

IN THE DEEP BLUE YONDER

In the sparkling, blue Mediterranean sea, and in perfect keeping with the Grecian landscape, two hotels were built using only high quality construction materials and finishes



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*Photo 1.
IDROSILEX PRONTO was
applied to waterproof the
external vertical surfaces.*

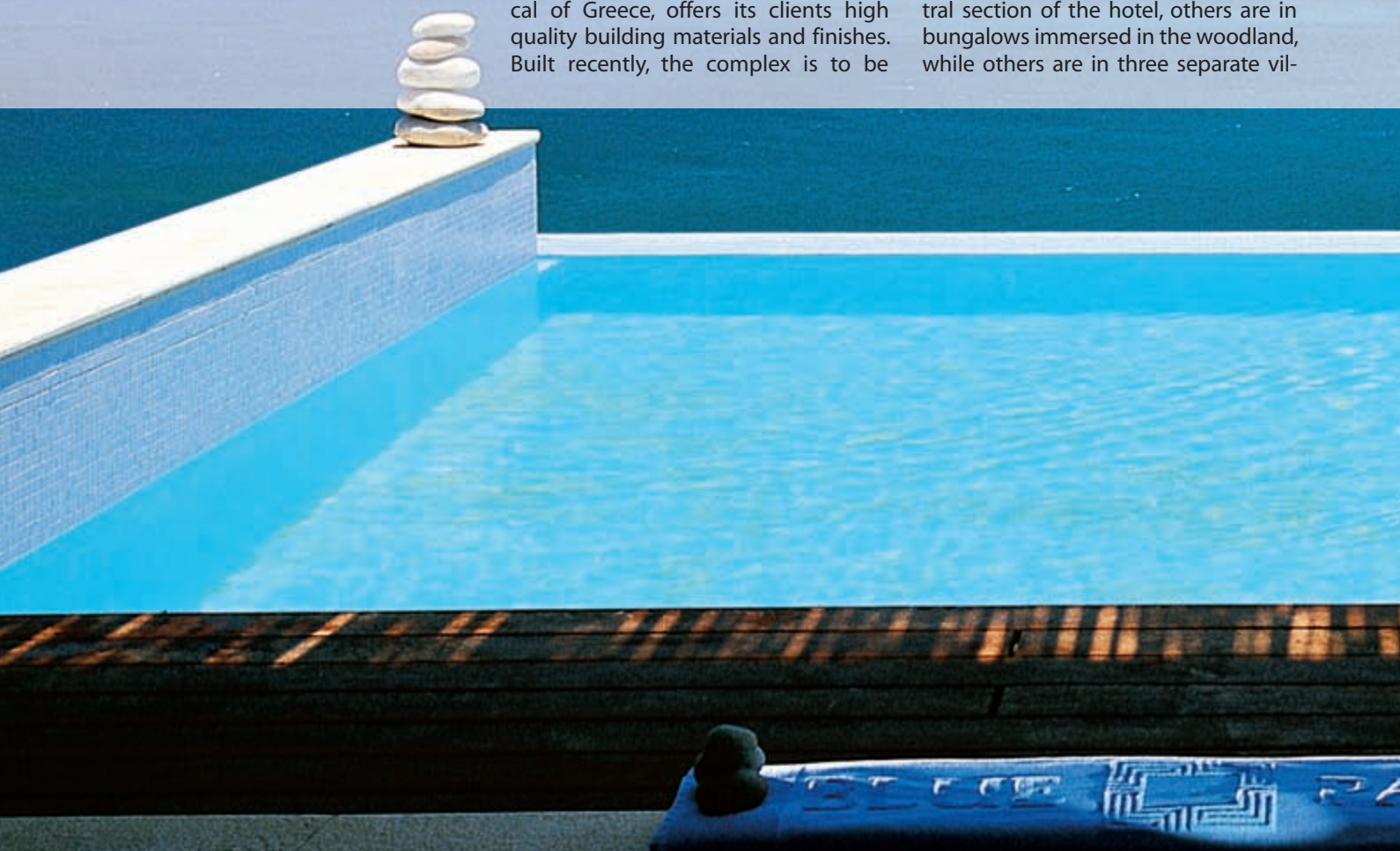
Apart from being the largest island in Greece, Crete is also the most southerly island in Europe, with the fifth largest surface area in the entire Mediterranean sea. The most important city, Iraklion, is situated at the centre of the northern end of the island, where tourism has developed the most, while the southern and western parts of the island remain completely unspoiled. Two operations in the hotel sector are described in this article; a completely new hotel complex and renovation of an existing hotel.

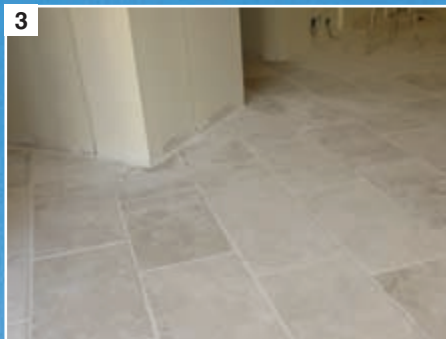
Blue Palace Resort&Spa

The terracotta-coloured stone walls, palm trees, olive groves and the bright blue of the 142 private swimming pools and of the Mediterranean sea are distinguishing features of the Blue Palace Resort & Spa.

