# THE NEW LAMINAM PRODUCTION FACILITY


## AN HISTORICAL MANUFACTURING WORKS HAS BEEN COMPLETELY RENOVATED WITH MAPEI RESIN FLOORS

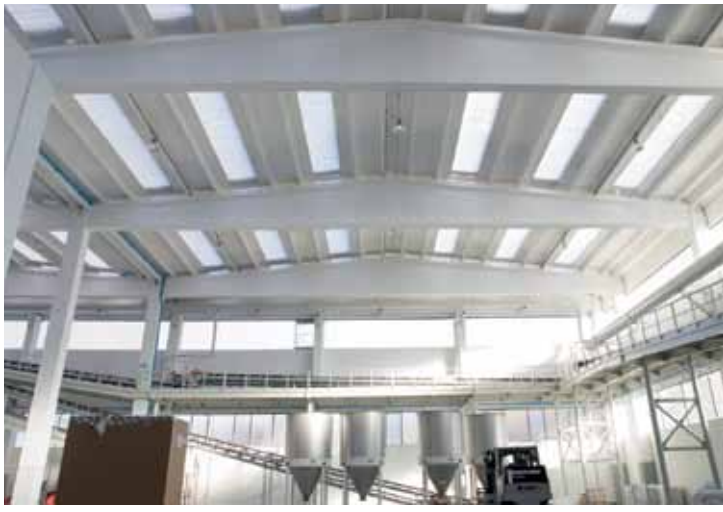
An investment of 35 million Euros, a total surface area of 45,000 $m^2$ and a daily production capacity of 16,600 $m^2$ of ceramic slabs: these are just some of the record figures for the new Laminam SpA production facility inaugurated on the 27th of September, 2016, in Borgo Val di Taro, in the Province of Parma, in Northern Italy.

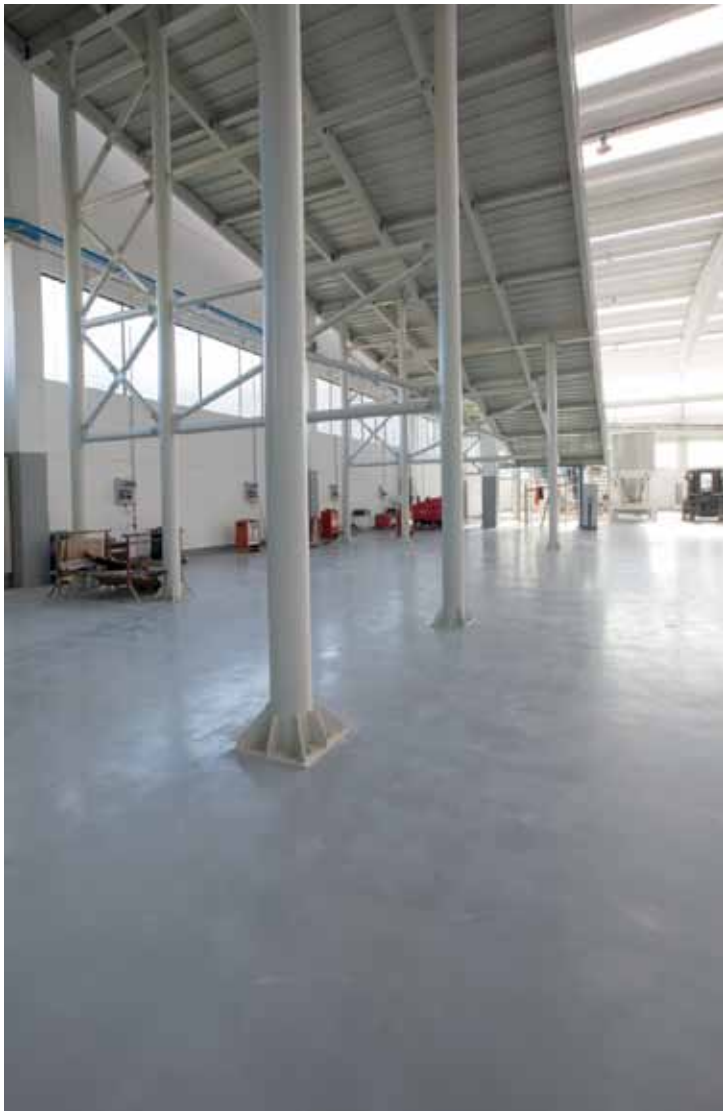
This historical ceramic manufacturing works, which was initially owned by Edilcuoghi and then became part of the Turkish industrial group Kale, will be dedicated exclusively to the production of large-size ceramic slabs (3,240 mm x 1,620 mm). It was bought by Laminam in December 2015 and completely renovated and recommissioned in just 8 months.

Numerous Mapei systems also plaid a key role in this important intervention. “It was a business venture that we took on with great enthusiasm”, said Franco Stefani, President of Laminam, in his inaugural speech to a crowd of more than 400 guests. “We bought the works and we have completely re-modernised it, from the production equipment to the aeration and ventilation system and from the windows to the floors. We have replaced everything and the only thing that remains is the actual structure, the skeleton of the works”.

