

9300 CONTRACTOR

Tile Contractors' Association of America

THE VOICE OF SIGNATORY TILE/STONE CONTRACTORS

FEATURED INSIDE:

***Mel's Diner Renovation
by J. Colavin & Son***

***TCAA News: Updated Trowel
of Excellence™ Requirements***

***T. H. Winston Company
Showcases
Rookwood Exchange***



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A Message from the President



When and where will the madness stop?

Call me old fashioned or just call me plain old. But it just can't be my old man stubbornness or my reluctance to change that has made what I've been doing for 35 years become so overwhelming of late. Of course, everyone who knows me will think I'd be blaming Tiger Woods for my inability to cope these days (cause I pretty much blame him for everything). But for this problem, I can only blame technology. Email, yes electronic mail, is my ginormous problem that I will briefly address here today.

I didn't used to think that email was so bad. That was when I spent an hour or two a day sifting through it. It wasn't so long ago that I found myself complaining (and nobody seemed to be listening then either) about wasting about half my day on email. Now it seems that I spend nearly my whole normal work day (or at least the 8 hours that most people work) lost in "email land". Obviously this makes getting the rest of my work done very difficult.

Forget about all the emails we bring upon ourselves; like the ones that follow us from everything we purchase to what we research on the world wide web. I'm talking about the ones that we get from our friends in the construction industry. On one side of the equation, who can blame our suppliers who want to sell us more of their products. These are the same suppliers who used to call us, visit our establishments and take us to lunch and the golf course. My guess is that they no longer have the time to do these things because they are also lost in the same email land. On the other side, I certainly can't put all the blame on the G/C's (but a heavy load could be pushed their way) when they are the middleman for the architects and their owners. They probably have far less time than they used to simply because they are too busy sending Addendums, BIL's,

ASK's, RFI's and Numerous Revisions via email all day long. No matter which direction I look, this problem for me isn't getting any better and only seems to be getting much worse.

Back in the old days when changes were made on blueprints (what are those, you ask?), revisions were bubbled on the drawings. Lately this process of scope revisions has been made even more difficult when certain changes are made, without any indication of the change. In many cases we get a whole new set of drawings and not just the ones that have been changed. This forces us, the subcontractor, to review the entire set of documents to find our own scope changes. Just the other day I received a contract, via email. Before I could even download and print the 54-page document on our printer with our paper only to sign and send back via email, six more emails arrived for the same project with important changes that I needed to review and respond back with potential cost implications. Call me crazy, but this sure seems like a way in which we will likely make mistakes that can only cause delays, bad feelings and angry clients.

I ride my bike every day to get away from the fast paced, electronic world into which we've migrated. I have no problem physically keeping up with the youth of the world that is powering this movement. Unfortunately, I can't seem to do the same for my aging mind. So I'm looking to you for solutions, ideas, or your methods of handling this growing morass that is my inbox. If any of you out there have good or even mediocre ideas on how better to manage this problem, please don't hesitate to send me an email. As usual, I'll be glued to my screen. Lost in Email Land!

Until next time,

Brian Castro
TCAA President
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TILE INSTALLATION SYSTEMS



TCAA Labor Report

John Trendell, TCAA Labor Committee Chair
Trendell Tile, LLC



Farewell Party

We gave a retirement party for our longest employed and most talented tile finisher in May. As most everyone knows, the International Pension Fund (IPF) made changes to the plan that caused craftworkers between the ages of 60 and 64 to rethink their retirement decisions. The changes in the plan went into effect June 1st. Consequently, throughout the country, a large number of tile setters and finishers retired in May. This event, occurring just as the busiest time of the construction season began, did nothing but exacerbate an already dire situation.

Some might say, "Well, a tile finisher can be hired fairly easily". Well, NO! In a world of epoxy grouts, urethane grouts, fast setting grouts and thinset mortars, an experienced finisher has to practically become a chemist to understand the complexities of the materials in use today. Add to that mixing mud, material handling, job flow and understanding the quirks of all the different tilesetters, and a finisher has to be part logistics expert and psychologist, too!

