

# Shopping IN ATTICA

In downtown Athens a recently renovated historical building houses a big department store

The Attica department store is housed in one of the most interesting historical buildings in the center of Athens, in the Panepistimiou Avenue. Back in 1930, the army financed and constructed a new modern office in the area where the royal cavalry stables used to be located. This new eight-storey building covered the area of a whole city. In those times its imposing yet elegant outlook and its complex yet light façades gave the underdeveloped area of downtown Athens a cosmopolitan aura. Its architectural style embodied all the more innovative ideas of the time, making the project a unique and impressive urban construction. With the dawn of the new century, the largest part of the building has been renovated and turned into a modern department store. A great effort was made to keep all the architectural features of the original building, as for both the external facades and some particular interior details.



The result of this hard job is a beautiful and huge department store called Attica. On 25.000 m<sup>2</sup> Attica includes more than 300 shops of over 500 contemporary luxurious designers' brands for men, women and children, as well as design objects for the household and a restaurant with a panoramic view.

#### Mapei's Contribution

Mapei contributed to the renovation of this building with many products recommended by its Technical Service Department.

**Floorings.** The Attica department store is a real architectural monument and, therefore, most of its original features were kept intact, such as the main white marble stairs (see photo above). For the floorings on all the seven

floors, the project managers choose either composite marble (made of natural marble and resin) or light-coloured porcelain tile, in order to resemble the materials used in the '30s.

All old floorings were removed and new screeds were formed. Since the timeline was very short, special products were required. For instance, after the removal of the old floorings, NIVO-RAPID\* ultra-fast drying thixotropic cementitious levelling mortar was applied on the substrate to smooth the surface's depressions and holes.

To prepare the screeds, the experts of Mapei Technical Service Department suggested the use of TOPCEM\* special fast setting hydraulic binder. This was used in combination with selected graded aggregates for both bonded



## PROJECTS

Photos 1 and 2.  
In order to meet the client's strict deadline, Topcem rapid-drying special hydraulic binder was used to prepare the screeds.

Photo 3  
The composite marble slabs were laid with Granirapid fast setting adhesive, which is particularly suitable for installing floorings subject to heavy traffic.



Photo 4.  
The marble slabs were laid on the elevator's floorings with Keralastic T.

Photo 5.  
View of the installed floorings: beside composite marble, porcelain tiles were also laid on the floors and on some sections of the walls.

Photo 6.  
View of a shopping venue of the Attica department store after the completion of the floors' installation works.



and floating screeds. Within only 4 days the screed was completely dry, after having hardened within 24 hours.

The residual moisture was measured with an electronic hygrometer and resulted to be less than 2%.

This product is particularly recommended when, as in the case of the works at the Attica department store, the substrate must be put back into service within a short time.

The 60x60 cm composite marble slabs were installed over the screeds using

all the metal surfaces with KERALASTIC T\* high-performance two-component polyurethane adhesive.

For grouting all the joints of the composite marble slabs and porcelain tiles, ULTRACOLOR\* fast setting and drying, high performance, anti-efflorescence, water-repellent grout was chosen in the colour shades n. 111, 130 and 132.

Wall Coverings. In many areas the old wall renders were removed and the surfaces were levelled with a cementitious compound, to which PLANICRE-



the white version of GRANIRAPID\* two-component cementitious adhesive, applied in an average thickness of 5 mm. This product features fast-setting time, excellent bonding and is particularly suitable for installing floorings subject to heavy traffic.

The 40x40 cm porcelain tiles were laid with KERAFLEX\* high performance cementitious adhesive, which is especially recommended for surfaces subject to strong stress.

Composite marble was laid on the floorings inside the elevators and on

TE\* latex was added in order to improve the new layer's adhesion and mechanical strengths.

In several shopping venues porcelain tiles were installed on the walls with KERAFLEX\* high performance, thixotropic, cementitious adhesive.

ULTRACOLOR\* was again used to grout the tile joints.

Glass fibre textiles were bonded onto some sections of the walls (including those of the fitting rooms) using ADESILEX MT32\* water dispersion adhesive.

#### \*Mapei Products:

the products referred to in this article belong to the "Products for Ceramic Tiles and Stone Materials" and "Products for the Installation of Resilient, Textile and Wood Floor and Wall Coverings" ranges.

The technical data sheets are available on the "Mapei Global Infonet" DVD or at the web site: [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com).

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

**Adesilex MT 32:** adhesive in water dispersion for the installation of wall coverings.

**Granirapid (C2F, S1):** high performance, deformable, fast setting and hydration, two-component cementitious adhesive for ceramic tiles and stone material.

**Keraflex (C2TE):** high performance cementitious adhesive, with no vertical slip and extended open time, for ceramic tiles and stone material.

**Keralastic T (R2T):** high performance, thixotropic, two-component polyurethane adhesive for ceramic tiles and stone material. Particularly suitable for vertical applications.

**Nivorapid:** ultra-fast drying levelling mortar for interior floors, walls and ceilings.

**Planicrete:** synthetic-rubber latex for cementitious mixes.

**Topcem:** normal-setting, rapid-drying (4 days), special hydraulic binder for screeds.

**Ultracolor (CG2):** fast setting and drying, high performance, anti-efflorescence, polymer modified grout, for joints from 2 to 20 mm.

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

#### TECHNICAL DATA

**Attica Department Store, Athens (Greece)**

**Work:** preparing the screeds; laying and grouting composite marble slabs and porcelain tiles on the floors, walls and stairs of the halls, as well as on the elevators' surfaces; laying glass fibre textile coverings on the walls.

**Years:** 2003-2005

**Customer:** Metoxico Tomeio Stratou

**Project:** Stelios Agiostratits, Gianis Kizis

**Installation Company:** Arcon

**Mapei Distributor:** Alto

**Mapei Co-ordinator:** John Koroupilis, Mapei Hellas SA (Greece)