The new production facility, which stretches for a length of 400 m, is equipped with cutting-edge machinery. Its strong point, and the very heart of the production system, is the

**TO THE LEFT.** An external wall with cracking was first treated with MAPETHERM FLEX RP skimming paste, then painted with ELASTOCOLOR PAINT.
**BELOW.** COLORITE MATT was chosen to paint the ceilings, while ELASTOCOLOR WATERPROOF paint was applied around the base of all the pillars. Floors were built using MAPEFLOOR SYSTEM 32.





Lamgea moldless press, which has revolutionised the use of ceramics, opening up new user and market sectors, including that of interior design. The layout of the new facility was designed to house up to three kilns.

## HIGH-STRENGTH RESIN FLOORS

Mapei's part on this site was the installation of new resin floors. The existing substrate was a concrete floor with cracks of various sizes (from around 0.5 to 2 mm).

The client initially intended sealing the cracks with MAPEFLOOR I 910, epoxy binder fillerized with QUARTZ 0.25 quartz sand, to repair the critical areas in the floor.

However, during the first site inspection with the works director, Alessandro Ganapini, Mapei Technical Services proposed an alternative and complete solution: MAPEFLOOR SYSTEM 32. After carefully weighing up the options and carrying out a series of tests directly on site, it became the preferred option. Indeed, with this particular system, apart from repairing the critical areas, floors are easier to clean and they have a more attractive finish.

MAPEFLOOR SYSTEM 32 is a multi-layer epoxy coating system that forms a coating from 3 to 3.5 mm thick and is used for surfaces subjected to medium-high volumes of traffic where high resistance to chemicals is also required. It is also resistant to frequent cleaning cycles, wear caused by trolleys and moving vehicles and has a particularly effective non-slip finish. The system is composed of PRIMER SN, MAPEFLOOR I 300 SL, QUARTZ 0.5 and QUARTZ 0.25.

Because of the large number of cracks in the concrete, the first coat of resin, a mixture of MAPEFLOOR I 910 two-component epoxy binder for resin coatings and QUARTZ 0.5 quartz sand, was reinforced with a 90 g 4x4 mm glass fibre mesh.

The surface was then treated with PRIMER SN, two-component fillerized epoxy mortar mixed with QUARTZ 0.5.

For the following layers and the finishing coat, the products used were MAPEFLOOR I 300 SL and MAPECOLOR PASTE colouring system.

MAPEFLOOR I 300 SL is a two-component epoxy formulate with a high solids content and is used to form self-levelling or multi-layer resin coatings with an attractive smooth or non-slip surface. It is highly resistant to chemicals and abrasion.

At +25°C MAPEFLOOR SYSTEM 32 sets to foot traffic after 16

hours, while fork-lifts and trolleys may drive on the floor the day after applying the final coat.

## ELASTIC AND PROTECTIVE FINISHING COATS

Other work was also carried out within the short time required for this intervention, including painting all the ceilings (60,000 m$^2$).

Once the substrates had been cleaned and treated with MALECH bonding promoter, operatives from the company B.C.C. 2000 Srl applied two coats of COLORITE MATT highly-transpirant water-based paint using an airless spray system.

The same company also applied another two Mapei systems: the first was ELASTOCOLOR WATERPROOF, waterproof, easy-to-clean acrylic paint, around the base of all the pillars to make them more resistant to washing cycles.

The second solution was applied on an external wall that had widespread cracking. The first step was to apply MAPETHERM FLEX RP, a cement-free, fibre-reinforced, lightweight skimming paste for internal and external use, that is also resistant to biological agents.

The surface was then painted with ELASTOCOLOR PAINT elastomeric, crack-bridging, permanently flexible, protective paint, with high resistance to chemicals, for internal and external surfaces.

This was an important intervention to re-launch the production of quality products in a sector with which Mapei has a traditional bond, that of ceramics.

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**MAPETHERM FLEX RP**

It is an organic skimming basecoat characterised by high elasticity, made from acrylic resins in water dispersion, selected fillers, glass micro-spheres and polypropylene fibres.
It also contains other additives that make it resistant to microorganisms and considerably reduce application times.
MAPETHERM FLEX RP may be used to repair cracked walls on any building, including those already painted. It may also be used to repair rendered walls to give them an even surface with no imperfections. It is particularly recommended for protecting critical areas such as wainscots, communal areas in apartment buildings and areas open to the public exposed to impact and stresses.

**TECHNICAL DATA**

**New Laminam production facility,** Borgo Val di Taro (Italy)
**Period of construction:** 1970s
**Year of intervention:** 2016
**Intervention by Mapei:** supplying products to install new resin floors and paint ceilings, pillars and an external wall
**Client:** Laminam SpA
**Design:** Alessandro Ganapini
**Works director:** Alessandro Ganapini
**Main contractor:** Resinsystem Italia Srl
**Coating contractor:** B.C.C. 2000 Srl
**Mapei distributors:** G.E.S, Resinsystem Italia
**Mapei coordinator:** Carlo Alberto Rossi, Mapei SpA (Italy)

**MAPEI PRODUCTS**

Building resin floors: Mapefloor I 910, Mapefloor I 300 SL, Mapecolor Paste, Quartz 0.5, Quartz 0.25, Primer SN
Painting ceilings, pillars and an external wall: Colorite Matt, Elastocolor Paint, Elastocolor Waterproof, Mapetherm Flex RP

For further information on products see www.mapei.com