We have hired three different young people in the last year knowing that this day would come. So far only one has stayed in the trade. Finishers often grow in knowledge and experience to become tilesetters. This certainly is a good thing for companies and craftworkers. But to find a person who takes finishing seriously and makes a career in this part of the trade is truly like finding a diamond in the rough.

I wish our newest retiree well. He was a loyal employee who, more importantly, was a friend. More than ever, our industry needs people like this. Otherwise these farewell parties are going to be for companies and the trade itself. ♦



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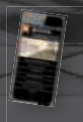


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New exterior of Mel's Diner

Nostalgic Burger Joint Gets Face Lift

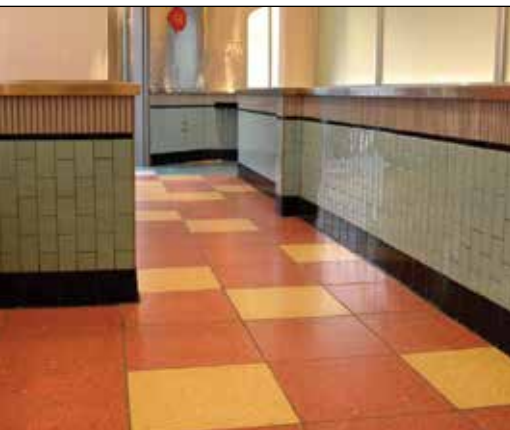
When is a burger joint more than just a burger joint? When it pays homage to an iconic movie set in southern California in 1962: the George Lucas classic *American Graffiti*.

Located inside the Universal Studios Hollywood Theme Park, Mel's Diner offers visitors an oasis of nostalgia, complete with the burgers, fries, malts and apple pie that were staples of the era. Recently, the diner underwent an extensive face lift to refresh its 1960's persona and the installation team of J. Colavin & Son was selected to install the tile and stone throughout the interior and on a portion of the exterior to bring that persona back to life.

The interior floor of the public space was transformed from a nondescript black and white to an eye-catching pattern of red, white, blue and yellow Wausau 18"x18" Terrazzo Tiles. Along the interior walls, a wainscot was installed with Dal-Tile K111 Black Cove Base and 1"x6" horizontal liner used to frame the Dal-Tile 3x6 Rittenhouse Square #0197 Aqua Glow tile topped with the Dal-Tile CW01 Ice White 1"x6" Glass Mosaic.



Exterior tile detail



Back of house tile floors



Front of house tile floors

In the kitchen and back of house area, the team installed Dal-Tile Suretread Grey Tile with the smooth Paver Field and Suretread finish. And the classic 60's exterior wainscot is a checker-board pattern of Dal-Tile K111 Black and 0100 White 4-1/4"x4-1/4" tile. To avoid the need to install small cut tiles, the bottom row also uses 4-1/4" x 8-1/2" K111 Black tile in areas where the concrete slopes downward, creating a uniform appearance across the exterior wall.

All floor tile was installed over a wire reinforced mortar bed covered with NobleSeal's TX Waterproof and Crack Isolation membrane to address heavy foot traffic and a thinset method was used on the wall tile. Setting materials from Custom Building Products were used on all the tile, including Porcelain Tile Fortified Thin-Set Mortar. The interior was grouted with CEG Epoxy Grout from Custom Building Products and the exterior with Custom's Polyblend grout.

This project ran in three phases on an accelerated schedule beginning in January and was completed in March. Eleven tile setters were involved in the installation and faced a number of challenges. Because the site was located in the midst of an operational theme park, deliveries and access were very limited. The work had to be scheduled around other trades and was performed on swing and graveyard shifts to avoid interference with the installation and allow time for sections of newly installed tile to be covered up for protection before the other trades arrived each morning. And when the existing facility was gutted for the remodel, the concrete slab was left in very poor condition with many craters and humps. To create a proper substrate for the tile, the slab had to be floated along with changes in elevations not typically required.



Dining area

General Contractor on this project was CW Driver of Pasadena, CA and Architect was Houston/Tyner of Torrance, CA.

