

NORMAN FOSTER IN ZURICH

THE DOLDER GRAND

A two-year renovation enriched the hotel with two new wings



The Dolder Grand Hotel reopened on April 2008 following four years of work involving a top to bottom refurbishment and construction of two extensions, under the supervision of the renowned architect Norman Foster. The addition to the hotel consists of two new wings that were built onto the historic, palatial main building.

The Dolder Grand is part of the prestigious Leading Hotels of the World organisation and is Europe's only urban hotel with a nine-hole golf course. It also offers its guests 173 rooms and suites, a spa centre, a fine restaurant, several banquet and conference halls. The history of this five star hotel dates back to 1899. In the interim, a veritable cavalcade of luminaries has graced the hotel with their presence, including Prince Charles, Nelson Mandela, Bill Clinton, Winston Churchill and the Rolling Stones, to name but a few. One of the Dolder Grand's top suites is even named after the Rolling Stones. The Dolder Grand's rooms and suites range in price from CHF 850 to CHF 14,000 per night. These prices are fair, considering that the hotel is in a beautiful location overlooking Zurich and

affords guests a magnificent view of the city, Lake Zurich, and when the weather is clear, the Alps.

An Archistar's work

The Dolder Grand's renovation was designed by the architectural studio Foster + Partners, one of the world's most prominent firms which won

the 1999 Pritzker architecture prize. The firm's projects have included the Millau bridge in France, remodeling of the Reichstag in Berlin, and the Millennium Bridge in London. The Swiss financier Urs E. Schwarzenbach invested roughly CHF 500 millions (about 330 million euros) in the Dolder Grand project, and in so doing created

IN THE SPOTLIGHT**ULTRABOND P990 1K**

It is used for bonding pre-finished elements, lamparquet, slats, planks and all types of wood on cementitious screeds; screeds made using MAPECEM, MAPECEM PRONTO, TOPCEM, TOPCEM PRONTO and similar products; on old wooden floors; ceramic, marble, etc.; on anhydrite screeds. It is also suitable for heated floors.



ULTRABOND P990 1K is a ready-to-use single component product, which does not require catalyser and successive mixing, suitable for floor-layers allergic to epoxy-polyurethane. It is easy to apply, even at low temperature and has a 30% higher yield compared with conventional two component products, thanks to the low viscosity and free-flowing properties of the adhesive when applied by trowel, even at low temperatures. It has an excellent straight line hold and excellent buttering on the back of tiles. It has been awarded the **EMICODE EC1 R** certification by **GEV**, as it is a product with very low emission level of volatile organic compounds (VOC).



Photo 1. Outside view of The Dolder Grand in Zürich after completion of the restoration works.

Photo 2. In the “Maestro” and “Carezza” suites wooden floors were laid with ULTRABOND P990 1K.

Photo 3. ULTRABOND P902 2K was used to bond the parquet floor in the ballroom.

Photo 4. In the meditation area of the spa center ADESILEX P10 was used to bond glass mosaic on a mirror designed by the artist Monika Leithner.

Switzerland’s most expensive and – undoubtedly most exclusive – hotel. The newly built wings that enclose the spa centre and the golf course feature colors that are dignified in keeping with the architecture of the existing structure. The balcony railings of the two new wings are made of sheet steel out of which organic forms reminiscent of the nearby forest were created using high-pressure water jets.

Old and New

The Dolder Grand meets world-class quality and comfort standards, even as for the interiors.

The ballroom is the centrepiece of the new structure. A loudspeaker membrane was devised for the ceiling and some of the support elements are 24 karat gold plated. In this room 400 m² of smoked oak parquet floorings were laid with ULTRABOND P902 2K, two-component epoxy-polyurethane adhesive for bonding all types and sizes of wooden flooring.

The redesigned suites have a living room, a bedroom and a fireplace, as well as a balcony with a panoramic view of Zurich, Lake Zurich, and the Alps. The bathrooms in the suites have jacuzzis, steam showers and saunas.


The “Maestro Suite” is located in the existing building. It is the “top of the line” and offers guests more than 400 m² of living space on two levels. The suite was inspired by the life and work of the world renowned conductor Herbert von Karajan. The parquet floor in this place was installed with ULTRABOND P990 1K ready-to-use polyurethane one-component, solvent-free, elastic adhesive for all types of wooden flooring.

The design of the “Carezza Suite”, which is one of the top suites in the new part of The Dolder Grand, was inspired by the work of Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti.





water dispersion primer for treating substrates; ULTRAPLAN ECO ultra-fast hardening self-levelling smoothing compound for smoothing the substrate irregularities; ULTRABOND ECO 185 fast-setting solvent-free synthetic polymer based adhesive for the installation of textile floors. In some sections of the flooring, cracks in the screeds were repaired with EPORIP TURBO fast-hardening two-component polyester resin for monolithic sealing of cracks in screeds. NIVORAPID ultra-fast drying thixotropic cementitious levelling compound was used in some areas to smooth some irregularities and holes in the substrates.

