

9300 CONTRACTOR

Tile Contractors' Association of America

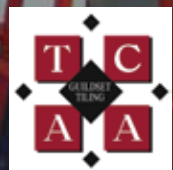
THE VOICE OF SIGNATORY TILE/STONE CONTRACTORS

FEATURED INSIDE:

***Dodgers Stadium
Comeback***

***Tile Floor Flatness
Standards***

***Tech Corner:
Tiled Showers***



SPRING 2014



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A Message from the President

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Relationships ... an integral part of our life and business.

Driving home from Coverings this year, I couldn't stop thinking about all of the people I had seen. Talking to some that I hadn't seen in years and seeking out others I rarely get to see. And sadly, reminiscing about some that are no longer with us but had a positive influence in our business and personal lives.

We meet new people all the time. Some are new to the industry and some have been around for decades. We wonder what can I learn from this person and how will it affect my business. Regardless, it is a new relationship and two things have just occurred. I have learned something about that person and they have just learned something about me. Wow, what type of an impression did I just make and what are they thinking about me now?

Walking the show, I was going through the Chinese Pavilion and spied a booth along the back wall with some porcelain tiles with the wood look. There were a couple of pieces that I found to be interesting so I stopped and took a look. I was immediately approached by a young eager salesman whom I could hardly understand. I let him know I was just a contractor looking and not a buyer. It didn't matter to him as he introduced himself as "Bryant" and wanted to show off his line and photos of the installations of his product. Moreover, he wanted to know about me, Los Angeles and our work. After a lot of repeating of questions and answers, our short meeting was over and I continued on with walking the show.

Did he make a lasting impression? Yes. Did I? I hope so and I hope it was a positive one. All in all, it was a relationship. As busy as I was that day, I hope the time I spent in that relationship made a positive impact on him. I hope that as a contractor, a person from Los Angeles and an American, I made not only a good impression, I made a good relationship. Will the relationship I just made benefit the next person he meets and does business with? I think so. A week after getting back from Coverings, I received an email from Bryant with a photo of him standing in front of his booth priceless.



Coming up in October is *Total Solutions Plus*. I would encourage you to attend for the opportunity to learn the latest product and technical information and to build old and new relationships.

Until next time,

Ron Schwartz
TCAA President



Photos: David Federoff



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Dodgers Stadium Comeback Started Before First Pitch



*Left Field
Overlook Bar*

The Challenge

When Dodgers Stadium was originally completed in 1962, the design was considered innovative. It was the first baseball park to offer unobstructed views from every seat due to its bunkered site location and unique cantilevered design. Dodgers Stadium is now the oldest dedicated ballpark in the west. It also boasts the highest attendance in Major League Baseball, with nearly 4 million visitors during the 2013 season. Being an aging and popular public venue meant that renovations were due to improve the experience of both players and fans using the stadium.

In 2013, team ownership undertook a renovation and enlargement of the Dodger's clubhouse within phase 1 of their construction project. J. Colavin & Son, Inc. of Los Angeles was the tile contractor engaged for the installation of 10,000 square feet of tile. A month before opening day, slabs were still being poured. With just two weeks remaining before the first pitch, tile installation could finally begin. The timeline seemed impossible. However, plumbers, electricians and drywall installers labored side by side with tile contractors to complete the job in time. Ron Schwartz, general manager of



Colavin, said, "I have never seen such camaraderie before on a job site, with all trades working together in close proximity to get the clubhouse ready for opening day."

The Solution

J. Colavin & Son was invited to return for Phase 2 of the construction project in 2014.

These more extensive ballpark renovations were still highly compressed within a five week schedule.

To ensure product performance and a durable installation, Colavin used tile installation products from Custom Building Products exclusively.

These CUSTOM products were specified for installation throughout the stadium by the project architects, D'Agostino Izzo & Quirk of Boston, and Brenda Levin & Associates of Los Angeles.

Phase 2 construction focused on the visiting team's clubhouse and the many public facilities for fans. The visitors' clubhouse in Dodgers Stadium used to be the smallest in baseball. Now, it has been relocated and doubled in size. All public restrooms were expanded and remodeled, and new gift shops were built. Lounge bars were created that overlook both bullpens so fans can watch pitchers warming up before they take the mound. New restaurants and concession stands were opened, including Tommy Lasorda's Italian Trattoria and Think Blue Bar-B-Que plus an old favorite, La Tacqueria, was expanded.

