

MAPEI PRODUCTS BRING HOME THE WIN FOR CANADIAN INSTALLER
***National Ceramic & Granite Ltd. Receives TTMAC 'Project of the Year' Award for Mosaic
Tile Installation at Le Carrefour Laval***

"Some projects are just fun," said Jim Mannella, project manager at National Ceramic & Granite Ltd. He was referring to the installation of the mosaic floor mural in the Garden Court – part of a recent expansion project at Le Carrefour Shopping Centre in Laval, Quebec. The installers faced an interesting challenge: The tile work in the Garden Court called for the installation of a mosaic mural representing a nature scene. The mural was repeated on each of the four sides of a central fountain. The architects asked that each feature within the mural be grouted in a color that matched the color of the object – tiles depicting grasses were grouted with green grout, while blue vines were grouted in blue. Mannella, long familiar with MAPEI products, turned to the *Kerabond™/Keralastic™* System mortar and *Keracolor™ U* unsanded grout to get the job done.

Sicis Mosaic Flooring pre-made the mural in Italy, following a design the company had also used at the Bellagio Casino and Resort in Las Vegas. Each of the four sections of the mural consisted of 12 to 15 panels composed of 12" x 12" sheets of ½" x ½" mosaic tiles. National's installers laid out the numbered sheets in meticulous order, set them with *Kerabond/Keralastic*, and then grouted with the appropriate matching color of *Keracolor U*. The results were good enough to win National Ceramic & Granite Ltd. the "2003 Project of the Year" Award from the Tile and Terrazzo Manufacturers' Association of Canada. Mannella's comments explain why: "The owner of the mall, Cadillac-Fairview, was ecstatic with the results. Other tenants within the mall said it was a great draw for surrounding stores, and they would like to see something similar in their segments of the shopping centre."

The floor mural was only a small part of the work Mannella's crew performed at Le Carrefour Laval. The name Carrefour means "crossroads," and the mall itself was laid out to correspond to a winding road in Europe. Shoppers do not look straight down the mall. Rather, they see the facades of stores standing out in their line of vision, emphasizing the winding feeling. The most recent expansion extended and connected two sections of the mall to form a U shape where the Garden Court is located. National Ceramic & Granite workers installed 60,000 sq. ft. of 12" x 24" Fiandre porcelain tile in the expanded area, using the *Kerabond/Keralastic* System mortar and *Keracolor S* grout. Thin briquette walls and porcelain tiles in the washrooms were set with *Ultramastic ECO™* floor and wall tile adhesive. Another 10,000-sq. ft. area was repaired with a thin coat of *Ultraflex® 2*, and tile in this area was installed using the *Granirapid®* System.

Cadillac-Fairview specified the use of MAPEI products in Le Carrefour Laval when the mall was originally built and when 180,000 sq. ft. of the mall was renovated in 1995. The company specified its use again for the new expansion because of the excellent warranties provided by MAPEI. National Ceramic & Granite Ltd. has worked with MAPEI products for many years because the products have always worked for them. Excellent workmen working with excellent products won National the kudos of the project owners and an award from their industry. Congratulations to all!