J. Colavin & Son has been providing quality tile/stone installations for over 60 years. Specializing in commercial and industrial projects, the company is located in Los Angeles, serves Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Diego Counties and is licensed in Nevada. ◆

Photos courtesy of Wausau Tile

Service area



Ray Byrne to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award



Ray and Veronica Byrne

TCAA is pleased to announce that Raymond E. Byrne, Vice President of Grazzini Brothers & Company of Minnesota, will receive the Giacomo DeLazzero Lifetime Achievement Award.

The fifth of seven children, Byrne grew up on the family farm where days were filled with chores and school work, often beginning at 4:00 am and ending long after sunset.

After graduating from high school, he joined the military and served for three years in Germany and France. Completion of his military service in 1957 took Byrne to Minneapolis where he graduated from business college and immediately joined Grazzini Brothers & Company as its bookkeeper. Blueprints and color schedules replaced milking cows and harvesting crops but, like his experience growing up on the farm, he liked the teamwork it took to complete projects on time and under budget. The work gave him an outlet for all those numbers constantly dancing in his head and he reveled in the mentorship he received from Gene Grazzini, Sr. who, like Byrne, began his career as the company's bookkeeper before becoming its president in 1958.

In addition to serving as Vice President of Grazzini Brothers for over 20 years, Byrne built a distinguished resume in his service to the industry. He served for many years as Trustee on the Tile Setters Health and Welfare Fund and the Tile Setters Retirement and Pension Fund and as Secretary/Treasurer of the Minnesota Ceramic Tile Contractors Association. Byrne's service to TCAA also extended over many years. He was a member of the Board of Directors, rising through the chairs to become TCAA President in 1994. In 2004 he was elected to serve a five-year term as a trustee of the TCAA Trust Fund. And in 2007, he was awarded the prestigious Carl V. Cesery Award for outstanding service to the industry.

Byrne's commitment to the industry and love of his work continues today. Even though officially "retired", Byrne goes to the office two days a week and whenever possible, he and his wife Veronica participate in industry events, the latest of which was an event hosted by TCAA, the Ceramic Tile Contractors Association of Chicago and Daltile in April.

In receiving this Lifetime Achievement Award, Byrne becomes the newest member of an elite club of individuals whose contributions to the industry have gone far above and beyond. Just the fourth recipient of this award, Byrne now takes his place with industry giants Giacomo Delazzero (for whom the award was later named), Eugene G. Grazzini, Sr. and Robert Smyth.

Byrne will be recognized during the Awards Luncheon at Total Solutions Plus 2016. ◆

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Nick Rusche, President
T.H. Winston Company

Cincinnati based T.H. Winston Company traces its roots back to 1894 when T.H. Winston took over what was formerly known as Hegan Mantel Company. In 1898, Winston went on to represent the Mosaic Tile Company in Zanesville, Ohio and the company bearing his name continued on after his death in 1912.

Originally founded as a tile and marble dealer, the company changed over time to become a sourcing and installation company signatory with the Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Local 18. Today, Nick Rusche serves as President of T.H. Winston Company and Steve Hartig serves as the company's Vice President.

Throughout its 130+ years of business, the T.H. Winston Company has completed a number of signature projects that include the 21c Museum Hotel, the Great American Tower (Cincinnati's tallest building), Atrium One and Two office buildings, and the Aronoff Center for the Arts where Winston's skilled craftworkers installed over 12,000 square feet of Italian marble. T.H. Winston Company has also completed multiple projects over the years at Procter & Gamble, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, Great American Ballpark (home to the Cincinnati Reds), Paul Brown Stadium (home to the Cincinnati Bengals) and the University of Cincinnati.

A recent project showcases the knowledge, quality craftsmanship and superior project management skills that earned T.H. Winston Company Trowel of Excellence certification.



Rookwood lobby

Rookwood Exchange

A mixed use, multi-story facility, Rookwood Exchange is the final legacy piece of developer Jeff Anderson's grand vision dating back to 1991 when he sought to turn orphaned parcels of land, abandoned warehouses and boarded up manufacturing facilities into vibrant, productive assets. Located in central Cincinnati, Rookwood Exchange not only completes Anderson's trifecta of urban renewal—preceded by neighboring Rookwood Pavilion and Rookwood Commons and Tower—but was the subject of the first court case that challenged, and subsequently changed, Ohio's eminent domain law.

