

**MAPEI PROUD TO SAY 'WE HELPED!'**  
*MAPEI Products Used to Improve Base of Statue of Liberty*

Sometimes a job is more than just a job. When the work involves helping update the base of the Statue of Liberty, it becomes a matter of pride. MAPEI is proud to say that its self-leveling, mortar and grout products were used by Phillipsburg Marble Company Inc. in their refurbishment of floors, walkway and walls of the entryway to the Statue of Liberty. Joseph A. Natoli Construction Corp. of Pine Brook, N.J. – the Statue's general contractor – chose Phillipsburg Marble to do the work.

Much of the work was done on the third level within the base, which leads to the Fort Wood upper level, the Statue's underlying structure that was built in 1810. A new handicapped-accessible exit ramp was part of this Life Safety Upgrade Project, which began at the Statue on April 15, 2004. One objective of this project was to provide an additional way out of the Statue in the event of an emergency.

Stone workers and other employees from Phillipsburg Marble spent several months working on the installation of the granite in order to be ready for the Statue's reopening on August 3, 2004. The materials used in this update had to match those used during the major remodeling of the Statue in 1986 to mark its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. An iridian (salt-and-pepper colored) granite and dark pearl granite from Cold Spring Granite Co. of Cold Spring, Minnesota, were set using MAPEI's *Granirapid*<sup>®</sup> System and *Keracolor*<sup>™</sup> S grout. But before the granite could be installed, the existing concrete floor had to be repaired and leveled. For this part of the job, the workers used MAPEI's *Ultraprime*<sup>™</sup> L acrylic latex primer for concrete and *Ultraplan*<sup>®</sup> 1 self-leveling underlayment.

Robert Barron, president of Phillipsburg Marble, chose to use MAPEI products because his company has worked with them frequently in the past and has always achieved excellent results. Once Secretary of the Interior Gail Norton announced that final plans had been approved to allow the public to once again enter the Statue's base, the project moved onto a very fast track. Using *Granirapid* as the mortar allowed the installation crew to set the granite tile and wall panels without delay.

When asked about his overall impression of working on the Statue of Liberty, Barron said, "It was wonderful to learn that the monument would be reopened to the public for the first time since September 11, 2001. When Joseph Natoli selected us to do the stone and granite installation, we were proud to play even a small role in helping to once again make the Statue available to

visitors. My crew tells me that the level of cooperation between all the trades working on the project were the best they've ever seen. Everyone realized that it was a fast-track job; and they were so excited to work on our national symbol of freedom, it helped everyone come together with pride in the work."