



The new TFC Training Centre

Toulouse Football Club has a glorious history in French football. The club has recently built a sports complex for "studying" the players of the future.

Rugby not football is the most popular sport in France. This is particularly the case in Toulouse, whose rugby team, Stade Toulousain, won the French Championship in 2005. The same city is also home to Toulouse Football Club, a very old team originally founded in 1937, whose fans enjoy one of the best grounds in the whole of France: the Stadium. A few years ago the team's management staff realised it needed to broaden its ranks by bringing some young players into the team, so that the club might once again become the top team in the Midi Pyrénées region.

This is why the management team of Toulouse Football Club (TFC) decided a few years ago to construct a building where talented young players from all over the region could come and get special coaching. The project the Centre offers young players is spread over six years' training and teaches them the technical, physical and psychological skills required to become a top-class footballer. The courses are held inside the sports complex and consist in daily training and physical-technical coaching. The new Training Centre soon produced results: this year the junior team won the famous Gambardella Cup.

Mapei's Work

The Training Centre is located along the banks of the River Garonne, not far from the city stadium, which was given a makeover for the FIFA World Cup held in France in 1998.

Construction work on the building, which covers an area of 3,500 m², began in 2003. As well as several gyms fitted out with all the latest cutting-edge sports equipment, the Centre also contains a small indoor pool, a football pitch for training and coaching lessons, classrooms for lectures as well as rest-relaxation rooms and facilities to accommodate the 55 apprentices accepted on the courses each year.

The Mapei France Technical Service Department was contacted to supply ideal products for installing the tiles (approximately 2300 m²) in the various premises of the Centre.

Mapei experts decided to use PLANOBOND* for laying the large sized (30x30 cm) porcelain tiles on the floors.

This cementitious adhesive is ideal for large tiles, which can be safely laid without the need of double backbutte-





Photo 1.
The TFC Training Centre looks directly onto the football pitch.

Photo 2.
The main entrance to the Centre is instantly recognisable from Toulouse Football Club's emblem and colours.

Photo 3.
The corridors leading through to the changing rooms.
Planobond adhesive was used to lay the porcelain tiles on the floor.

Photos 4 and 5.
After being waterproofed with Mapelastix, the small indoor swimming pool has been covered with ceramic tiles using Granirapid adhesive.

ring.

The walls and floors of the showers first had the surfaces being tiled over waterproofed using AQUAFLEX* liquid membrane.

AQUAFLEX* is a ready-to-use paste with a base of synthetic resins in water dispersion.

Once dried, it becomes a continuous flexible and waterproof membrane.

The ceramic tiles (15x15 cm) were then installed using the KERABOND* + ISOLASTIC* system. Mixing KERABOND* cementitious adhesive with ISOLASTIC* flexible latex additive instead of water improves the properties to meet C2 class standard (improved cementitious adhesive), in accordance with EN 12004, and S2 class standard (highly deformable adhesive in accordance with EN 12002).

MAPELASTIC* has been applied to the walls of the small indoor Jacuzzi pool. This two-component cementitious mortar is ideal for surfaces in constant contact with water and often used for creating highly flexible waterproofing coatings over concrete surfaces.

The entire pool was then tiled over using GRANIRAPID* fast-setting and hydration two-component cementitious adhesive.

The joints were grouted using ULTRACOLOR* anti-efflorescent grout, which features a good resistance to acids.

A resistant covering was laid on the floors of the apprentices' sleeping rooms. Before carrying out the installation, the substrate was levelled and smoothed using MAPESOL 3*, a self-levelling smoothing compound (only distributed in France). 

Our thanks go to "Mapei e Vous", no.14, published by Mapei France, from which this article was taken.

***Mapei Products:** the products referred to in this article belong to the "Building Speciality Line" and "Products for Ceramic Tiles and Stone Materials" ranges. The technical data sheets are available on the "Mapei Global Infonet" CD/DVD and from the website: www.mapei.com.

Mapei adhesive and grouts conform to EN 12004 and EN 13888 standards.

Aquaflex System: flexible, waterproofing and anti-fracture liquid membrane.

Granirapid (C2F): high-performance, deformable, fast setting and hydration two-component cementitious adhesive for ceramic tiles and stone material.

Isolastic: flexible latex additive to be mixed with Kerabond, Kerafloor and Adesilex P10.
Kerabond (C1, becomes **C2** when mixed with Isolastic): cementitious adhesive for ceramic tiles.

Mapelastix: two-component flexible cementitious mortar for waterproofing concrete, balconies, terraces, bathrooms and swimming pools.

Mapesol 3: self-levelling smoothing compound (P3, according to French UPEC classification). This product, which used to be Planosol 3, is only distributed in France.

Planobond (C2E): high performance full contact cementitious adhesive with extended open time for ceramic tiles and stone material.

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

Toulouse Football Club Training Centre, Toulouse (France)

Work: installation of porcelain tiles on the floors, waterproofing and installation of ceramic tiles in the swimming pool, waterproofing and installation of ceramic tiles in the showers, smoothing and levelling of the floors in the sleeping rooms

Years: 2003-2004

Customer: Association Toulouse Football Club

Project: Atelier d'Architecture

Works Management: Mr. Dominique Alet, architect

Installation Company: Mosailux

Company in Charge of Smoothing Operations: Spidéco

Mapei Co-ordinator: Yves Caussanel, Mapei France