



*Milan (Italy)*

# CRACCO RESTAURANT in Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II

FUNCTIONALITY AND ARTISTIC FLAVOUR  
FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CERAMIC  
TILES IN A STYLISH RESTAURANT

After two years of work, the new Cracco Restaurant in the Vittorio Emanuele II Arcade, in Milan, was opened to the public and inaugurated on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 2018.

A place that today represents a melting pot of various styles of the restaurant sector: from the bistro-café on the ground floor to the restaurant on the first floor overlooking the stuccoes and decorative features of the Vittorio Emanuele II Arcade dating back to the nineteenth century, up to the Mengoni Room on the second floor, reserved for special occasions and events, and lastly the cellars at basement level. The lift creates quite an impressive visual impact and, at each floor, undergoes a metamorphosis to help blend in with the various surroundings. The inspiration behind the architectural design, by Laura Sartori Rimini and Roberto Peregalli from the Peregalli Design Studio, was the idea of that famous Milan style characterized by a certain refined yet gentle sobriety.

The restaurant has an Art Deco atmosphere, with arches, pilaster strips and antique mirrors giving the sensation of even





All the substrates in the kitchens were waterproofed with MAPELASTIC TURBO two-component, flexible cementitious mortars before bonding the 30x60 cm porcelain tiles with KERAFLEX MAXI S1. In the underground service area 20X20 cm ceramic tiles were, on the other hand, installed with ADESILEX P9.

**FROM LEFT ON.**

Francesco Freri (Managing Director at Posami), Dario Sbaraini (Managing Director of Posami), Chiara Freri (Head of Marketing at Posami), the famous Italian Chef Carlo Cracco and Dennis Bordin (President of Progress Profiles).



more space inside. An ochre and brown carpet dominates the floor. The main room is lit by natural light coming in through large windows overlooking the Vittorio Emanuele II Arcade. Each floor of the new facility (around 1,100 m<sup>2</sup> over five floors) has its own kitchen, but the one in the actual restaurant has been made using ceramic tiles created from a design by gio Ponti (a famous architect, industrial and furniture designer from Milan) in saffron yellow, black and white. The tableware, made by Richard Ginori, is also inspired by Gio Ponti and was designed by the architects of the Peregalli design studio in three different colours for the chef Carlo Cracco, echoing the different shades used for the various floors of the restaurant. Access to the second floor is by invitation only. It is used exclusively for special events and may be adapted according to individual needs and tastes. And lastly, the cellar, with red lacquered walls and pine furniture, is used not only as a sales point, but also for tasting sessions.

## **INSTALLING CERAMIC COVERINGS ON FLOORS AND WALLS**

All the materials and all the fittings and furnishings, right down to the finest detail, are the work of highly skilled craftsmen. Special care has been taken with the soft, almost theatrical lighting, and with the acoustics.

The installation work on the rooms in the Cracco Restaurant was coordinated by Posami, a key player in the local construction sector for the supply and installation of floor and wall coverings, as you can read in the interview following this article.

Various solutions from Progress Profiles were also used, along with cutting-edge technology from Mapei, to create a harmonious combination of tradition and innovation.

Before installing the tiles, all the substrates in the kitchen were

waterproofed with MAPELASTIC TURBO two-component, flexible, cementitious mortar.

All the 30x60 cm porcelain floor tiles in the restaurant were installed with KERAFLEX MAXI S1, a deformable, cementitious ultra-white adhesive with no vertical slip and Low Dust technology.

The only area treated any differently was a room in the basement used for storing waste, where 20x20 cm ceramic tiles were installed using ADESILEX P9, a high performance, cementitious adhesive with extended open time and no vertical slip.

As far as the wall coverings were concerned, all the ceramic tiles, including the artistic ones (the 4-time curved ceramic tiles designed by Giò Ponti and Alberto Rosselli in 1960) in the Chef's kitchen, the very heart of the restaurant, were bonded





in place with ULTRALITE FLEX, a one-component, high performance, lightweight cementitious adhesive with Low Dust technology, no vertical slip, extended open time, and very high yield.

The joints were then grouted with three different products from the KERAPOXY family.

Because of its flexibility and distinctive “artistic versatility”, KERAPOXY DESIGN was widely used, a two-component, acid resistant, decorative epoxy grout, which is available in 15 different colours and is ideal for glass mosaics.

Also used during the installation works was KERAPOXY, a two-component, acid-resistant epoxy grout.

And let’s not forget KERAPOXY CQ, the two-component, easy-to-apply epoxy grout with a bacteriostatic agent, excel-

lent cleanability and BioBlock® technology. It is certified according to ISO 22196:2007 standards as a grouting mortar protected against the formation and proliferation of micro-organisms. This product allows designers to create floors, walls and worktops, etc. in compliance with the HACCP system and the requirements of EC Regulation No. 852/2004 regarding hygiene and foodstuffs.

In the bathrooms the surfaces were covered with a square 23x23 mm mosaic, which is made of an AISI 316 steel foil with a gres porcelain base, belonging to the emetallo metal collection by Mosaico+, a subsidiary of the Mapei Group.

It features voluminous marble-effect mosaic sheets (120x60, 6mm thick), finished with a glossy cover, that blend with brass chips.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### ULTRALITE FLEX

It is a cementitious (C), improved (2), slip-resistant (T), extended open time (E), adhesive classified as C2TE-class according to EN 12004 standard.

ULTRALITE FLEX is a one-component high-performance lightweight adhesive with no vertical slip, fair deformability, extended open time, with Low Dust technology, low emission organic volatile compounds (VOC), very high yield, good trowellability and excellent back-buttering capacity for ceramic tiles and stone.



### TECHNICAL DATA

**Cracco Restaurant**, Milan (Italy)

**Period of construction:** 2016-2018

**Period of the intervention:** 2017

**Intervention by Mapei:** supplying products to smooth and waterproof substrates, install ceramic tiles on walls and floors and grout joints

**Design:** Studio Peregalli

**Client:** Carlo Cracco

**Installation company:** Posami Srl

**Mapei distributor:** Posami Srl

**Installed materials:** porcelain tiles, ceramic tiles and mosaics by Mosaico+ (Mapei Group)

**Mapei coordinators:** Matteo

Venturini and Alessio Rizzo (Mapei SpA, Italy), Rappresentando Srl

### MAPEI PRODUCTS

Smoothing substrates:

Planitop Fast 330

Waterproofing substrates: Mapelastic

Turbo, Mapeband Easy, Mapenet 150

Installing ceramic tiles: Ultralite Flex,

Keraflex Maxi S1, Adesilex P9

Grouting joints: Kerapoxy, Kerapoxy

CQ, Kerapoxy Design

For further information on products visit [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com)