

Innovation and Renovation Restore Yorkdale Mall's Reputation

MAPEI Helps Bring a Speedy Facelift to Shopping Centre

When Yorkdale Mall opened in 1964, it was heralded as an innovative new shopping venue. Even in the 1970s, developers from Europe were studying Yorkdale as a forward-looking shopping center. But time began to take its toll, and by the early 2000s, the mall needed a facelift. In 2005 Yorkdale introduced its customers to a brand new look. In Phase I of the redevelopment, engineers had designed a glass atrium 60 feet high and 300 feet long as part of an expansion of the center. The floors throughout the mall, including the scruffy old terrazzo, were covered with Jerusalem limestone.

During Phase I, the Maple Group of Companies installed 75,000 square feet of 12" x 24" limestone tiles in the expansion area. The mall management asked for a rapid turnaround time, so the Maple Group team used MAPEI's *Ultracontact™ RS*, a rapid-setting mortar designed for use with large-format tiles. Another time saver for the team was *Ultracontact RS*'s ability to bond the tile without back-buttering, allowing them to just "drop and go." The installers sealed the limestone and then grouted with *Ultracolor®* grout, which uses MAPEI's High-Hydrated Cement Technology (HCT™) for greater color consistency and prevention of efflorescence.

In Phase II, the Maple Group team had to prep 105,000 square feet of the old terrazzo substrate before using the rapid-setting *Ultracontact RS* and *Ultracolor*. They covered the small spider cracks with *Mapelastix™ 315* wherever they occurred. To minimize the chance of crack transfer to the new tiles, the team covered the more severe fractures with *Mapelastix SM* sheet membrane. The *Ultracontact RS* proved to be an ideal installation material, with no bleeding or shadowing of the Jerusalem limestone.

The public washrooms in the mall also received a facelift. The wall tiles were applied with *Type 1™* professional-grade wall and floor tile adhesive. For the smaller wall joints, the installers used *Keracolor™ U* unsanded grout.

The second phase of the redevelopment is well on its way to being finished, but in a few areas visitors can still compare the new look to the old one. The comparison shows that innovation and renovation have indeed restored a timeless look to Yorkdale Mall.