Prior to tile installation in wet areas such as kitchens, restrooms and clubhouse facilities, the concrete subfloors were treated with CUSTOM 9240 Waterproofing and Anti-fracture Membrane. 9240 is a flexible, seamless liquid-applied polymer waterproofing membrane with reinforcing fabric. It bonds to a variety of substrates and is ideal for heavy duty service applications. 9240 also provides protection from fractures and is listed with IAPMO for use as a shower pan liner.

One of the many wet areas protected with 9240 was the clubhouse toilets and showers for players, managers and coaches. These bathrooms were extensively tiled with Daltile 4" x 12" and 4" x 4"





white body porcelain on walls. All bathroom floors and showers received a 1" x 1" unglazed ceramic, some of it in a blue and white pattern to match the colors of the home team. 4" x 8" porcelain tile was chosen for the walls of the public and ballpark staff restrooms.

Restaurant kitchen subfloor surfaces were also prepared with 9240 waterproofing membrane. These floors received 6" x 6" quarry tile from Daltile. Concrete subfloors in the visitors' kitchen, overlook bars and an onsite automotive service station were treated with CUSTOM FractureFree® Crack Prevention Membrane. This is a ready-to-use elastomeric membrane that protects tile floors from cracks due to minor surface movement. A 12" x 24" porcelain tile from SpecCeramics was installed at the left field overlook bar. The concession stands and the bar overlooking right field were tiled with Daltile 8" x 2" ceramic multi-surface tile.

All of the various tile throughout the stadium was set with CUSTOM Porcelain Tile Fortified Thin-set Mortar. This thin-set is designed to provide superior bonding of porcelain tile to concrete surfaces, backerboard and self-leveling underlayments.

CUSTOM grouts completed the tile installations to create a fully warrantable system of products. CEG-Lite™ 100% Solids Commercial Epoxy Grout was applied on all tiled floors. CEG-Lite offers color consistency and stain and chemical resistance, plus it is easy to spread and cleans up with water. Walls and vertical spaces in all area were grouted with PolyBlend® Non-sanded grout, which is polymer fortified for hard, durable joints up to 1/8".

Working on Dodgers Stadium "was the chance of a lifetime for my crew and all other trades," said Schwartz. "This is a place of so much pride for the people of Los Angeles. It was their way of paying tribute to their childhood heroes and their own children's favorite players."

Based on the system used in the tile installation, the project qualified for 15-year System Installation Warranty



from Custom Building Products. This level of craftsmanship and high-performance installation products should allow the Dodgers and their millions of annual visitors to “play ball!” for many years to come. ◆



J. Colavin started as a Terrazzo

Contracting business in John Colavin's

garage somewhere around 1930. Through the years he developed the business to include his son, Bruno and prospered to the point that they acquired an office and warehouse. This same site is where we conduct business today. Upon John's passing, Bruno took over and expanded the business to include ceramic tile. This was synchronized with the company becoming a corporation in 1969. Bruno prospered as a tile contractor as the interest in Terrazzo dwindled.

In 1993 Bruno passed on and his wife and daughter took over the operations. J. Colavin has continued the prosperity through the years as a family owned business, and has become one of the most respected Union tile contractors in Southern California.

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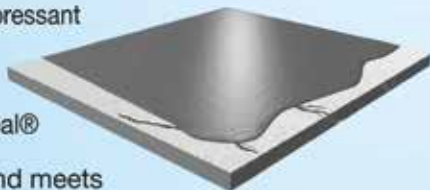
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Floor Flatness Standards for Ceramic Tile

Scott Conwell, AIA, ALA, CSI, CDT, LEED AP BD+C

International Masonry Institute

Among the many challenges faced by tile contractors, the expectation of an acceptably flat finished floor is one that arises on every project. Mud installations afford the installer the ability to compensate for an imperfect substrate by varying the thickness of the mud bed resulting in suitable flatness, but thinset applications are a different story. This article will explore the tile industry's requirements for substrate flatness and compare it to the concrete industry's standards for the same, which are often in conflict.

