

The Gare d'Arras

The station of Arras was also part of the modernization program organized by the SnCF railways public corporation and directed by the Arep agency. Here the restoration concerned the whole of the spaces that welcome the travellers and their companions: the zone for ticket sales, that of interchange and that of access to the tracks and the new buffet of the station.

Rapid interventions

For the renewal of the coverings MAPECEM* and GRANIRAPID* of Mapei were chosen because these two solutions guarantee a rapid and secure system, taking into consideration the high stresses to which this construction site is subjected. The installation firm Taillez used MAPECEM* to realize the screed adhering to the pre-existing cement substrate.

This fast setting and drying binder allows for the realization of screeds ready for the installation of ceramic tiles and natural stones already after 3-4 hours. This has reduced the times of closure of the various spaces of the station, and thus the inconvenience for the travellers was limited.

The characteristics of MAPECEM*, in particular the extremely short drying time (residual moisture less than 2% after 24 hours), make it suitable for a subsequent covering in reconstituted stone.

Difficult bondings

The covering in reconstituted stone of large size and reduced thickness is particularly sensitive to water. The slabs of reconstituted stone Quarella were placed by double backbuttering, using the two-component adhesive mortar GRANIRAPID* with improved resistance. This product is particularly indicated for the installation of stones of any porosity.

Together with GRANIRAPID* the additive PLANICRETE* was used, a synthetic rubber



latex for improving adhesion and mechanical strength of cementitious mortars.

The groutings were realized with the cementitious mortar KERACOLOR FF*.

A high-stress construction site

The floorings of the station, a long narrow rectangle between a vast clearing and the railway, are subjected to multiple stresses.

These are then increased with the arrival of the TGV that has caused an increase both in the foot traffic as well as in the frequency and intensities of the vibrations.

For these reasons, the excellent technical performances of MAPECEM* and GRANIRAPID* (adherence, drying and strength) have proven to be indispensable for the success of the project.



The photos have been kindly granted by the Occom studio, which we would like to thank.



Photo 1.
Granirapid was used for the installation of the reconstituted stone tiles.

Photos 2 and 3.
Some of the environments of the station of Arras concerned in the restoration in which the old floorings were replaced.

*The products cited in this article belong to the "Products for ceramic tiles and stone materials" line. The relative technical data sheets are available on the "Mapei Global Infonet" CD and on the website www.mapei.com. The Mapei adhesives and grouts conform to the EN 12004 and EN 13888 standards.



Granirapid (C2F): two-component adhesive system with rapid setting and hydration for the installation of ceramic tiles, natural and artificial stones (thickness of the adhesive up to 10 mm).

Keracolor FF (CG2): cementitious grout for grouting joints up to 6 mm.

Planicrete: synthetic rubber latex for improving adhesion and mechanical strength of cementitious mortars.

Mapecem: special hydraulic binder for the preparation of rapid drying screeds with controlled shrinkage.



TECHNICAL DATA

Gare du Nord – Paris, France

Project: enlargement of the station with a new interchange area for the travellers; installation of floor covering on an area of 20,000 m²

Year of project: 2001

Design: Arch. Dutilleul

Construction company: France Sol

Material installed: reconstituted stone tiles Microtechnica of Quarella and Artico White of Rover

Mapei Products: GRANIRAPID, KERACOLOR FF

Mapei coordinator: Philippe Latrace, Mapei France SA.

Gare d'Arras – Arras, France

Project: restoration of various internal zones and installation of new floorings

Year of project: 2001

Project area: 800 m²

Construction company: Tailleux

Material installed: Quarella reconstituted stone tiles

Mapei Products: PLANICRETE, MAPECEM, GRANIRAPID, KERACOLOR FF

Mapei coordinator: Philippe Latrace, Mapei France SA.