

# Southpoint Mall

A "European Village" in America.

Text by Diana Chiodi and photos by Carolyn Ryan, Mapei Corp.

Mapei Corp. and David Allen Co. have helped build an extremely unusual shopping mall in North Carolina, USA.

What meets the eyes when entering Southpoint Mall is something more than just the usual collection of bars, restaurants and clothes found in the average shopping mall. The architects from the Rtkl firm in Dallas, Texas, designed this shopping mall – which also extends into an outdoor walkway – along the lines of an imaginary European



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Photo 1.  
One of the mall entrances.



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Photo 2.  
Inside Southpoint Mall. All the floors were installed using Mapei systems.

Photo 3.  
The facades of a number of the shops and restaurants are brick-faced.

Photos 4 and 5.  
Fountains and statues decorate the exteriors.

Photo 6.  
The shopping mall is designed like a small town.





village, in which each shop has its own special facade. The black chimney tops on the roof and brick-faced store fronts create the feeling of a stroll through the narrow streets of 18th century England. The shopping mall's outside walkways lead through to restaurants and other stores facing onto plenty of plazas and fountains.

The interior floors (covering an area of over 13 thousand square metres) are made of French and Portuguese limestone and German greenstone.



# Projects



Photo 7.  
The heart of the "village," made of a covered structure, is behind the decorative fountain.

Photo 8.  
Inside the Mall. Natural stone has also been used for the top-floor flooring.

The floors were laid by the David Allen Company, which is headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina, and has branches in South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. With over 80 years' experience, the firm was founded in 1920 and is now regarded as being one of the most capable and reliable marble, granite, tile and terrazzo contractors in the United States.

Martin Howard, Vice President of David Allen Co., who was responsible for completing the floor installations within the tight schedule, told us that: "It was important we use installation products that would reduce our risks; the natural stone was in large pieces and we wanted assurance we would get complete coverage under each stone application."

This is why the installation firm opted for Mapei's Ultracontact®, a full-contact self-backbuttering mortar renowned for its complete coverage on large modular tiles. "It did not take long to realise that ULTRACONTACT® was just the product we were looking for," Howard went on to say. It was successfully used for all the mall's stone installations, including "Nordstrom's" marble floor.

All the indoor floor installations were carried out using Mapei systems. These systems are guaranteed to perform for the life of the installation.

This particular project also drew on other Mapei products, such as PRP 315®, a waterproofing membrane, PLANIPATCH®, a





Photos 9 and 10.  
Ultracontact self-backbuttering mortar, Prp 315 waterproofing membrane, Planipatch patching compound, Ultraplan self-levelling underlayment and Ultracolor grout, were all used for Nordstrom's marble floor.



9



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Photos 11 and 12.  
Ceramic and porcelain tiles were used for the utilities rooms.



12



11

fast-setting cement-based polymer-modified patching compound, ULTRAPLAN®, a self-levelling fast-setting polymer-modified underlayment, ULTRACONTACT® and ULTRACOLOR®, the most colour consistent grout available on the market. These systems were also used for the installation of the ceramic and porcelain tiles

found in the utilities rooms and others areas of the mall. The Mall floor installation is based on a combination of honed and polished stones brought directly from their countries of origin. The French and Portuguese limestone were honed to resemble a cobblestone street.





13



14

German greenstone was set alongside the honed stone to create a more striking effect. The same stone was used for all the elevated platforms at the mall intersections. This six-month project began in September 2001 and the centre officially opened on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2002. Three weeks after opening, Southpoint had already had one million visitors and it is still attracting hordes of shoppers.

## TECHNICAL DATA

**Southpoint Mall, Durham, North Carolina (USA)**  
**Works:** Interior and exterior floor installations and surfacing of utilities rooms.  
**Year of Construction:** 2001-2002  
**Project:** Rtkl, Dallas (Texas)  
**Contractor:** David Allen Company (North Carolina)  
**Works Management:** Martin Howard, David Allen Company  
**Materials installed:** greenstone, ceramics, porcelain, marble, limestone  
**Mapei Products:** PRP 315, PLANIPATCH, ULTRAPLAN, ULTRACONTACT, ULTRACOLOR  
**Mapei Retailer:** Dohile, Raleigh (North Carolina)  
**Mapei Co-ordinator:** Ed Alexander, Mapei Corp.

Photo 13. A combination of honed and polished stones for the inside floors.

Photo 14. German greenstone was used for the special outside setting.

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