

"THE QUARTET" AT TROPICANA CASINO

Acid-stained Ultratop is being used more and more to give artistic touches to famous attractions.

by Diane J. Choate, Mapei Corp.



Atlantic City has been a tourist mecca along the New Jersey shore in the USA since the end of the 19th century. When casinos became part of the attraction at American resorts, the tourists went west to Las Vegas. Aware that there was a need to entertain the whole family, the Las Vegas casino owners quickly developed family-style attractions. Now, Atlantic City is wooing tourists and their families back to the East Coast with entertainment complexes large enough to be small cities by themselves. One example of this trend can be found at the Tropicana Casino and Resort, and its new addition dubbed "The Quarter" – a Latin-themed shopping, dining and entertainment megaplex reminiscent of Havana in its heyday.

Visitors will enter The Quarter from a courtyard off the Palm Walk in the Tropicana. Taking a page from the incredible success Las Vegas casinos have experienced with decorative concrete, the Tropicana architects turned to the versatility and flexibility of Mapei's ULTRATOP* self-leveling concrete topping. The general contractor selected Arcon of Las Vegas and Bomanite of New Jersey Inc. because they have worked previously with the Tropicana. Ira Goldberg of Bomanite managed the project.

First, PLANIBOND EBA* epoxy bonding agent and primer was used to prepare the surface for the ULTRATOP* pour. PLANIBOND EBA* minimized any potential for hairline cracks that can occur in seamless concrete toppings. ULTRATOP WHITE* formed the canvas upon which Bomanite executed the architects' designs. Goldberg said, "Using acid stains, we can create any colors and shapes imaginable on a durable surface. The designs in the courtyard form a large checkered floor in bright white and rusty bronze that adds elegance and charm to the fountain in the center. A windowpane design in soft tans and rusts provides a subtle balance to the vibrantly realistic, three-story-tall mural of old Havana that highlights The Quarter."

"This kind of work could only be achieved through teamwork with the other contractors operating in the area at the same time," said

Photo 1.
The prepared surface
of the courtyard is
ready for its new look.

Photo 2 and 3.
After the project's
completion, the result
is durability and
beauty.

Photo 4.
Close-up of the
decorative design.

Photo 5.
Close-up of the
decorative staining.

Goldberg. "The general contractor, Keating Construction Inc., was incredibly well-organized and helped make sure we had the room and the time to get our work done. And, most important, they made sure no one left foot-prints in or on the finished product!" Bomanite enjoyed working with Mapei products because of their proven track record. Goldberg commented, "This kind of work never allows anyone to cut corners, so we depended on Mapei for their high quality. The Mapei customer service was also very reliable, making sure we had all our supplies on time." Bomanite's artistry in developing magnificent colors created a wonderful atmosphere at the Tropicana. Now, the work continues in The Quarter. Goldberg summed up his thoughts on the project: "We feel like we will be leaving a piece of history behind when we complete the project. The durability and beauty of our art will last a lifetime." Mapei is proud to be a part of that history.



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TECHNICAL DATA

"The Quartet", an entertainment complex of the Tropicana Casino, Atlantic City, New Jersey (USA)

Work: setting of decorative concrete floor

Project: Wimberly, Allison and Tong & Goo, Las Vegas (USA)

Contractor: Keating Construction Inc.

Installation Firms: Arcon, Las Vegas and Bomanite, New Jersey

Mapei Distributor: Gamka Sales, ICF Systems

Mapei Co-ordinator: Ed Parma, Mapei Corp.

***Mapei Products:** Ultratop White, Planibond EBA. The products referred to in this article are manufactured and distributed in America by Mapei Corp. (USA) and Mapei Inc. (CDN). For further information see the web site www.mapei.com.