Substrate Flatness vs. Finish Flatness

Typically, a freshly-poured concrete floor will not meet the tile substrate flatness standards of maximum 1/4 in. in 10 ft. for smaller tile, and 1/8 in. in ten feet for large format tile, and will require patching. The tile contractor should be paid for floor preparation.



The owner, and in many respects, the architect, are primarily concerned with the flatness of the tile finish, as well as related issues like elevation of the finished floor. How the finish contractor achieves flatness and the specific techniques of substrate preparation are usually secondary in the perspective of the owner. The architect is concerned whether the design intent of the project is met rather than methods and means of construction, and therefore also may pay little attention to what is beneath the finish. However, the tile contractor is reliant on the substrate meeting or exceeding industry standards for flatness, since he knows his finish will reflect the quality of the substrate. Accordingly, the tile contractor is responsible for communicating his concerns over unacceptable substrate flatness to the general contractor, using photos and other documentation if necessary. Before we can look at flatness tolerances for the tile finish itself, we must examine the requirements for concrete substrate tolerances.

Typically, a freshly-poured concrete floor will not meet the tile substrate flatness standards of maximum 1/4 in. in 10 ft. for smaller tile, and 1/8 in. in ten feet for large format tile, and will require patching. The tile contractor should be paid for floor preparation.

Sub-Floor Surfaces

This is what ANSI A108.02-2013 says in Section 4.1.4.3.1:

Sub-floor surfaces:

For tiles with all edges shorter than 15 in., the maximum allowable variation is no more than 1/4 in. in 10 ft. and no more than 1/16 in. in 1 ft. from the required plane, when measured from the high points in the surface. For tiles with at least one edge 15 in. or longer, the maximum allowable varia-

tion is no more than 1/8 in. in 10 ft. and no more than 1/16 in. in 2 ft. from the required plane, when measured from the high points in the surface.

Indeed, every experienced tile contractor has these numbers committed to memory: 1/4 in. in 10 ft. for smaller tile, and 1/8 in. in ten feet for large format tile. Nothing can be more straightforward than holding a 10-ft. straightedge to the concrete in multiple directions to determine whether the concrete complies with these numbers. It rarely does. If the concrete does not meet these tolerances, it must be corrected by either grinding down the high points (generally not a desirable solution), or filling in the low areas with a patch to bring the floor into compliance, otherwise known as floor preparation.

Who pays for the floor preparation is a frequent point of contention, especially when the concrete has already been determined to meet the allowable tolerances for floor flatness as set forth by ASTM E1155, Standard Test Method for Determining FF Floor Flatness and FL Floor Levelness Numbers. This test for concrete floor flatness, or FF, is referenced in the Division 3 Concrete specifications, since it is a requirement of the concrete contractor and not the tile contractor. The confusion sets in when the floor meets the Division 3 criteria for concrete but not the Division 9 criteria for tile.

Division 3 versus Division 9 Criteria for Floor Flatness

Concrete may meet FF standards for flatness 72 hours after being poured, but the slab may shrink, curl, and require floor preparation before the tile is installed.

ASTM E1155, while appropriate for the concrete installer, excludes many of the conditions in a typical tile installation. For example, it does not require flatness to be measured across construction joints, isolation joints, column blockouts, or within two feet of the slab perimeter. It also requires that FF values be determined within 72 hours of the slab being poured, which is before the concrete has completed shrinking and curling. All of these factors directly impact the tile installer's requirements for a substrate 1/4 in. in 10 ft. for smaller tiles, and 1/8 in. in 10 feet for large format tiles. Therefore, it is imperative that the concrete subfloor be specified to meet both sets of criteria if it is to be tiled.

With input from TCAA, IMI, and BAC, the American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC) has recently republished a position statement entitled "Division 3 versus Division 9 Floor Flatness Tolerances." This paper clearly and succinctly describes the potential disparity between the two methods of gauging floor flatness, which is important but often overlooked among architects and designers. The paper also advocates a bid allowance for floor preparation, a premise endorsed by our organizations. As stated in the position statement:



Concrete may meet FF standards for flatness 72 hours after being poured, but the slab may shrink, curl, and require floor preparation before the tile is installed.