The hotel is situated on the island of Crete, and apart from the beauty typical of Greece, offers its clients high quality building materials and finishes. Built recently, the complex is to be

found perched in a dominating position on the side of a hill with a breathtaking view of the charming island of Spinalonga with its Venetian fortress, and is approximately 500 metres from the village of Plaka. The Blue Palace has various types of accommodation available: some of them are in the central section of the hotel, others are in bungalows immersed in the woodland, while others are in three separate vil-





las in a secluded spot in the grounds of the hotel. All the rooms – each one has its own exclusive style and specially-created décor inspired by the surrounding nature – are characterised by prestigious furnishings and finishes, with large terraces which directly overlook the bay and, above all, except for a few of the bungalows, all the rooms have their own private swimming pool whose borders seem to blend into the sea on the horizon.

And to finish, the hotel also has a spa and a thalassotherapy centre.

Created for the Most Demanding Client

A further wing was added to the bungalows last year, and Mapei took part in this project by supplying a wide range of products through their local retailer. IDROSILEX PRONTO cementitious mor-

tar was recommended to waterproof the external vertical surfaces. It is composed of cement binders and special waterproofing additives, and is applied on perfectly clean, solid walls which must be thoroughly soaked with water beforehand. For the inside of the bungalows, PLANICRETE synthetic rubber latex diluted with water was added to the mix made of sand and cement for the screeds. Adding this latex to the mix improves its bond to the substrate and its mechanical strength. The work continued by smoothing over the internal substrate to make the floor perfectly flat and level before laying the final covering material, and ULTRAPLAN ultra-fast hardening, self-levelling, smoothing compound was chosen for this operation.

The living area was then laid with Italian granite slabs measuring 60x60 cm.

Photos 2, 3 and 4.

Before laying the various covering materials, the substrates in the bungalows were smoothed over with ULTRAPLAN to make them perfectly flat. Granite slabs were laid in the living areas with ULTRAFLEX S2 MONO adhesive and the joints were grouted with KERACOLOR FF.

ULTRAFLEX S2 MONO one-component cementitious adhesive was used to bond the granite.

This product is ideal for bonding stone slabs and ceramic tiles on internal and external surfaces, is highly deformable (class S2 according to EN 12002 standards), has no vertical slip, an extended open time, is easy to apply with a trowel and has a high yield.

ULTRAFLEX S2 MONO also helps to reduce the noise caused by footsteps, a





Photo 5.
Parquet was laid in place in the sleeping area using ADESILEX PA synthetic resin-based adhesive.



Photos 6, 7 and in the background.
Each bungalow has its own private swimming pool. KERACOLOR FF



characteristic which is quite important in hotel rooms.

KERACOLOR FF high performance cementitious mortar was then used to grout the tile joints. The use of special hydrophobic additives (DropEffect® technology) allows for tile joints which are highly water repellent, making them less prone to dirtiness and with excellent durability.

The same products – ULTRAFLEX S2 MONO and KERACOLOR FF – were also used to lay the floors in the external areas.

Parquet was instead chosen for the floors in the sleeping area of the bungalows, and the wooden strips were bonded in place using ADESILEX PA synthetic resin-based adhesive.

Each bungalow has its own private swimming pool.

KERACOLOR FF cementitious mortar was also used in this case to grout the tile joints on the pools' surfaces. In this case, however, KERACOLOR FF was mixed with the additive FUGOLASTIC instead of with water, to improve its resistance to abrasion and to reduce its porosity and water absorption.

Mapei Products: the products mentioned in this article belong to the "Products for Ceramic Tiles and Stone Materials," "Building Speciality Line," "Products for the Installation of Resilient, Textile and Wood Floor and Wall Coverings" ranges.

The technical data sheets are available at the web site: www.mapei.com. Mapei's adhesives and grouts conform to EN 12004 and EN 13888 standards. Almost all the Mapei products for laying floors and walls are also GEV-certified. Mapei pre-blended mortars for screeds and smoothing and leveling compounds conform to standard EN 13813 and have been awarded the CE mark in compliance with Annex ZA, standard EN 13813.

Adesilex PA: adhesive based on synthetic resins in alcohol for bonding wooden flooring.

Fugolastic: liquid polymeric additive for

Keracolor FF, Keracolor GG and Keracolor SF.

Idrosilex Pronto: cementitious mortar for waterproofing underground masonry and for structures containing also drinking water.

Keracolor FF (CG2, EC1R): high performance, polymer-modified, water-repellent, cement-based grout with DropEffect® technology for joints up to 6 mm.

Planicrete: synthetic-rubber latex for cementitious mortars for improving bonding and mechanical strength.

Ultraflex S2 Mono (C2TES2): one component, easy to apply, high flexibility, high performance cementitious adhesive with no vertical slip, extended open time and extremely high yield for ceramic tiles and stone material.

Ultraplan (EC1, CE): ultra-fast hardening self-levelling smoothing compound for thicknesses from 1 to 10 mm.

TECHNICAL DATA

Blue Palace Resort&Spa, Plaka, Crete (Greece)

Designer: Stylianides Engineering

Period of Construction: 2006-2007

Intervention by Mapei: waterproofing the bungalows' vertical external surfaces, applying screeds on internal surfaces, smoothing substrates, laying and grouting granite slabs in

the living area, laying parquet in the bedrooms, grouting tiles in the pools' surfaces

Period of Intervention: 2006-2007

Client: Plaka A.t.

Mapei Distributor: Kafousis

Mapei Coordinators: Ioannis Koropoulos (Mapei Hellas) and Fabio Fenech (Mapei SpA)