need to partner with trusted, quality products that won't fail. That's why we at Vascan have so much confidence in LATICRETE materials," concluded Carlos Blanco.

