

MAPEI HELPS PUT PATIENTS ON THE ROAD TO HEALTH

It took a lot of time, money, and hard work to get Vancouver General Hospital's (VGH) new 459-bed inpatient tower up and running. A news release from the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority at the time of the grand opening stated "The major redevelopment of VGH dates back more than 20 years, beginning with completion of the emergency room in Laurel Street pavilion in 1981. Construction of the tower shell began in 1988 and was finished in 1991. However, the facility was vacant until 1996, when the podium, or base, was completed. The ground floor and first and second floors then became home to VGH's operating rooms, the BC Professional Firefighters' burn and plastic surgery unit, and laboratory, cardiology, renal and rehabilitation services."

When the generous contributions of Jim Pattison, a local businessman and philanthropist, were added to provincial government funding, the final stages of work began. Jim was well-known and respected for his work as chairman of the very successful Expo '86 World's Fair held in Vancouver. He worked on that project for five years without pay, which shows the kind of stamina he brought to bear on the VGH project. It seems only fitting that the hospital named the new pavilion after Jim Pattison.

Fifteen years after construction of the tower originally began, Fastrack Flooring won the bid to install artistic sheet-vinyl floor coverings. These were one of the last steps in the construction process for the Jim Pattison Pavilion. The nationally renowned Stantec firm of architects and engineers, who were responsible for the design of the building, specified that MAPEI products be used throughout in order to meet the Vancouver city code. Al Hewitt, the project manager for Fastrack, consulted with the flooring supplier, Tarkett, which also recommended the use of MAPEI adhesives for their Optima sheet-vinyl flooring. Following the architects' designs, the Fastrack installers cut the sheet vinyl into decorative patterns, laid out the sheets and heat-welded the seams. Fastrack specializes in this type of work, and had done a similar job for Surrey Memorial Hospital's children's ward the year before.

Each patient room houses its own washroom and shower. The Fastrack installers worked on a unique design for these areas. The architects had specified a "dam" in each doorway to ensure that there were no leaks from the showers out into the hospital rooms. Hewitt's crew used *Mapecem*[®] *Premix* to form the dams and screed the floors, drains and rough areas. *Mapelastix*[™] 315 with the *Mapeband*[™] accessories was used to waterproof the washrooms. Then, *Planipatch Plus*[™] was floated over all the surfaces as an embossing leveler. Next, *Acarel* wall covering was used to cover the walls of the washrooms all the way to the ceilings; *Ultrabond ECO 350* was used as an adhesive. The joints then were heat-welded.

Fastrack brought the job in on time and on budget. Hewitt said, “ We give all the credit to our installers. Our company won the bid, and our people executed the project flawlessly. With the degree of difficulty involved in the decorative inlays, this was a once-in-a-lifetime project for some of our installers. We really enjoyed doing it.” He added, “We followed the MAPEI guidelines for the total installation, so we were able to supply the MAPEI warranties to the hospital. That was a valuable addition to the job.”