



# Fallsview Casino Entertainment Centre

Niagara Falls, ON, Canada



## Project Information

**Project category:**  
Public Buildings – Commercial

**Years of construction:**  
2016-2021

**Years of MAPEI involvement:**  
2020-2021

**MAPEI representatives:**  
Gino D'Alesio and Jeff McCoppen

**MAPEI distributors:**  
Dragona Flooring & Supplies

**Project owner:**  
Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG)

**General contractor/installer:**  
Bird Construction

**Installer:**  
Classic Tile Contractors Limited

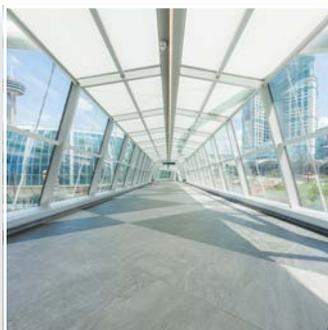
**Architect:**  
ARK / Petroff

**Photography:**  
Christina Cicione Photography and  
Greg van Riel Photography



## Project Overview

Amidst many challenges that were faced by contractors and installers of the new-build Fallsview Casino Entertainment Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario, the choice of MAPEI's single-source solutions for setting materials proved to be a sure bet.



## Products Used

- Keraflex™ Super**
- Mapeguard® UM**
- MAPEI Ultralite® Mortar**
- Mapelastic® AquaDefense**
- Novoplan® 2 Plus**
- Planicrete® AC**
- Planiprep® SC**
- Topcem™ Premix**
- Ultrabond ECO® 711**
- Ultrabond ECO® 811**
- Ultracolor® Plus FA**
- Ultraflex® LFT™**

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## MAPEI products leave nothing to chance

Visitors to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls (known as one of Canada's celebrated "Seven Wonders") in Ontario cannot help but notice the steep incline of the hill from the attraction area into the commercial part of the city. But after a long day of sightseeing, they will find it was well worth the climb once they get to the top of the hill at the corner of Murray Street and Stanley Avenue where the new-build Fallsview Casino Entertainment Centre now sits.

The 5,000-seat venue was one of five distinct major projects, including a casino and hotel towers, that were built by their respective teams on adjacent connected sites. "This theater project was part of the tourist agenda for the city of Niagara Falls, for casino patrons ... to extend their visit. And it anchors a strategic corner," explained ARK / Petroff architect Guela Solow in a June 2021 walk-through video tour of the finished project.

"Our intervention was to create this kind of beacon and direct traffic towards the falls and the casino ... located on a street that has a really aggressive slope down to the falls. We created a theater that was basically a box in the air, whereas most theatres are at grade," Solow said. "We had the buses at grade, passing under the theatre in this super-tight site, and that took a lot of gymnastics with the traffic. It was super challenging."

### MAPEI on the job

Given all the challenges of the site and design, having the assurance of

dependable, tested setting materials left one less element up to chance for the 350,000 square feet (32 516 m<sup>2</sup>) of total floor and wall coverings.

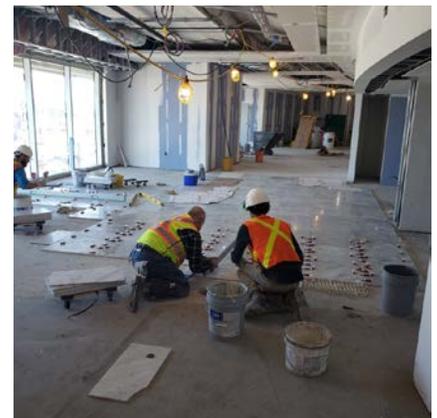
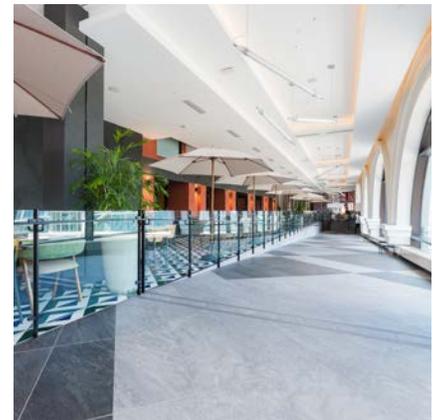
"This design incorporates classic finishes such as Carrera marble installed in patterns in round hallways, with modern touches and accents and a grand-entry staircase," said MAPEI coordinator Gino D'Alesio.

