

Legends Honda - Auto Dealership

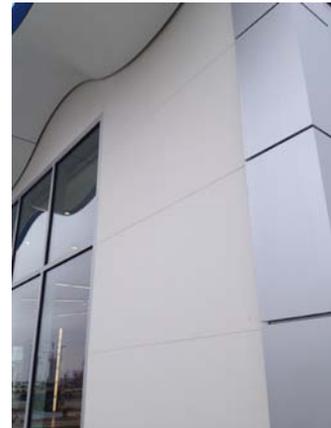
PROJECT OVERVIEW

MAPEI has a world of products that can be used wherever construction is underway in a community and wherever contractors have a need for them. At Legends Honda in Kansas City, Kansas (USA), MAPEI products were used to install large-format thin tile on the exterior facade of the automobile dealership. The interior of the showroom was also tiled with MAPEI installation products.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Category: Commercial - Auto Dealership
 MAPEI Sales Rep: Brett Robben
 Project Owner: Legends Honda
 MAPEI Distributor: Daltile (Lenexa, KS)
 General Contractor: Turner Construction
 Architect: Slaggie Architects
 Tile Installer: Midland Marble & Granite
 Project Manager: Joe Stewart
 Project Size: 7500 sq. ft. exterior and 7500 sq. ft. interior



MAPEI PRODUCTS USED

- Planitop XS
- Mapelastix 315
- Kerapoxy 410
- Mapesil
- Ultracontact
- Ultralite Mortar
- Ultraflex 2
- Keracolor S
- Keracolor U



Legends Honda Dealership - Kansas City, Kansas

Kansas City Car Dealership Covers Façade with Large-Format Thin Tile

Moving the vision for a beautiful stone look from the architect's drawing board to the building façade at the new Legends Honda dealership involved a lot of learning and doing by Midland Marble & Granite. They set out to bid on the project with enthusiasm for the unknown. Though the company has an established reputation for tile setting, this was their first experience with the SlimLite large-format thin tile panels. After discussing the fiberglass resin backing on the tile with their Daltile representative, Joe Stewart bid the project with MAPEI's Kerapoxy® 410 100% solids epoxy setting mortar and Mapesil™ silicone sealant for caulking.

When Midland Marble & Granite won the bid, they knew they would need strong technical support to ensure a successful installation. Working with Daltile, MAPEI sent a team of technical specialists to train Joe's installers, demonstrating all the components needed to do the job effectively. Everyone got a chance to work with the big tile panels and get answers to their questions about handling and installing it properly. Representatives from Slaggie Architects and the general contractor, Turner Construction, also attended the training session to help them advance along the learning curve with this latest trend in tile design.

Primed with knowledge and ready to go, the MM&G crew went to work in the toughest weather of the year in Kansas – December through March. To help keep installation materials and the tile panels at workable temperatures, Turner Construction tented and heated the building. "In December and January, that meant 50 degrees at best," Joe said, "and that meant the large-format tiles were not nearly as flexible as when we worked with them during training. If there was one thing I could have changed about the project, it would have been to do the work during warm to moderate weather."

The all-important surface preparation came first. MM&G used Planitop® XS to true and level the walls of the building, knowing that, if they were not perfect, the undulations and imperfections would transfer through to the tile. The MAPEI technical specialists recommended a leveling system if there should be any problems, but the Planitop XS provided such a smooth surface that the installers didn't need it. Next, Mapelastic™ 315, MAPEI's trowelable waterproofing membrane, went over the concrete and cement backer units that formed the substrate to protect the installation from moisture. Then it was time to start setting the tile.

"We worked with four two-man teams throughout the exterior installation," Joe explained. "We also used two extra apprentices, who cut the tiles and kept everything in order for the guys up on the scaffolds." At roughly 32 square feet per tile, Joe estimated between 250 and 300 of the large tile panels would be needed for the 8,000-square-foot project. "We first thought each team would be able to install 3 panels per day, but once they got used to the routine of the installation, we were able to beat that number," Joe said.

Implementing what they had learned in training took some innovation and creativity on the part of the MM&G crew.

- The architect wanted to limit the amount of cuts on the tile and keep spacing consistent, so MM&G



adjusted the panel spacing to match the expansion joints.

- Another challenge that presented itself was figuring out how to cut the large format tile. In training, they had learned that it could be cut with a glass cutter. First, they bought a very expensive glass cutter, but that one didn't work very well. A less expensive version worked the best, but they went through a number of them before the project was complete.

- The resin backing on every tile had to be "burned" (coated) with the epoxy mortar, using the flat side of the trowel. Then they used a Raimondi Flow Ridge/Slant Notch trowel that produced 45-degree ridges to apply the Kerapoxy 410 mortar to the substrate. The "collapsed" trowel ridges allowed for maximum mortar coverage when the tile was applied to the substrate wall.

- The installers had to vibrate each tile panel to make sure all air was out from underneath it. MM&G bought special industrial massagers that chiropractors use and wrapped cloths around them so as not to scuff tile. This rather original tool worked just fine.

- To pick up the tile, which has a little texture on the front of it, they found they couldn't use their large, marble-setting suction cups. Smaller tile cups wouldn't work either. As a final solution, the installers wound up wearing surgical gloves and just picking up the tile. Each tile weighs only about 50 pounds, so the biggest problem was the awkwardness due to the large size of the panels.

- When they had worked with the tile at the training session, it was very flexible and curved easily, leading the installers to think it wasn't all that fragile; but their perception soon changed when they had to move the tile in the frigid winter temperatures.

- The entire assembly has a 3/8" spacing/"grout joint". To prevent water intrusion into the assembly and allow for expansion/contraction of the large panels, the installers used MAPEI's Mapesil™ 100% silicone sealant to "grout" the exterior.



In addition to the exterior façade, MM&G also installed 7500 square feet of 24" x 24" tile in the sales lobby and locker rooms inside the dealership. "That was really easy to do after working with the big tile panels," Joe commented. In these areas the installers used Ultracontact mortar for the large format tiles in the showroom, Ultralite Mortar for the wall tiles in locker rooms and Ultraflex 2 for floors in the locker rooms. Joints were grouted with Keracolor S and U.

Inside and out, the MMG crew led the way to a beautiful new home for Legends Honda. With the support and teamwork of MAPEI, Daltile, Turner Construction and Slaggie Architects, Midland Marble & Granite did a very successful two-story installation of large-format thin tile.

[NOTE: Visit the MAPEI web site (<http://www.mapei.com/US-EN/products-subline.asp?IDLinea=102>) to view the MAPEI Reference Guides for installing thin tile of various thicknesses.]