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# A Message from the President

# Well, It'sThat Time of Year Again—the Holidays!

A time for traveling, road trips and family gatherings. Many of these gatherings might take on a resemblance to "Griswold's Christmas Vacation" while others might share something of their own "Miracle" on their very own street. While it can be a difficult season for some, for many people it opens the door for a joyous and happy time of reflection and sharing with loved ones.

Speaking of reflection, let me take a moment to look back on Total Solutions Plus 2016, albeit from a little different perspective than in years past, as President of the TCAA. The 7th annual all-industry conference was held in Palm Desert, California from Friday, October 21, thru Tuesday, October 25. It was yet another record-breaking year for attendees with over 650 people in attendance. Each year more and more industry professionals are discovering the power of attending TSP and the Keynote speakers and the content of the breakout sessions continue to reach new levels of excellence. This year there were a total of 86 tabletop exhibitors with their products on display and their key people right there on the front lines to educate and answer any question. This event continues to blend the proper amount of educational content with fun to make TSP a very enjoyable "working vacation". The golf outing continues to be the premier attraction for most of the participants. Each year the promoters seem to up their game on the level of the other extra-curricular optional activities (think hiking trek, scenic bike trip, etc) that continue to attract many more attendees that make this event as much about fun as work.

This year I had the opportunity and rare privilege to present the Giacomo DeLazzero Lifetime Achievement Award in front of the entire TSP gathering to Raymond E. Byrne, Vice President of Grazzini Brothers & Company of Minnesota. Ray is only the 4th recipient of this distinguished lifetime achievement in the 100+ years of the TCAA. Let me assure you the gravity of a room filled with nothing but your peers along with the magnitude of presenting this rare award and coupled with the knowledge that you haven't spoken in public since debate class in high school was more pressure than I've faced since I can remember. If not for one of my own mentors in the tile business, Mr. Tom Kotel, I'm not sure I could have made it through Ray's presentation. My sincere thanks to Tom for our little secret. And a much larger community thank you to Ray for being such a great role model to all of us who have committed ourselves to a lifetime in the tile industry. A somewhat unique industry that allows many of us the opportunity to share time with our loved ones each and every day in our own businesses. An industry that so much resembles the family-like world we encounter during the Holidays.

Happy Holidays, Everyone!

Brian Castro TCAA President DTI of Illinois



9300 CONTRACTOR Winter 2016



Elevators in the office lobby

# Cincinnati Contractor Puts High Level Finish on Mixed Use Complex

The Kenwood Collection is a mixed use office and retail complex. Located in the heart of Cincinnati and adjacent to Kenwood Towne Centre, one of the country's premier retail malls, The Kenwood Collection offers iconic architecture, 260,000sf of lifestyle retail on two levels, an eclectic array of dining and 292,000sf of Class A office space on eight floors.

Cincinnati-based T.H. Winston Company was selected to install the 28,000sf of ceramic, porcelain and mosaic tile and stone required in the complex's office and retail lobbies and restrooms and faced the first of several challenges: poor quality concrete slabs. According to company president Nick Rusche, significant floor preparation was required throughout. "Laticrete's NXT Patch was our preferred product for leveling because of its capability to pour 1-1/2" thick and, yes, some of the elevator lobbies were nearly that far out of level," he said.



# The office lobby

In the office lobby, the Winston team installed 18" x 36" x 19/32" thick Crema Marfil honed finish marble on the floor's field with accents of Golden Siena honed finish Travertine in 6" x 24" x 19/32" thick tiles. Floors were set with Laticrete 4XLT mortar, grouted with Laticrete Permacolor and sealed with Aqua Mix Sealers Choice Gold. On the walls, 2cm thick slabs of Alaska White Granite were mechanically fastened and grouted with Laticrete Permacolor grout.

A second challenge arose with work the retail lobby walls involving installation of Crossville's Laminam, Travertino Avorio 1m x 3m thin porcelain tile. According to Rusche, "While we had previous experience installing thin porcelain tile, this was our first large-scale project with over 4,400sf on the project and the thin porcelain tile was being installed in an area critical for a timely completion of the project". Multiple installation crews were required to work in close quarters to finish on time and Rusche credits the training offered by Crossville and Stonepeak at their respective factories as being instrumental in having sufficiently trained manpower for the installation.



Construction of the retail lobby



The thin porcelain tile walls were installed using the Raimondi Leveling system, set with Laticrete 254 Platinum and grouted with Permacolor Select. On the floor of the retail lobby, the Winston team installed 12" x 24" CasalGrande Padana, Meteor, Almond tile in a matte finish, set with Laticrete 4XLT and grouted with Permacolor Select.