The Dolder Grand meets world-class quality and comfort standards. Mapei achieves this same level of quality in its products, a number of which were used in these works and made a significant contribution to the re-modelling of this superb hotel. 

This article was taken from "Realta Mapei" the in-house magazine published by the German, Austrian and Swiss subsidiaries of the Mapei Group, which we would like to thank.

The suite integrates organic forms and has a wonderful smoked-oak tongue in groove parquet floor that was installed using ULTRABOND P990 1K.

The hotel's wellness centre was updated to bring it into line with the wellness expectations of today's hotel guests. The centrepiece of the facility is artist Monika Leithner's mirror mosaic in the meditation space. The mosaic was installed with ADESILEX P10, white high performance cementitious adhesive with no vertical slip and extended open time for glass, ceramic and marble mosaic coverings.

Function Rooms

Several Mapei products with low emission level of volatile organic compounds (VOC) were used for the installation of floorings in the hotel's function rooms: PRIMER G synthetic-resin-based

Mapei Products: the products mentioned in this article belong to the "Products for the Installation of Resilient, Textile and Wood Floor and Wall Coverings" and "Products for Ceramic Tiles and Stone Materials" ranges. The technical data sheets are available on the web site: www.mapei.com. Mapei's adhesives for ceramics and stone materials conform to EN 12004 and have been awarded the CE mark in compliance with Annex ZA, standard EN 12004. Mapei grouts for ceramics and stone materials conform to EN 13888. Mapei levelling and smoothing compounds and pre-blended mortars for screeds conform to EN 13813 standard and have been awarded the CE mark in compliance with Annex ZA, standard EN 13813. Almost all the Mapei products for laying floors and walls have been awarded the EMICODE EC1 ("very low emission level of volatile organic compounds") mark by GEV.

Adesilex P10 (C2TE, EC1 R, CE EN 12004): white high performance cementitious adhesive with no vertical slip and extended open time for glass, ceramic and marble mosaic coverings.

Eporip Turbo: fast-hardening two-component polyester resin for monolithic sealing of cracks in screeds.

Nivorapid (CT-C40-F10 A2_n according

to EN 13813, EC1 R): ultra-fast drying thixotropic cementitious levelling compound for horizontal and vertical surfaces.

Primer G (EC1): synthetic-resin-based water dispersion primer.

Ultrabond P990 1K (EC1 R): ready-to-use polyurethane one-component, solvent-free, elastic adhesive for all types of wooden flooring over Mapecem, Mapecem Pronto, Topcem and Topcem Pronto screeds, cementitious screeds, existing wooden flooring, ceramic tiles, marble, terrazzo tiles, etc.

Ultrabond P902 2K: two-component epoxy-polyurethane adhesive for bonding all types and sizes of wooden flooring over Mapecem, Mapecem Pronto, Topcem and Topcem Pronto screeds, cementitious screeds, existing wooden flooring, ceramic tiles, marble, terrazzo tiles, etc. Suitable for underfloor heating systems.

Ultrabond Eco 185 (EC1): fast-setting solvent-free synthetic polymer based adhesive for the installation of textile floors.

Ultraplan Eco (CT-C25-FT A2_n according to EN 13813, CE EN 13813, EC1): ultra-fast hardening self-levelling smoothing compound with very low VOC emission level for thicknesses from 1 to 10 mm.

TECHNICAL DATA

The Dolder Grand, Zürich (Switzerland)

Designer: Jaques Groß

Year of Construction: 1899

Period of the Intervention: 2008

Intervention by Mapei: supplying products for preparing substrates, bonding wooden floors and ceramic and glass mosaic floor and wall coverings.

Designers: Forster & Partners Ltd. (London) and United Design Ltd. (London)

Client: Dolder Hotel AG, Zürich

Works Director: Niels Hochuli, Itten+Brechbühl AG (Zürich)

Contractors: Klausner AG from Au (Switzerland) for the ballroom

Laying Companies: Käppeli AG from Merenschwand (Switzerland) for laying parquet in the ballroom; Urech AG di Wettingen (Switzerland) for laying parquet in the "Carezza" and "Maestro" suites; Karrer AG from Dättliw (Switzerland) for laying ceramics in the meditation area

Laid Materials: parquet and glass mosaics

Mapei Distributor: SABAG (Zurich and Dättwill, Switzerland)

Mapei Co-ordinator: Martin Schneider, Mapei Suisse SA (Switzerland)