For the Rookwood Exchange project and under the guidance of project managers Donald Taylor and Nick Rusche, Winston's installation team installed 10,100sf of large format (12"x24") porcelain tile from the Atlas Concorde Advance Collection (Nero Basalto and Grigio Lipica textured) on all lobby floors. For the lobby stairs, the team installed 292 pieces of Atlas Concorde Scalino Stair Tread (13"x24" Nero Basalto and Grigio Lipica). Completing the lobby work, the team installed Turkish Marble panels three stories high on the main lobby walls.



Rookwood restroom with feature wall

installation of restroom tile to eliminate the need for cut tile by slightly building out the wing wall substrates and aligning the floor/wall grout patterns. The project managers visited the site daily to ensure the general contractor had all concerns addressed immediately and mobilized additional installers when it was discovered that the general contractor readied more area than expected at once to address a lagging project schedule.

T.H. Winston received Trowel of Excellence certification in March of this year. For more information on the company or its Rookwood Exchange project, call **(513) 271-2123** or email Nick Rusche at nick.rusche@thwinston.com. ◆



Restrooms received 8,500sf of large format Louisville Tile (Threads, Carbon in 12"x24") with 2,300sf of Atlas Concorde Brilliant and Nocture 1"x1" mosaic tile on each restroom feature wall. Completing the project, the team installed 920sf of Island Stone Large VTile (4'x16") in Tropical White Honed on the parking garage stairwell walls.

The Winston team played an instrumental role in managing the stone and tile design and installations, assisting the design team in putting together the construction documents and offering recommendations for proper sizing, reinforcement and joint detailing for the stone panels. They suggested and made field adjustments during



Rookwood lobby with Turkish tile panels three stories high



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To see the full conference schedule and learn more about Total Solutions Plus, visit www.ctdahome.org/tsp/2016 or scan here with your smart device.





TCNA BULLETIN

COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION (COF) STANDARD FOR CERAMIC TILE

DON'T SLIP UP WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY!

Be sure your tile specs are in accordance with the COF requirements of ANSI A137.1 including, “Unless otherwise specified, tiles suitable for level interior spaces expected to be walked upon when wet shall have a wet DCOF of 0.42 or greater,” when tested per the DCOF AcuTest.*

The ANSI A137.1 standard for ceramic tiles also states, “The specifier shall determine tiles appropriate for specific project conditions, considering by way of example, but not in limitation, type of use, traffic, expected contaminants, expected maintenance, expected wear, and manufacturers’ guidelines and recommendations.”

If you’re specifying, selling, manufacturing, installing, or maintaining ceramic tile floors, it’s important to know about these 2012 changes to ANSI A137.1. Project plans and specifications, maintenance programs, etc., referencing only a static COF of 0.6 per ASTM C1028 (the old COF test method) do not meet the requirements of the current standard.

To meet the current DCOF AcuTest criteria, you cannot use COF values from C1028 measurements. The test methodologies are different, and accordingly, there is no direct correlation between specific C1028 COF values and the values measured by the DCOF AcuTest. Additionally, ASTM C1028 was withdrawn in 2014.

For the full text of the COF standard and additional information, visit www.TCNAtile.com

03/2016

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Know Your Number.

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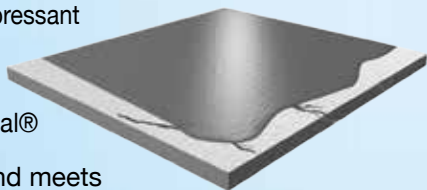
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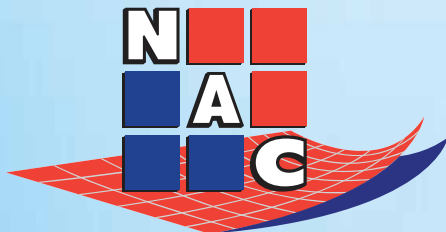


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Two TCAA *Trowel of Excellence™* contractors were selected to participate in this year's Installation Design Showcase at Coverings. Each contractor was randomly paired with an architecture/design firm and given five short days to turn blank exhibit spaces into unique vignettes reflecting different market segments and the vision of the architects.



