

Toronto Pearson's Terminal 1 –

Air Passengers Soar over *Ultracontact*™ on Their Way to the Gate



The new Terminal 1 at Toronto Pearson International Airport was designed to attract passengers into the building and out to their planes in one smooth passage. Beginning with the new entrance roads that lead cars directly to the departure area, travelers can anticipate an easy, pleasant trip. From the moment of entering the terminal, passengers are visually drawn to their planes. Ticketing and check-in counters are positioned to lead customers toward the departure concourses rather than block the way. In the passenger processing areas, their way is smoothed by huge granite tiles set with MAPEI's *Ultracontact* ultra-premium full-contact mortar.



Big decisions were made about how to cover the space in the passenger processing areas. Originally, the designers had decided on terrazzo for all levels of the building; but time constraints and the labor-intensive nature of terrazzo installation sent them looking in another direction. While they went forward with the use of terrazzo on the departure level, they looked for another floor covering material for the arrivals and amenities level and for the service level. After researching other large airports around the world, the planners settled on granite tiles similar to those used in Hong Kong International Airport. A total of 344,000 square feet (32,000 square meters) was covered with a beautiful pearl gray marble, Grigio Perla, imported from the island of Sardinia off the western coast of Italy.

The job was so large that PCL/Aecon, construction managers for the Greater Toronto Airport Authority, selected two tile contractors to install the granite. TMT Terrazzo, Mosaic & Tile Co., Ltd of Toronto and Gem Campbell, Inc. of Toronto formed a joint venture.

Over 90% (312,000 sq. ft.) of the granite was honed, giving it a matte finish; while 10% (32,000 sq. ft.) was flamed to a very rough finish. The placement of the large granite tiles – 12" x 24" – would usually involve the installers coating each tile with mortar before setting it into the mortar bed. This practice, called “back-buttering,” adds a great deal of time and labor to the installation. The contractors found they could shorten this process and make the job easier on their employees by using MAPEI’s *Ultracontact*[™] Ultra-premium full-contact mortar that doesn’t require back buttering. They could trowel the mortar to a medium bed and then simply “drop and go!”

TMT contacted the MAPEI supplier, Ciot Marble & Granite of Toronto. Project Manager Danny Roppa made sure that all 15,000 bags of *Ultracontact* were delivered on time. He also suggested the use of *Keracolor*[™] U unsanded grout in Silver as the perfect accent for the beautiful cloudy white veins in the granite. “After all, every cloud has a silver lining!” Danny says.

Carlo Onorati of TMT took great pride in the work the two tile contractors performed. “The installation went very smoothly for such a large job,” he said. “Everyone involved -- our suppliers, the general contractor, employees from both our companies – worked together as a real team. It took just 10 months from start to finish, including the bonding of a 2 ½-inch concrete topping to the structural slab to prepare the surface properly.” He added, “We did all this work with 30 men, and we couldn’t have asked for a better group of installers.”

Planned as a model for the best of what air travel can offer in the way of pre-flight amenities, Toronto Pearson gives everyone a little taste of Toronto while they wait. The airport attracts international travelers, who come through Canada as a stepping off point from South and Central America to Europe or Asia. Due to the short time between arrival and departure, passengers may not have time to stop over and see the city. To make their short visit friendlier, Toronto comes to them in the form of a variety of “marketplaces,” reflecting 22 different areas of the city within the terminal. Waiting time in boarding areas is turned into an airy adventure by views of massive

sculptures and paintings from Canadian artists as well as works from internationally renowned sculptors and painters.



The new Terminal 1 at Toronto Pearson International Airport opened on April 6, 2004. Those who have used the airport agree that it is as light, airy and focused as a soaring plane!