



# Fairmont Palliser hotel renovation

Calgary, AB, Canada



## Project Information

**Project category:**  
Tourism and Wellness

**Year of construction:**  
1914

**Year of MAPEI involvement:**  
2019

**MAPEI coordinator:**  
Leszek Rybak

**MAPEI distributor:**  
Prosol Inc. – Calgary

**Installer Company:**  
Canwest Flooring/COI

**Project Owner:**  
AccorHotels

**Project manager:**  
Doug Middleditch

**Contractor:**  
Ellis Don

**Photographer:**  
Latitude Photography



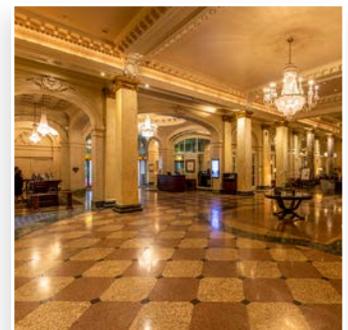
## Project Overview

Originally opened in 1914 as part of the Canadian Pacific Railway's historic, continent-spanning, luxury-hotel chain, the Fairmont Palliser hotel in Calgary, Alberta, needed an upgrade to its floors and walls in certain showcase areas. MAPEI products were key to providing a high aesthetic finish – while respecting the main structure – within a brief timeframe.



## Products Used

- ECO Prim Grip™**
- Mapeguard® UM**
- Novoplan® 2 Plus**
- Primer T™**
- Ultrabond ECO® 995**
- Ultracolor® Plus FA**
- Ultraflex® LFT™**



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## Upgrading a heritage hotel

In 2019, Calgary, Alberta's, oldest and most prestigious hotel, Fairmont Palliser, was looking to renovate some 8,000 square feet (743 m<sup>2</sup>) of outdated walls and floors – partially with marble tile and partially with hardwood. The tile contractor reached out to MAPEI to come up with a solution to prepare the existing surfaces for the new tile installation without demolition so as to save costs.

### MAPEI on the job

MAPEI sales representative Leszek Rybak, who served as coordinator on the project, was confident that MAPEI products would be up to the job. "Fairmont Palliser is a heritage building with a long history of hosting notable customers, including our current Canadian Prime Minister," Rybak noted. "The building is full of high-end finishes, and the specification for the renovation reflected this by selecting top-quality materials like marble tiles and hardwood flooring."

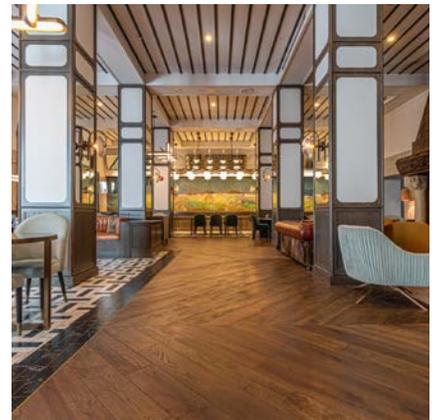
The renovation involving 3,500 square feet (325 m<sup>2</sup>) of marble-tile floors and walls proved to be challenging, as most of the area to be retiled had a previous life as a commercial kitchen. A mix of different floor finishes was present, including existing quarry tile exhibiting heavy contaminants such as oils, wax residues and cleaners. Once suitably cleaned, the substrate was coated with **ECO Prim Grip** low-VOC, resin-based primer with bond-promoting silica aggregates suspended in dispersion; this product enhances the

performance and adhesion of mortars to existing ceramics and difficult-to-bond-to substrates.

Floors lacking a level tile substrate were given additional preparation using **Primer T**, a low-VOC primer, and **Novoplan 2 Plus**, a quick-curing, cement-based, high-strength, self-leveling underlayment. **Mapeguard UM** waterproofing and vapor-pressure-equalizing underlayment membrane was then applied on the floors throughout; the product was chosen primarily for its crack-suppression properties and ease of installation. Additionally, **Mapeguard UM**'s unique engineered tri-layered design allows it to absorb lateral stress from the substrate without transferring this force to the floor covering, which maintains exceptional bonds.

The large-format marble tile was installed on floors and walls using **Ultraflex LFT**, a premium, large-and-heavy-tile mortar with a high content of unique dry polymer that results in excellent adhesion to the substrate and tile. **Ultracolor Plus FA** rapid-setting grout was then applied; this product was chosen for its exceptional aesthetic quality, its stain-resistant properties and ease of maintenance. **Ultracolor Plus FA** is polymer-modified with DropEffect™ technology for reduced surface absorption, which helps to repel water, dirt and grime from penetrating grout joints.

Another 4,500 square feet (418 m<sup>2</sup>) of hardwood flooring was laid down as well using **Ultrabond ECO 995**



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premium wood-flooring adhesive; this product was chosen for its moisture-control and sound-reduction properties.

Fairmont Palliser management sought a quick turnaround time and a finished product with second-to-none quality. MAPEI products helped the contractor deliver on both counts, resulting in the work being completed in six months and meeting the high expectations befitting of Fairmont Palliser's rich legacy.



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## **MAPEI Inc.**

2900 Francis-Hughes Avenue  
Laval, Québec H7L 3J5  
(450) 662-1212

### **Technical Services**

1-800-361-9309 (Canada)

### **Customer Services**

1-800-42-MAPEI (1-800-426-2734)