

Flowerly Finishes

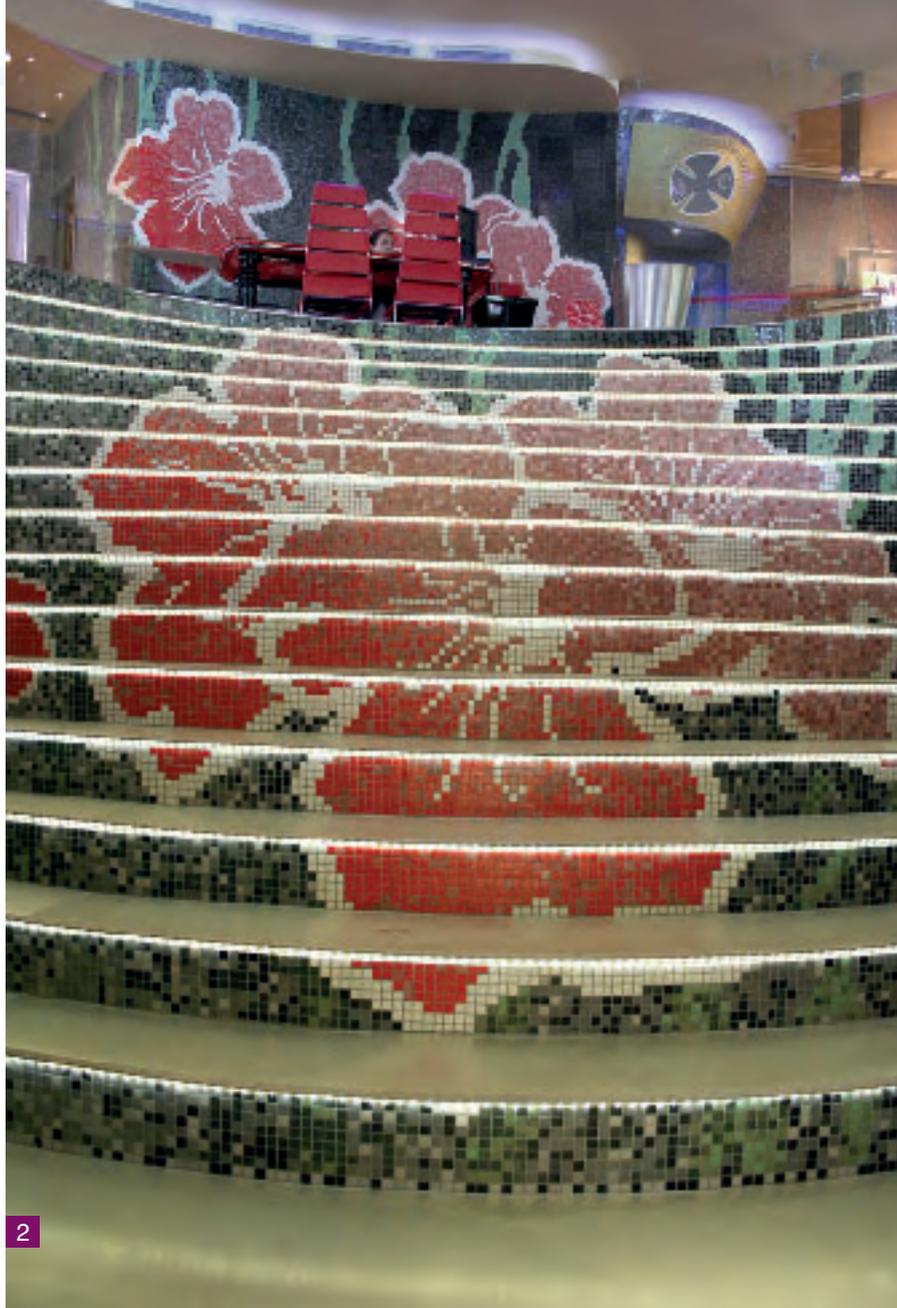
Elegant Italian design, top quality protective and decorative finishes and cutting-edge materials for Les Fleurs Hotel in Sofia, Bulgaria

Bulgaria is now a European country in every respect, which attracts tourists and businessmen from all over the world. So for a number of years there has been a real need, particularly in the capital city Sofia, to provide foreign and also domestic visitors with the best possible accommodation facilities, such as hotels capable of competing with those in other European capital cities in terms of the materials and decorations used to construct them.

Hotel Le Fleurs, which opened in June 2007, stands out for its originality and modernity. This elegant hotel with its very contemporary design is located in a downtown area of Sofia and offers the very highest standards of comfort. Hotel Le Fleurs has 31 rooms, a restaurant and trendy shops set in a very unique and exclusive atmosphere, featuring colourful floors and walls and mosaics decorated with large coloured flowers (in line with the name of the hotel), both on the outside and inside. An Italian firm, Studio Lucchese, was contacted to design the facility with the help of Bulgarian designers; an Italian designer was also commissioned to work on the interior layout and decoration.