“... ASCC..., IMI, BAC, TCAA and NTCA suggest that the owner provide a bid allowance, established by the AVE and based on the floor covering requirements, for any necessary grinding and patching to close the gap between Division 3 tolerances and Division 9 tolerances.”

The ASCC position paper does an excellent job of clarifying the disparity between concrete standards and tile standards for floor flatness, and recommends that architects include a bid allowance for floor preparation.

By making them aware of the potential conflicts in these methods of measuring floor flatness, we hope to see architects and designers include an allowance for floor preparation in their contracts, allowing tile contractors to be paid for their work in correcting the floors that do not meet the Division 9 requirements. TCAA contractors can download a copy of this paper by visiting http://www.imiweb.org/floor_flatness_position_statement/PS-6_FloorFlatness_03-2014%20Final%20Version.pdf



The ASCC position paper does an excellent job of clarifying the disparity between concrete standards and tile standards for floor flatness, and recommends that architects include a bid allowance for floor preparation.

Required Plane

Even the tile industry's own standards for compliance with a required plane of the substrate is less than ideal. Consider ANSI's requirement of ¼ in. in 10 feet from the required plane when measured from the high points of the surface. The way the standard is written, this allowable tolerance is cumulative. In other words, the sub-floor is allowed to be out-of-flat up to ¼ in. in 10 feet, ½ in. in 20 feet, 1 in. in 40 feet, 2 in. in 80 feet, etc., with no maximum deviation. The ANSI Accredited Standards Committee A108 currently has an ad hoc committee working to tighten up this standard.

Flatness of Finish

While ANSI A108 has much to say about flatness tolerances for substrates, it makes no mention of the flatness of the finished tile installation. The standard assumes that if the substrate tolerances are met, a skilled tile contractor can cover it with a finish that is suitably flat.

Conclusions

The current ANSI standards for substrate flatness on floors that are to receive tile serve to give the tile contractor the optimum surface to go over, and these standards must be followed independently of the Division 3 Concrete requirements, which may conflict. The ASCC position statement does a great job of clarifying the disparity between the two sets of standards, otherwise a potential source of confusion to architects and general contractors. Providing an allowance for floor preparation, as recommended by the paper, ensures that the tile contractor is compensated for any work he does to bring the floor up to standards. All this attention the industry is paying to the substrate will result in tile floors that are as flat as they are beautiful, and a client that is pleased with our work.



Tiled Showers

Richard Maurer, Director of Marketing
Noble Company

Custom tiled showers are very popular, especially with up-scale baby boomers who want their homes to reflect the quality, function, and style they desire. A beautiful, custom shower can be a handsome addition to any home and may add substantial value to the property. In this article we will explore some of the issues to consider when planning, designing, and building tiled showers.



Waterproofing is especially important since leaks can result in catastrophic damage and financial loss. Additionally, there is generally a great deal of inconvenience and aggravation associated with the failures of waterproofing systems. Leaks and other risks can be avoided by selecting appropriate products for your application, using proper installation methods, adhering to industry standards and plumbing code requirements.

In order to create a shower that meets your specific needs, you need to consider a variety of issues (e.g. how much space is available, will the shower be over occupied space, how much water will the shower generate, physical limitations, etc.). If you would like to stay in your home and “age in place”, you may want to design a shower without a curb. In addition to easy access, barrier free showers facilitate contemporary designs that are popular with up-scale owners.

The following comments are common to all showers:

- Shower must be waterproof to avoid leaks and damage to ceilings and rooms below.
- In order to prevent mold, water and vapor must be prevented from penetrating

shower walls.

- Water must drain so the waterproofing membrane installed on floors must be sloped at least ¼" per foot to a drain. The slope should be made from a solidly formed material, structurally strong enough to support load requirements. Dry pack mortar is the traditional product for that application, but there are a variety of commercial products available for both traditional and thin-bed (bonded) waterproofing membranes. For example, PRO-SLOPE™ creates a slope for traditional shower pan liners. Noble Company, Laticrete, and various other manufacturers offer pre-sloped bases that are waterproof and ready to be tiled.
- The drain must be clamped (fastened) to the waterproofing membrane, and if the drain has weep holes, they must be protected from clogging.
- Your waterproofing system must be durable. Ideally, it will last as long as the tile (which could be 50 years).