Trostrud installation



Trostrud installation

Working with Susan and Tarik El-Naggar, principals of Healing Environments, the installation team of **Trostrud Mosaic & Tile** (Chicago, IL) created an inviting and soothing spa lobby, complete with a tile basketweave wall providing a dramatic backdrop for the fireplace. Tile and stone for this display was provided by Crossville with setting materials from MAPEI.

The installation team of **Grazzini Brothers & Company** (Eagan, MN) turned their blank slate into an upscale boutique space that reflected

the whimsy of Peter and Sharon Exley, the design team of **architectureisfun**. Wood toned tile added multi-dimensional interest to the space which also featured tile reproductions of the U.S. flag. Tile and stone for this display was provided by Florim USA with setting materials by Laticrete. ◆



Grazzini installation

Why Join TCAA?



To put it simply, TCAA gets it. We understand your challenges in today's economy. We recognize that you face an uphill climb in selling the proposition of quality tile craftsmanship over price. And we know there's a gap between the reality of what's involved to ensure that craftsmanship and the public's perception of it.

But even more importantly, TCAA has the resources to do something about the challenges you face. Our educational programs keep you up-to-date on new products and technologies. Our technical resources can save you time and money by avoiding costly mistakes. Our networking opportunities help members share best practices and solve common business problems. Our certification programs set you apart from the competition. And when it comes to being heard on setting industry standards or addressing labor issues, we speak with one voice – that of the union tile contractor.


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Photo features Cream 12 x 24 field tile on the floor with Cream 10 x 14 wall tile and 2 x 2 mosaic on the wall.

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***Trowel of Excellence*[™] Educational and ACT Requirements Revised**

At its meeting on April 18, the TCAA Board of Directors approved revisions to the *Trowel of Excellence* Educational and ACT requirements to give contractors seeking *Trowel* certification additional avenues for obtaining required continuing education credits and flexibility in meeting the ACT certification requirement. The revised requirements are as follows.

Trowel of Excellence Educational Requirements

To qualify for certification, a company must demonstrate a minimum completion of 12 hours of training programs or classes—related specifically to tile/stone management or technical topics—completed within 24 months prior to date of application submission. For purposes of this certification, educational credits are calculated on the basis of 1 credit for every 1 hour of training or educational programming. Credits are conferred collectively among all management and lead installation employees of the company who participate in continuing education or technical training programs. Programs accepted for credit include:

- Business or technical seminars conducted at Total Solutions Plus, Coverings or Surfaces (full registration and attendance at Total Solutions Plus fully satisfies the education requirement)
- AIA-certified technical programs presented by manufacturers
- Training programs conducted by IMI or sanctioned by IMI
- Training programs conducted at TCAA-hosted regional programs
- Training programs for installers leading to ACT certification sanctioned by IUBAC, IMI or TCAA
- On a case-by-case basis, a company may earn up to 4 credit hours for submission of a substantive written article on a management or technical topic which is accepted for publication in TCAA's quarterly 9300 Contractor magazine

ACT Requirement

Lead installers employed by contractors applying for *Trowel of Excellence* certification must hold ACT certification in at least one skills area and the company's lead installers must collectively account for certification in a minimum of four skills areas. If a company has satisfied all other certification requirements, this ACT requirement may be waived for initial certification but must be satisfied within the first three-year period of *Trowel* certification.



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Trowel of Excellence[™] **Certified Contractors**

Trowel of Excellence certification designates that a company consistently delivers outstanding skilled craftsmanship and superior management practices. *Trowel of Excellence* contractors employ only the best trained and most knowledgeable installation professionals and demonstrate their commitment to performing at the highest levels of industry standards, ethical business practices and financial responsibility on each and every job. That's why the Tile Council of North America and Arcom both recognize *Trowel of Excellence* certification in contractor qualifications language recently added to the TCNA Handbook and MasterSpec.

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