



THE LIONHEART

Benetti is a very popular brand in the shipyard sector: founded in 1873, it is today a world leading yacht builder and the largest for 80'+ yachts. It manufactures luxury yachts in some of the largest facilities in the world, located in Darsena Italia and Lusben in Viareggio (Italy), and in Fano (Italy).

In the beginning of its long history Benetti specialised in building wooden sailing vessels for local and international trade and fishing. After the Second World War it turned to steel and the more lucrative leisure market and began building yachts in the early 60's. Today Benetti is a mega-yacht builder, specialised in building composite semi - custom yachts from 100 to 145', and

steel and aluminium custom yachts from 50 m to over 70 m, resulting from both traditional building experience and a modern, dynamic, state-of-the-art yacht construction approach.

A fine example of the company's modern technology and long-standing craftsmanship is provided by "Lionheart", a 50 metre yacht able to reach a cruising speed of 16.5 knots and a maximum of 18 knots.

The upper deck and the sundeck feature spacious open air areas, intended to enhance pleasure, relaxation, conversation and outdoor living. The interior features sport furniture and refined design, created by Stefano Natucci, thus offering the maximum comforts to guests.

The yacht was purchased by Sir Philip Green, a British billionaire businessman, who owns some of the United Kingdom's largest retailers, and Britain's fourth richest man. Green closely collaborated to Natucci's designing of the yacht and had some exceptional materials used and highly original details added.

For instance, he decided to enhance the yacht's luxury by having the surfaces of an outdoor swimming pool covered with Indian natural stone pebble mosaics, featuring the image of a brown lion on a white background.

Works were carried out in the Benetti shipyard in Livorno while the 5-7 mm diameter pebbles were manufactured and cut in Jaipur (India) and later sup-



plied by a British retailer. The contractor was British, too: Crescent Tiling, London, was in charge of the installation works and chose to use Mapei products supplied by Boyden Tiles in Croydon (Surrey, UK).

The pool's fibreglass shell was carefully cleaned to remove any dust or contamination that might prevent a good result. The white version of KERAPOXY* (a two-component, acid-resistant epoxy product that can be used both as a grout and, as it was in this case, as an adhesive) was applied to bond the sheets of marble mosaics.

This is an improved reaction slip-resistant resin adhesive, especially suitable for bonding stone materials, ceramic tiles, fibre-cement, concrete, etc. Three days after the completion of the bonding works, the joints of the covering were grouted with ULTRACOLOR*. This fast setting and drying grout perfectly matched the project's needs because it guarantees perfect colour uniformity, does not generate efflorescence on the surfaces and requires a short waiting time before cleaning.

The product is now replaced by ULTRACOLOR PLUS*, which is available in 26 colours and further integrated by the innovative technologies BioBlock® and DropEffect®.

These make ULTRACOLOR PLUS* able to reduce the formation of micro-organisms which cause mould, and the absorption of surface water in damp environments. At the same time it is

highly water repellent and ensures excellent durability. Therefore ULTRACOLOR PLUS* is particularly suitable for grouting floors and walls on swimming-pools, bathrooms, balconies, terraces and kitchens.


The mosaic pebbles were intended to feature the image of a brown lion, so the brown version (n. 142) of ULTRACOLOR* was chosen.

Expansion joints were sealed with MAPESIL AC*, a solvent-free, acetic-crosslinking, mildew-resistant silicone sealant. This product is available in 26 colours and guarantees a perfect sealing of expansion joints of $\pm 25\%$ expansion of the initial size on interior and exterior wall or floor coverings in swimming pools, bathrooms and showers. MAPESIL AC* is especially suitable to these environments since it is waterproofing and permeable to vapour, resistant to chemical agents and to mildew. These characteristics ensure that seals remain unchanged even after many years exposure to climatic agents, sudden temperature changes and immersion in water. In this case the brown version (142) of MAPESIL AC* was used to match the colour of the laid material.

The installation of the mosaic pebbles on the edges, corners, sides and spillways was quite complex: about 2 million pebbles were fitted individually by hand, which took 2 layers and 7 weeks to complete.

Here again the white version of KERA-

POXY* was used to bond the pebbles while grouting was accomplished with the brown version (142) of ULTRACOLOR*. Expansion joints were again sealed with brown (142) MAPESIL AC*.

Three weeks after the completion of the works, the pool was filled with water. Sir Green and his guests could enjoy a pleasant bath in an environment featuring luxury even in its smallest details. 

*Mapei Products:

the products referred to in this article belong to the "Products for Ceramic Tiles and Stone Materials" range. The technical data sheets are available on the "Mapei Global Infonet" CD/DVD or at the web site: www.mapei.com.



Mapei's adhesives and grouts conform to EN 12004 and EN 13888 standards.

Kerapoxy (RG): *two-component acid-resistant epoxy adhesive, available in 26 colours, for joints of at least 3 mm. Can also be used as a grout.*

Mapesil AC: *solvent-free, acetic-cross-linking mildew-resistant silicone sealant, available in 26 colours and transparent.*

Ultracolor (CG2): *fast setting and drying, anti-efflorescence grout for joints from 2 to 20 mm, available in 26 colours.*

N.B. The product has been replaced by Ultracolor Plus.

TECHNICAL DATA

Outdoor pool, Benetti yacht "Lionheart",
Livorno (Italy)

Work: installation of marble mosaics on the pools' surfaces

Year: 2005

Customer: Benetti S.p.A., Viareggio (Italy)

Work Management: Terry Harrow, Crescent Tiling, London (UK)

Installation Company: Crescent Tiling

Materials: Indian marble mosaics

Mapei Distributor: Boyden Tile, Croydon (UK)

Mapei Co-ordinator: Simon Pashley,
Mapei UK