Resin Floors

As already mentioned, the finishes had to be of a very high standard, both in terms of their technical properties and decorative effects. With this in mind, the designers proposed making the most of the floors out of resin, using Mapei's special systems for decorative floorings. This specific type of floor covering is often used in work and private environments due to its high resistance to traffic and chemical agents, ease of cleaning and the possibility of creating large continuous surfaces with minimal jointing. Moreover, resin floors are increasingly popular with designers for their decorative effect. The possibility



2

Photo 1.
The outside facade of Les Fleurs Hotel is decorated with large flowers in a mosaic pattern. The joints were grouted using Kerapoxy.

Photo 2.
The stairs connecting the hall to the restaurant are decorated with a flowery mosaic pattern, again grouted with Kerapoxy. The stairs treads were made with resin-based Decor System 70.

traffic, was used to give the surface depth and shininess.

As well as being impermeable to liquids, the product also has good mechanical resistance and resistance to abrasion. It is also transparent with a low tendency to turn yellow. An average thickness of 3 mm was applied all over. Using the DECOR SYSTEM 70 system produced a continuous floor with no joints, giving all the rooms where it was applied a very distinctive look.

The restaurant. The restaurant area is located in a basement, whose surfaces had no vapour barrier. This meant that a product had to be used as a primer, which ensured good vapour permeability and allowed the application of the same products as used for the various floor and wall coverings on the upper levels. In this case Mapei Technical Service Department suggested using different solutions than those from the traditional DECOR SYSTEM 70 range, but still from the MAPEFLOOR line.

In the end it was decided to treat the cementitious substrate using MAPECOAT I600 W* two-component finish - in this case used as a primer - diluted with water at a ratio of 1:1 and applied to the surface using a roller. QUARTZ 0.25* was then sprinkled over the substrate while it was still fresh. After hardening, MAPEFLOOR I500 W*, a two-component epoxy treatment in water-dispersion, which is also permeable to vapour, was then applied to the surface; the product was spread on using a special 2 mm thick notched trowel.

MAPEFLOOR DECOR 700* could then be applied. In order to achieve the same delicate aesthetic effect here as in all the other premises of Les Fleurs Hotel, MAPEFLOOR DECOR 700* was also coloured using MAPEFLOOR PASTE* in the copper shade. The surface of the restaurant floor was then given a

of colouring the mix directly on the building site in a wide range of shades also allows artists-installers to choose the colour scheme they prefer.

Mapei's Technical Service Department helped the designers by recommending products from the DECOR SYSTEM 70 system to construct approximately 1,000 m² of resin floors in the restaurant area, hall, corridors outside the rooms, and Frank Muller showroom on the ground floor of the hotel. DECOR SYSTEM 70, which belongs to the extensive MAPEFLOOR SYSTEM family, is a solvent-free epoxy resin-based system for creating decorative floors with mottled or trowel effect finishes in environments subject to average foot traffic, such as homes, showrooms, shops, etc.

The premises involved in this important project are a fine example of the versatility of this innovative Mapei system, which can count on specific products to meet every imaginable practical and aesthetic requirement.

The Hall. After carefully inspecting the building site, Mapei technicians advised the designer and construction company to start by applying PRIMER SN* on the substrate, a solvent-free, two-component, epoxy filling primer used for preparing the substrate and improving the adhesion of products to be applied later.

QUARTZ 0.5* was then sprinkled over the treated surface while it was still fresh.

This operation ensures the decorative coating, composed of two coats of MAPEFLOOR DECOR 700* (solvent free epoxy paste in water dispersion), adheres perfectly. This product, supplied in a neutral colour, was coloured directly on the building site using MAPECOLOR PASTE*, a concentrated colouring paste chosen in a copper shade for this setting.

Finally, MAPEFLOOR I300 SL TRP*, a two-component, transparent epoxy compound applied as a finishing coat for decorative floors subject to heavy



special finish using MAPEFLOOR I300 SL TRP*.

Corridors outside the rooms. The hotel is built over six floors, and the designers decided to install resin floors in the corridors along the landings. Following the DECOR SYSTEM 70 procedure, a coat of PRIMER SN* was applied to the substrate after it had been cleaned properly and then QUARTZ 0.5* was sprinkled over the surface while it was still fresh. The floors along the corridors were also covered with two 3-mm coats of MAPEFLOOR DECOR 700*. In this area the designer decided to incorporate golden veins over the copper background colour: this decorative effect was obtained by combining the copper and gold shades

of MAPECOLOR PASTE*. MAPEFLOOR I300 SL TRP* was applied to create the special finish.