Custom tiled showers can be waterproofed using a traditional mortar bed method with a waterproofing membrane (shower pan liner) installed under a mortar bed. Showers can also be waterproofed with a thin-bed membrane where the membrane is bonded to the sloped substrate. Tile can be bonded directly to the membrane so a mortar bed above the membrane is not required. Thin-bed methods are lower in height and weight and are generally preferred for barrier free installations.

Sloping to traditional shower drains requires multiple arcs which precludes the use of large-format tiles. However, linear or trench drains use a single-slope so large tiles can be used. This feature enhances design flexibility and can result in spectacular looking showers with the latest large-format tile designs.

While linear drains are common in Europe, they are relatively new to the US. There are a number of companies producing linear drains and a variety of ways in which waterproofing is accomplished.



Some things to consider when selecting linear drains include the following:

- The type of membrane used to waterproof the installation. Given the importance of a watertight installation, only the best is good enough.
- How does the drain connect to the waterproofing membrane and the waste system? Connections must be secure to ensure a watertight installation.
- How much water will the drain handle, which is typically expressed in gallons per minute (GPM)?
- How much height will the drain require? This would be a measure of the height of the drain plus height needed to attach the drain to the waste pipe, and mortar needed to support tile installation.

Some popular brands of linear drains include FreeStyle Linear Drains,TM Kerdi Drain, Quartz, Proline, and Hydro Ban Drains. All models are made from stainless steel except for FreeStyle which is made from PVC or ABS plastic. FreeStyle Drains provide extra assurance of a watertight installation. The shower waste pipe is solvent welded directly into a hole in the bottom of the drain. And, FreeStyle has a clamping collar mounted to the top of the drain to secure the waterproofing membrane to the drain.

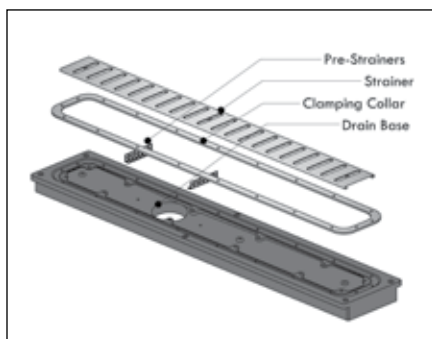
Shower waterproofing generally requires approval by a plumbing inspector.

There are two national plumbing codes: The International Plumbing Code (IPC) and the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC). Some states have their own code requirements, but most model their code after one of the national codes. Drains should have

approvals identified by IPC and/or UPC listings. Regardless of the type of drain you intend to use, confirm approval with local code authorities before installing.

If you plan on having a multi-spray shower system, select a drain that can handle the water flow. Manufacturers generally publish that information in gallons per minute (GPM). Drain capacities range from about 8 to 36 GPM. FreeStyle's capacity is 36.

Another suggestion is to extend waterproofing to the rest of the bathroom. If you are going to install new tile in the area, it is a reasonable addition in terms of time and cost and will increase the level of protection. This could be especially important in high use showers where people might exit without thoroughly drying.



Waterproofing membranes generally come in one of 3 types: trowel applied, liquid, or sheet membranes. Sheet membranes offer uniform thickness and quality. They arrive at the jobsite as a membrane that is ready to install. They are generally packaged in rolls and come in different widths ranging from 39" to 72". Wider widths generally require fewer seams which can reduce risk. Liquid and trowel applied membranes require the installer to control thickness which is essential for proper performance.

Unless you intend to redo your shower periodically, durability is critical.

Noble sheet membranes are made from CPE which lasts as long as the tile, holds a crease, and have very low perm rates. Permeance is a measure of moisture transmission through the membrane. Lower rates are better. According to the Tile Council of North America (TCNA), in order for a membrane to be considered a vapor barrier, permeance should be 0.5 perms or less.

Some sheet membranes can "bridge" movement joints in concrete floors. That is especially important when waterproofing larger areas like the bathroom outside the shower.

