



# LUIS MUÑOZ MARÍN AIRPORT

## The Terminal A in the International Airport of Puerto Rico

The Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport is the main “gate” to those wishing to visit Puerto Rico and the most important hub for departures to the United States. It was inaugurated in 1955 and is located in an area known as the Isla Verde. In fact, for many years, it was known as Isla Verde International Airport, until in 1985 when the Governor at the time, Rafael Hernández Colón, decided to rename it in honour of Luis Muñoz Marín, the first Governor to be democratically elected in the country. The airport complex is easy to reach from San Juan and is considered to be the most important in the entire Caribbean area, both for the amount of cargo traffic and number of passengers. In fact, more than 10 million passengers pass through the airport every year, which is administered by the Puerto Rico Ports Authority. There are a number of services available to passengers both in arrival and in departure: a hotel from the Best

Western chain, a casino, various beauty salons and a duty-free shop.

### The Extension to Terminal A

Over the last few years, it became necessary to enlarge the airport and three new terminals were built: terminals B, C and D. In 2008, the design concept of the airport was reviewed and improved by extending Terminal A, which included laying new floors, extending the waiting area, installing a more modern lighting system and creating a new conference centre and various dining and snack points along the corridors.

Terminal A is still under construction and will probably be inaugurated later this year. The extension project – at a cost of around 400 million dollars – will also include seven new gates which will be operated by US Airways and Delta Air. Because of the special technical requirements of the internal and external floors in and around Terminal A, the designer needed to use a series

of products which corresponded to certain characteristics: resistance to stress and intense traffic but with good deformability.

This area, covering around 14,000 m<sup>2</sup>, had to be covered with ceramic tiles (size 30x60 cm) imported from Italy. To lay the tiles, the technical service team from Mapei Caribe proposed the






Photo 1. An external view of Terminal A.

Photos 2, 3 and 4. In Terminal A, the designers chose Italian ceramic tiles laid with Mapei products. The tiles used to cover the internal and external floors in and around Terminal A were laid with KERABOND+ISOLASTIC (the latter is distributed on the American continent under the brand name of KERALASTIC) and grouted with KERACOLOR S.

use of KERABOND+ISOLASTIC, a high-performance adhesive system which combines the quality of KERABOND (cementitious adhesive in powder form for ceramic tiles) with that of ISOLASTIC (latex additive, which on the American continent is distributed under the brand name of KERALASTIC) which has the capacity of withstanding the foot traffic of the thousands of passengers travelling through. The tile joints were grouted using KERACOLOR S premium-grade, pre-blended, high-performance polymer-modified sanded Portland-cement tile grout. The grey colour of the grout helped to highlight the particularly attractive finish of the laid tiles.

Photo 5. The floors in the offices were covered with vinyl and bonded using ULTRABOND ECO 710 (the product has now been replaced on the American market by ULTRABOND ECO 711). Before laying, the substrate was treated with PRIMER L and smoothed over with ULTRAPLAN M20 PLUS.

In the sector designated for office units, the floors were laid with vinyl. Before laying the floor covering, the surface (approximately 750 m<sup>2</sup>) was levelled off by applying PRIMER L acrylic latex primer followed by a layer of ULTRAPLAN M20 PLUS quick-hardening self-levelling compound. The vinyl floor covering was then laid using ULTRABOND ECO 710 quick-drying, transparent adhesive with an extremely low emission level of volatile organic compounds (VOC), which has now been replaced on the American market by ULTRABOND ECO 711. While completion of Terminal A continues, the furnishings in other areas of the airport will be modernised, where-

as Terminals C and D will be extended to include new boarding gates and Terminal E will be fitted out with new services reserved for the check-in areas and the passengers. 

**Mapei Products:** the products mentioned in this article (**Primer L, Ultraplan M20 Plus, Ultrabond ECO 710** – Ultrabond Eco 710 has been superseded by Ultrabond ECO 711 in the American continent - **Isolastic** - which is distributed in the American market with the name of Keralastic - **Kerabond** and **Keracolor S**) are distributed by Mapei Caribe on the local market. For further information please see the web site [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com).

## TECHNICAL DATA

**Luis Muñoz Marín Airport, Terminal A**  
Isla Verde (Puerto Rico)  
**Year of Construction:** 1955

**Year of the Intervention:** 2007-2009  
**Intervention by Mapei:** supplying products and technical assistance for laying ceramic tiles and vinyl floors in and around the new Terminal A  
**Designer:** MGA Consultants, Isla Verde (Puerto Rico)  
**Customer:** Autoridad de los Puertos  
**Works Director:** Francisco Bechara  
**Contractor:** QB Construction, Santurce (Puerto Rico)  
**Laying Company:** Caparra Construction Corp, San Juan (Puerto Rico)  
**Laid Materials:** ceramic tiles and vinyl floors  
**Mapei Distributor:** Acha Trading, Catano (Puerto Rico)  
**Mapei Co-ordinators:** Pablo Cortes and Jose Escobar, Mapei Caribe (Puerto Rico)

