



LEFT. A view of the external arcade upon completion of the restyling work.
RIGHT. An external view of the shopping centre.



Crema (Italy)

GRAN RONDÒ SHOPPING CENTRE

NEW FLOOR COVERINGS IN THE ARCADE AND BATHROOMS IN THIS BIG SHOPPING MALL

The Gran Rondò shopping centre is in a strategic position, just 1 km from the city centre of Crema (Northern Italy). Opened in 1994 and then extended in 2006, it underwent a complete restyling in 2019 to provide a more comfortable experience for its visitors. The centre extends over an area of more than 15,000 m² and has 38 shops and boutiques, a hypermarket and a carpark with a capacity of 1,280 vehicles.

Preparation work and installation in the arcade

Mapei Technical Services proposed

the most suitable systems to install the new flooring in the arcade and bathrooms. For the arcade (total surface area 2,250 m²), the restyling project specified that the old stone flooring should be overlaid with Marazzi ceramic tiles in various formats (60x60 cm, 30x60 cm and 15x60 cm with a thickness of 10.5 mm).

Some of the stone slabs were removed. Where required, the substrate left exposed was skimmed and levelled off with PLANITOP FAST 330 fibre-reinforced, quick-setting cementitious mortar. Before installing the new flooring chosen for this

Problems and solutions

The objective was to create ceramic coverings that would be durable, resistant and, above all, quick to install. Therefore, Mapei Technical Services suggested to use products that would allow the installation work to be completed quickly. Besides, the double-buttering technique reduced the risk of tiles breaking due to heavy or spot loads, which is especially important in areas subjected to heavy foot and load traffic, such as in shopping arcades.



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area, the old flooring was thoroughly cleaned, the surface was sanded down and the substrate was cleaned to remove all materials that could affect adhesion of the new flooring. Ceramic tiles were bonded with KERAQUICK MAXI S1 rapid-setting and hydrating cementitious mortar with very low emission of volatile organic compounds (VOC), which is particularly recommended for ceramics and stone, including large

formats. This product allows to open floors to intense use within just 24 hours of being installed. The contractor was therefore able to carry out the work during the shopping centre's closing hours.

It was recommended to use the "double-buttering" technique to install the tiles: that is, to apply the adhesive on both the installation bed and on the back of the tiles in order to guarantee complete wetting. Using this technique prevents gaps and voids forming between the substrate and the tiles, thereby reducing the risk of tiles breaking due to heavy or spot loads.

ULTRACOLOR PLUS high-performance mortar was then used to grout the joints. Polymer-modified and recommended for joints from 2 to 20 mm wide, this is a rapid-setting and hardening product with water-repellent DropEffect® and anti-mould BioBlock® technology.

ULTRACOLOR PLUS also makes it possible to open flooring to foot traffic within just 3 hours of completing the grouting operations.

Installing in the bathrooms

To install the tiles in the bathrooms, it was recommended to create a new solid, compact isolating screed. A vapour barrier, doubling as an isolating layer, was created by laying sheets of polyethylene over the surface, with the edges of the sheets overlapping by 20 cm. The screed itself was made from TOPCEM PRONTO ready-to-use, normal-setting, quick-drying screed mortar, which allows screeds to be made that have a re-

1. The old stone flooring was overlaid with new ceramic tiles bonded with KERAQUICK MAXI S1 adhesive.

2. The "double-buttering" technique was recommended in order to create a better bond.

3. ULTRACOLOR PLUS high-performance mortar was used to grout the joints..

4. The substrates in the bathrooms were waterproofed with MAPELASTIC AQUADEFENSE and the ceramic tiles were installed with KERAFLEX MAXI S1 ZERØ. Joints were grouted with ULTRACOLOR PLUS.



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sidual moisture content of less than 2% after just 4 days of curing.

The ceramic flooring was installed with KERAFLEX MAXI S1 ZERØ high-performance cementitious adhesive with very low emission of volatile organic compounds. The joints were again grouted with ULTRACOLOR PLUS.

To seal the expansion joints, as well as the junction points between the porcelain flooring and the skirting around the edges of the drains and pillars, it was recommended to use MAPESIL AC pure acetic silicone sealant with anti-mould BioBlock® tech-

nology, and MAPEFOAM closed-cell polyethylene foam cord.

The ceramic tiles of the walls were bonded to plasterboard panels. Extra care was taken around the control joints and corners between horizontal and vertical surfaces by applying MAPEBAND EASY rubber tape. A waterproofing layer consisting of two coats of MAPELASTIC AQUADEFENSE ready-to-use, ultra quick drying, flexible liquid membrane was then applied on the substrates.

The tiles were then installed with KERAFLEX MAXI S1 and joints were grouted with ULTRACOLOR PLUS.

KERAQUICK MAXI S1

High-performance, deformable, rapid-setting and hydrating, non-slip cementitious adhesive with extended workability and very low emission of volatile organic compounds.

FIND OUT MORE



TECHNICAL DATA

Gran Rondò shopping centre, Crema (Italy)

Year of construction: 1994

Year of the intervention: 2019

Intervention by Mapei:

supplying products to prepare screeds, waterproof

substrates, install and grout ceramic tiles in the arcade and bathrooms

Mapei coordinators:

Francesco Di Chiara and Alessio Rizzo, Mapei SpA (Italy)

MAPEI PRODUCTS

Preparing screeds:

Topcem Pronto

Skimming substrates

Planitop Fast 330

Waterproofing substrates:

Mapeband Easy,

Mapelastic AquaDefense

Installing ceramic tiles:

Keraquick Maxi S1, Keraflex Maxi S1 Zerø

Grouting joints: Ultracolor Plus

Sealing expansion joints:

Mapefoam, Mapesil AC

For further information on products see mapei.com