Liquid applied and "trowelable" membranes typically require fabric to support stressed areas (like changes in planes or attaching to drains). Liquid membranes are often preferred for waterproofing nooks, crannies and hard to reach areas.

While there are pros and cons to both types of membranes, showers generate more water than any rainforest so waterproofing is critical. Sheet membranes are uniform and thickness is not affected by imperfect substrates or differences in installers' techniques. Strength, uniformity, and control of variables make sheet membranes the choice for many.

Many custom showers include benches and niches (recesses in walls to store shampoo). It is important to note that these elements must be waterproofed and that can be difficult. A number of preformed niches, benches, and curbs that are waterproof and ready to be tiled are available. These products save time and can significantly reduce potential problems. Noble Company produces a large variety of shapes and sizes of niches, benches and curbs.

Whether you are designing or constructing, consider the thoughts above and you can create a beautiful shower with the features you want that will remain watertight for decades.

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TCAA Labor Report

John Trendell, TCAA Labor Committee Chair

Trendell Consulting, LLC

The Future Is **Now**

Ceramic tile systems that encapsulate multistory buildings, sheets of tile less than a ¼ inch thick and over 3'-0 x 10'-0 in size, and tiles that self clean and disinfect themselves. You would think I was talking about some futuristic crazy world that could not possibly be part of the ceramic tile industry in a lifetime. But, in fact, all of these products and systems are already here! And basically, all of them have reached the market only in the last 5 years!

I had a high school physics teacher who used to tweak our interest by saying, “If the human mind can conceive an idea then that idea is not impossible.” Well, the ideas, products, and systems being developed in our industry have taken us, not to the future, but to the immediate present.

I recently attended an executive contractor conference at Crossville and Coverings in Las Vegas. The breadth of new products is truly mind boggling. The new tile installation systems are nothing I could have imagined, even just two or three years ago. And with grouts, it seems like you almost need to be a chemist because of the complexity and uses for all the new products.

The ACT (Advanced Certifications for Tile Installers) program was created to provide tile industry certifications that are national in scope and cover installation procedures of both tried and true methods and the newest technologies, such as

large format tile. Successful testing and demonstrations were part of both 2014 national tile shows, Coverings and Surfaces. Local union training centers have scheduled and/or held orientations and testing in Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Las Vegas, and Cleveland. The program is being recognized in project specific developments and national specifications. By any measure, the program is off to a roaring success.

However, because of so many new products and systems, the ACT participants, TCAA, NTCA, IMI, and IUBAC, feel that certifications for grouting and thin panel tiles need to be addressed immediately. ACT recognizes that installation standards are only just now being put together. But the reality is that the thin tiles and specialty grouts are already being used. We want our work force to be at least as up to date on installation practices as the industry already is with new products. We see nothing but excitement and opportunity for the ceramic tile industry in the future. We also recognize that our member contractors and installers need the best training and education to stay current. The ACT program will continue to provide curriculum and testing to assure our customers that we are indeed an integral part of ceramic tile's future. *Now!*



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Position Statement on Thin Porcelain Tile


May 2014 – Thin Porcelain Tile is an exciting, new and emerging product being introduced to the world market by many different manufacturers utilizing several different manufacturing processes. This tile is typically characterized as having a thickness of between 3.0 mm to 6.0 mm and up to 5.0' by 10' in length and width. Currently TCNA, ANSI and ISO do not have a product standard for manufacturing, which eventually will establish the benchmarks by which the quality of materials will be evaluated. There are no industry installation standards identifying the correct methods and materials necessary to properly install these tiles in a way that meets the performance requirements expected in the North American marketplace.

Due to the lack of standards for these products, the National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA), Tile Contractors Association of America (TCAA), International Masonry Institute (IMI) and International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (IUBAC) recommend that tile contractors not install thin porcelain tile panels in any thickness less than 5.5 mm for floor installations. It is our assertion that installations of thin porcelain tiles that are no less than 5.5 mm thick may be successfully accomplished in properly prepared floor applications with the proper care and processes.

The tile contractor should be aware that significant training and education is required to successfully install these products and that an investment in tools and equipment is necessary. The manufacturer of the tile and setting materials recommendations should be secured in writing prior to installation and the contractor should follow these instructions carefully or potentially be exposed to increased risk and liability.