"The biggest challenge for the Classic Tile installers was the sheer size of it all – to make it within a millimeter of the next tile," D'Alesio added. "Exterior hallways were rounded and the Bianca Carrera marble was cut in diagonally, requiring precise placement. Our quality is there consistently, batch to batch. Installers like that and they know exactly how to work with it."

### Surface preparation

Getting the concrete slab into shape required some extra attention from the installers. MAPEI's Technical Services Department was instrumental in guiding them in this way, D'Alesio noted.

In problem areas, installers applied **Topcem Premix** screed mortar and mixed it with **Planicrete AC** liquid latex admixture in place of water for increased flexural strength and durability. **Planiprep SC** fiber-reinforced skimcoating compound was also used to smooth minor defects. Afterward, to ensure a suitably level substrate, installers added **Novoplan 2 Plus** high-



# MAPEI products leave nothing to chance

strength, cement-based self-leveling underlayment where needed.

Finally, to prepare the sections calling for floor tile, **Mapeguard UM** premium-performance, lightweight underlayment membrane was laid down for crack isolation and to inhibit uncoupling of the tiles. **Mapeguard UM** also provides protection from vapor emission from below.

## Wet areas

Bar service and other wet areas were treated with a coating of **MapelasticAquaDefense** liquid-rubber waterproofing membrane before tiling. Washroom walls were finished with thin-set ceramic subway tiles using **MAPEI Ultralite Mortar**, which is formulated for non-sag applications and features BioBlock® technology for mold and mildew resistance.

## Interior floor tile

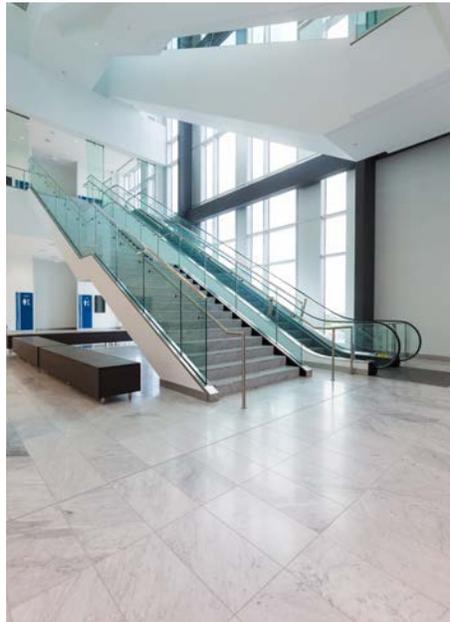
MAPEI product characteristics also proved to be key for areas such as the theater's expansive entrance, with its 12" x 24" (30 x 61-cm) porcelain tile. For this area, all interior floors were tiled using **Ultraflex LFT** premium mortar for large-format and heavy tile, which has a high content of unique dry polymer that results in excellent adhesion to the substrate and tile. **Ultraflex LFT** is formulated with MAPEI's proprietary Easy Glide Technology™ for ease of application.

## Exterior tile

**Keraflex Super** premium large-and-heavy-tile mortar was selected for exterior floor tiles due to its resilience against freeze/thaw conditions as well as its ease of application, with a consistency that allows for adjustability.

Grouting inside and out was completed using polymer-modified **Ultracolor Plus FA** grout, which was chosen for

its proven ability to maintain color consistency and inhibit efflorescence. Additionally, **Ultracolor Plus FA's** formulation incorporates DropEffect™ technology, which reduces surface absorption to help repel water, dirt and



grime from penetrating grout joints – thus allowing for easier maintenance.

## Seating area

The auditorium floor was finished using **Ultrabond ECO 811** high-performance carpet tile adhesive. Other non-tiled areas (such as backstage areas that are exclusively for performers and work crews) were finished using **Ultrabond ECO 711** premium, latex-based adhesive for vinyl composition tile (VCT).

As an added benefit, all products that were used in this project were third-party tested and third-party certified for low VOC content and low VOC emissions. As a result, the products achieved Indoor Advantage Gold certification from SCS Global Services to meet California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method v1.2-2017. The testing that

was used for these products is the most stringent type of testing that is available in North America.

By the spring of 2021, the project was complete. The facility's owners, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG), proudly describe the finished venue – with its 5,000 seats, state-of-the-art technology and outstanding acoustics – as “world-class.” For tourists, locals and casino patrons, it is a safe bet that they are equally impressed.

### **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)