

Cosmopolitan Dazzle and Durability

MAPEI *Terratop* Installation Wows New Yorkers at Lumiere Building

New Yorkers can be very demanding when it comes to their homes. The residents of the stylish Lumiere Building at 350 West 53rd Street in Manhattan are no exception. When the tenants of the luxury corporate apartments saw the need to renovate the lobby floors, they examined a number of different options. Their first choice was epoxy terrazzo; but they found the price excessive, so they settled for a different type of finished material. When the job was done, the building's inhabitants just weren't satisfied with the look. They began to search for another solution. Bill Zonca of Port Morris Tile and Marble had the answer – MAPEI's unique *Terratop*TM binder combined with an aggregate that gave just the right touch of sophistication and superior wearability.

Terratop is an innovative new cementitious terrazzo installation system that can be applied in a much thinner layer than traditional terrazzo. Installers can also mix and pump or pour *Terratop* onto the floor rather than work on their knees to trowel the binder and aggregate in the old-fashioned method. Zonca's team members have all undergone training in the use of the *Terratop* installation system from the International Masonry Institute (IMI) and are certified as experts in the technique.

The team's expertise helped them solve a big challenge and save the owners time and money. Initially, the Lumiere residents considered epoxy terrazzo again; but the existing finish on the floors was so dense that it would not bond with epoxy. By using *Terratop* as the binder, the Port Morris installers were able to prevent the headache and the cost of removing the old floor and redoing the subfloor with epoxy and fill. They were able to apply the *Terratop* directly on top of the old finish at the same depth as epoxy terrazzo and achieve a secure bond. When the *Terratop* and aggregate were polished, the result was both dazzling and durable; and it took less time to grind and polish the *Terratop*, saving additional costs. This time, the Lumiere Building residents felt they got what they asked for, and they love it!

Zonca had many good things to say about the *Terratop* installation: “Port Morris has done more projects using *Terratop* than any other company in the country. Having IMI-trained workers who know how to use this technology is an important plus. It lets us take on projects that might otherwise eat up all our profits in terms of time and labor. Port Morris has an open mind about new technologies, and the technical support provided by MAPEI helped us take advantage of this opportunity at the Lumiere Building.” He added, “Forward-thinking companies who want to seize the chance to get ahead of their competition will use the *Terratop* terrazzo installation system!”