For more information, contact TCAA Executive Director Carole Damon at **(800) 655-8453** or caroled@tcaainc.org.





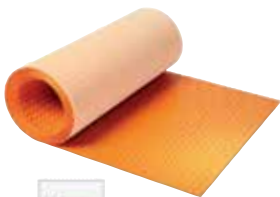
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Grazzini Brothers & Company was founded in 1923 by brothers Frank and August Grazzini. Today, the company is led by Frank's great grandson Greg Grazzini who joined the company full-time in 1986 and is the fourth generation to serve as President with four other members of the family also actively engaged in the company's operations.

The Grazzini brothers began their business by installing concrete walks but soon added terrazzo to their services – a trade they learned in Italy before immigrating to the United States. Their belief in the American dream, coupled with their old-world knowledge of craftsmanship and artistry, provided the foundation for what is now considered one of the country's premier tile, terrazzo and stone installation companies. And the core values on which Grazzini Brothers was founded – Quality Craftsmanship, Superior Service and Steadfast Reliability – have remained constant for the last 91 years.

Within just a few short years after its founding, Grazzini Brothers was at work on projects throughout the Midwest, adding tile installation to its list of services. Over time, the company came to be known for the many complicated and innovative projects it completed, such as the nine city blocks of the Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis and the roof of the Seattle Space Needle. Industrial flooring was added to the company's growing list of services and a stone fabrication shop was established.

By the end of the 20th Century, Grazzini Brothers had a well-established national presence and had completed its first international project for Teva Pharmaceuticals in Tel Aviv, Israel. As out of state projects became more numerous, the company



Target Field's Metropolitan Club

opened satellite offices and established crews in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Alaska. From these satellite offices, the company performs work nationwide, typically performing installations in 12-15 states at any given time. In 2006, the company added carpet, vinyl and wood flooring to its services and now operates four divisions (Tile, Terrazzo, Stone and Soft Flooring) which help to streamline construction projects and provide a full suite of options to customers.

According to Greg Grazzini, "client satisfaction is the company's top priority". He says that the Twin Cities has one of the best apprenticeship schools in the country and the company believes in training all of its employees on the job to achieve the high standards clients have come to expect. With its proven ability to complete projects to the highest standards, on budget and on time, Grazzini Brothers has developed strong working relationships that have endured throughout the country.

The company also recognizes the importance of community and participates in many trade and civic organizations that include Associated General Contractors, Minnesota Builders Exchange, American Cancer Society, MS Bike 150, North Memorial Community Foundation, Operation Glass Slipper, St. Paul K-9 Foundation, TreeHouse, United Way, Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations and many others.



Grazzini Brother has been honored with many awards over the years for its fine quality of craftsmanship. It received the 2012 National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association "Job of the Year" award for its work at Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin and the 2012 Marble Institute of America Award of Excellence for its work at Lakewood Mausoleum in Minneapolis. Grazzini Brothers received TCAA Trowel of Excellence certification in 2013.

Target Field

Grazzini Brothers was selected to install tile, terrazzo and stone during construction of Target Field, the new home of the Minnesota Twins in downtown Minneapolis.

Working on a tight deadline of just

12 months to have the stadium ready for the Twins' 2010 home opener, the company installed 115,000 square feet of porcelain, ceramic mosaic, quarry, glass, glazed wall, agglomerate tile and epoxy grout in the stadium's Champion Club, Metropolitan Club, Press Dining room, terraces, vestibule, locker rooms, rest rooms and closets, coordinating with six different tile suppliers to access the various materials.

The project was overseen by Greg Grazzini with Mark Miranda serving as Assistant Project Manager and Rose Voigt as Lead Tile Setter/Foreman. WinEst On-Screen System Digital Takeoff/Electronic Spreadsheets were used for estimating materials quantities and standard installation methods were employed that included using urethane sealants for movement joints on both exterior and interior horizontal tile surfaces.

Designed by Bruce Miller of Populous (formerly HOK Sport Facilities Group), the project was awarded LEED Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council which named Target Field "the Greenest Ballpark in America".



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