

# Hvar Palace Elisabeth Hotel

A COMPLEX RENOVATION OPERATION FOR THIS HISTORIC HOTEL FINANCED AT THE END OF THE 1800'S BY SISI, EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA



**LEFT.** The Palace Elisabeth on the island of Hvar is a 5-star hotel located within a complex dating back to the end of the 1800's, renovated with cutting-edge solutions.

The island of Hvar is a particularly desirable holiday destination for tourists because of its record annual hours of sunlight (2724) and its exclusive hospitality attractions featuring some of the most elegant hotels, restaurants and bars of the Croatian islands.

These include the Palace Elisabeth Hotel, which rose from the "ashes" of the ancient Ducal Palace built in the XII century during the era of Venetian dominance and then rebuilt in the XVI century. The hotel owes its rebirth to the transformation of Hvar into a winter tourism hotspot focusing on medical care. The idea behind it was to create the first modern hotel dedicated to healthcare according to the principles of the Health Society founded in Hvar in 1868. The Ducal Palace was demolished in 1881 and, in its place, a new hotel was built in 1898, thanks to funding

generously donated by Elizabeth, Empress of Austria, the famous "Sisi". So, it is no coincidence that, when it opened in 1899, it was named the Kur-hotel Kaiserin Elisabeth, or the Empress Elisabeth Spa Hotel.

Since then, the hotel has become a favourite port of call for Austrian, German, Czech and Hungarian tourists. The complex was then extended and modernised to its current look in 2019, maintaining lots of the architectural and design features typical of the Venetian and Austrian eras and its original name.

### A new lease of life for the hotel with innovative products

Mapei Croatia, the Croatian subsidiary of Mapei Group, participated in the renovation work on the hotel between 2017 and 2019, supplying solutions for various areas of use. The existing masonry needed to be

waterproofed but, because of problems of accessibility, it could not be applied externally. A system that could be applied from the inside had to be chosen, which meant removing the render and then cleaning the substrates so that the bond between the products applied afterwards would not be compromised. The products included MAPEGROUT 430 fibre-reinforced thixotropic mortar to level off concrete surfaces, PRIMER 3296 acrylic primer to consolidate the surfaces and MAPELASTIC FOUNDATION flexible cementitious mortar, particularly suitable for waterproofing concrete surfaces subjected to positive and negative water pressure.

In the older part of the hotel, a new floor slab and new concrete walls were built and then waterproofed with two layers of PLANA P elastomeric-plastomeric polymer distilled



**ABOVE.** The substrates of the hotel's new swimming pool were levelled off with PLANITOP FAST 330 and the joints of the mosaic covering were grouted with KERAPOXY DESIGN epoxy mortar (later superseded by KERAPOXY EASY DESIGN).

bitumen membrane, after treating the substrates with IDROPRIMER bituminous primer, used as an adhesion promoter. PLANA P and IDROPRIMER are both manufactured by Polyglass, a subsidiary of Mapei Group.

### Design for the swimming pool

The renovation works also included installation of a new indoor swimming pool. Once the concrete shell had been completed, the surfaces were levelled off with PLANITOP FAST 330 fibre-reinforced cementitious mortar, particularly suitable for levelling off substrates to make them ready after a very short time to receive ceramic tiles or, as in this case, mosaic. The mosaic tiles were grouted with KERAPOXY DESIGN decorative epoxy grout (later superseded by KERAPOXY EASY DESIGN).

SIGN) which guarantees a high level of hygiene, excellent mechanical properties, smooth finish, durability and resistance to chemicals.

In the toilets, on the other hand, the joints of the ceramic coverings were grouted with black-coloured ULTRACOLOR PLUS, high-performance, anti-efflorescence mortar to create a uniform surface finish and to match the colour of the ceramic tiles.

Thanks to the high-quality solutions employed for all the work, the Palace Elisabeth is now a 5-star hotel with modern services and, at the same time, well up to the standards of its long and prestigious history.



Find out more  
**KERAPOXY EASY DESIGN**

**TECHNICAL DATA**  
**Palace Elisabeth Hvar heritage hotel**, Hvar (Croatia)  
**Period of construction:** 1898  
**Period of renovation:** 2017-2019  
**Period of the Mapei intervention:** 2017-2019  
**Intervention by Mapei:** supplying products for preparing and

waterproofing substrates of walls, slabs, as well as grouting joints in the swimming pool and bathrooms  
**Design:** Neda Balog Dolečki, Zagabria  
**Owner:** Sunčani Hvar d.d., Hvar  
**Contractor:** Kvantum d.o.o., Prelog  
**Mapei distributor:** TSH d.d., Čakovec

**Mapei coordinators:** Fausto Ferlin and Antonijo Jukić, Mapei Croatia  
**MAPEI PRODUCTS**  
Preparing substrates: Planitop Fast 330, Mapegrout 430, Primer 3296  
Waterproofing: Idroprimer\*, Plana P\*, Mapelastical Foundation  
Grouting joints: Kerapoxy

Easy Design, Ultracolor Plus  
  
\* These products are manufactured by Polyglass, a subsidiary of the Mapei Group.  
  
For further info on products: [mapei.com](http://mapei.com) and [mapei.hr](http://mapei.hr)