Showroom. The floors of the Frank Muller showroom were treated with PRIMER SN* and then covered with two coats of MAPEFLOOR DECOR 700* (average thickness of 3 mm) coloured with MAPECOLOR PASTE* in the golden shade. Here again MAPEFLOOR I300 SL TRP* was used for the finish.

Colour for Walls

Corridors. After treating the surfaces of the corridor walls near the stairwells using the insulating SILANCOLOR PRIMER*, they were decorated with SILANCOLOR TONACHINO*.



Photos 3 and 4.

In the hall a decorative continuous floor without joints was made with the Decor System 70 decorative floor system.

Photos 5 and 6.

The bathrooms in the hotel rooms are decorated with mosaics grouted using Ultracolor Plus.

This coating, composed of a silicone resin-based paste, ensures the underlying substrate is highly vapour permeable, uniform in colour tone and extremely water repellent, as well as being highly durable and offering long-lasting protection. SILANCOLOR TONACHINO*, available in a wide range of colours, was chosen in a brown shade for this job.



Photo 7.

The floor in the restaurant was also made with Mapefloor Decor 700. Mapefloor Paste in the copper shade was added to this product to obtain a special colour effect. The walls are very colourful as well, thanks to the flower mosaic patterns grouted with Ultracolor Plus.

Outside facades. The outside of the hotel has strip surfaces at the corners of the building, decorated with mosaic in a large flowers pattern. The joints were grouted using KERAPOXY* two-component acid-resistant epoxy mortar.

Restaurant areas and room bathrooms. The inside of the hotel also has mosaic floral patterns on the walls of the restaurant area, bathrooms in the hotel rooms, and entrance hall. In all these places, the joints were grouted using ULTRACOLOR PLUS*. This product is a high-performance grout. It features

DropEffect® and BioBlock® technologies guaranteeing a high standard of water repellence and antimold effect over a long period of time.

The stairs leading to the restaurant in the basement were also being coloured and decorated using the same solutions, methods and decorative compounds as in the rest of the hotel premises.

The stair risers sport the same floral mosaic pattern that appears on the walls in the hall, while the treads were made using the DECOR SYSTEM 70 resin system in a gold-coloured finish.

TECHNICAL DATA

Hotel Les Fleurs, Sofia (Bulgaria)

Work: laying decorative resin floors in the hall, restaurant, Frank Muller showroom, corridors outside the rooms and stairs leading to the restaurant; applying a decorative coating to the walls of the corridors; grouting the mosaics on the external façades and several internal areas.

Year: 2007

Project: Federica Fazola and Andrea Laserpe from Studio Lucchese (Varese, Italy) with the help of Studio Architettura A3 (Sofia)

Installing Companies: Vissa (Schio, Italy) for the floorings; Rain Color (Sofia) for the wall coverings;

Mapei Distributors: Nido, Vissa and Rain Color

Mapei Coordinators: Marco Pagliani and Piercarlo Rocca, Mapei SpA (Italy)

***Mapei Products:** the products mentioned in this article belong to the "Coatings Systems", "Products for Flooring", and "Products for Ceramic Tiles and Stone Materials" ranges. The technical data sheets are available on the "Mapei Global Infonet" DVD or at the web site: www.mapei.com.

Mapei's adhesives and grouts conform to EN 12004, EN 12002 and EN 13888 standards.

Kerapoxy (RG): two-component, acid-resistant epoxy mortar for grouting joints wider than 3 mm, available in 26 different colours. May also be used as an adhesive.

Mapecoat I600 W: two-component, transparent epoxy finish in water dispersion.

Mapecolor Paste: system for colouring

Mapefloor products.

Mapefloor Decor 700: two-component, solvent-free, epoxy paste in water dispersion, used to create floors with a trowel effect or mottled finish.

Mapefloor I300 SL TRP: two-component, transparent epoxy finish coat, with a low tendency to turn yellow, applied at a thickness of 1 mm as a finishing coat on epoxy resin systems.

Mapefloor I500 W: two-component, multi-purpose, neutral-coloured epoxy treatment in water dispersion, permeable to vapour.

Primer SN: two-component, solvent-free epoxy filling primer.

Quartz 0.25 – 0.5: spherical, grey, alluvium

quartz for the Mapefloor Systems and Triblock P.

Silancolor Primer: silicone resin-based insulating primer in water dispersion.

Silancolor Tonachino: trowelable, highly vapour permeable and water repellent silicone resin based paste coating in water dispersion, for exterior applications.

Ultracolor Plus (CG2): fast setting and drying, high performance, anti-efflorescence, polymer modified grout, for joints from 2 to 20 mm. Water-repellent with DropEffect® and antimold with Bioblock® technology.