Restroom floors received 18" x 36" CasalGrande Padana, Metalwood, Platino, matte finish tile. On the walls, the team installed 9" x 36" EdilCoghi, Stardust Coffee, matte finish tile with accents of Casa Italia, Grigio Mix 1" x 1" mosaic. Floors and walls were set and grouted with Laticrete products.

Office restroom

Tight schedules are not uncommon for tile installation professionals but the schedule presented to the Winston team was even tighter than usual because of high demand for office and retail tenants. Added to a challenging schedule was the high level of finish that required the highest quality installers. "We were fortunate that our local BAC chapter has the ability to supply both the quality and the quantity of highly skilled installation professionals that allowed us to successfully complete a challenging project on time with very few headaches," said Rusche. The project was completed in October.

T.H. Winston traces its roots back to 1894. 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 Craftsman Local 18. Today, Nick Rusche serves as President of T.H. Winston Company and Steve Hartig is the company's Vice President.

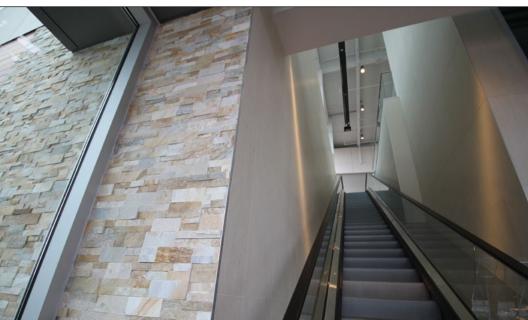
Throughout its 130+ years of business, the T.H. Winston Company has completed a number of signature projects that include the 21c Museum Hotel, the Great American Tower (Cincinnati's tallest building), Atrium One and Two office buildings, and the



Upward view of the retail lobby

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.

T.H. Winston achieved Trowel of Excellence certification in 2016. For more information on the company or The Kenwood Collection project, call **(513) 271-2123** or email Nick Rusche at **nick.rusche@thwinston.com**.



Tile wall next to the elevator in the retail lobby

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# **TCNA 2017 Handbook** to Include Numerous Revisions and Additional Recommendations

# Brad Trostrud, Vice President Trostrud Mosaic & Tile Co., Inc (Chicago, IL)

In June, members of the TCNA Handbook Committee met in Atlanta. Over two days, members of the committee agreed to quite a few revisions and additional recommendations designed to help manufacturers, designers, owners and contractors achieve successful installation of tile products in their projects. As a contractor, one change that I am sure will become my new favorite in the Handbook is the addition of three new sections under "Design considerations when specifying tile".

How many times do you look at a floor plan hoping to find important information on pattern layout, nominal tile size, grout joint, etc. only to find an open room stating T-1? These three new sections will help educate the design community on what must be considered in tile selection and the information that must be communicated to the installation contractor to complete a successful tile project. They are:

# **Tile Layout Considerations**

- The size and configuration of the room and the size of the tile make it impossible to center the layout in all aspects or avoid cut tiles less than 1/2 tile.
- The tile layout is continuous, flowing into multiple spaces, making it impossible to enter the layout in all aspects or avoid cut tiles less than 1/2 tile.
- The overall layout and/or aesthetics are improved by laying out the tiles such that the layout is not centered in all aspects and/or not all cut tiles are at least ½ tile, for example, to place a full (or larger cut tile) or decorative element in a high visibility location.
- Tile waste can be dramatically reduced using a layout that is not centered in all aspects and/or does not have any cut tiles less than ½ tile.
- The layout preferences of the design professional should be well defined for each space prior to bidding. If a layout is not provided by the design professional prior to bidding, the tile contractor may, of necessity, determine the layout based on the space, tiles and pattern specified.

# System Modularity Considerations

- Nominal sizes only provide a general idea of tile size and cannot be relied upon as an indicator of size or pattern compatibility with other tiles.
- Grout joint sizing for patterns can only be determined based on actual tiles ready for installation.
- Per ANSI A137.1, System Modularity is defined as: "tiles of various nominal dimensions are sized so that they may be installed together in patterns with a common specified grout joint width". System modularity is not a required or standardized tile property although various trade names exist for common partners, e.g., pinwheel, ashlar and hopscotch patterns.
- While tiles manufactured to be installed in a modular pattern will have both the pattern and applicable grout width provided by the manufacturer, the specified grout width may not be appropriate for the site conditions or variation in the tile size.
  Adjusting the grout width will result in some grout joints being larger than others. This is a necessary fact of the overall modular layout.
- Similarly, when the design professional creates a modular pattern using tiles that are not specifically manufactured for a pattern, some grout joints will, of necessity, be wider than others. Verifying system modularity and specifying the width of the grout joints within the pattern is the responsibility of the design professional.
- NOTE: If grout joint alignment from floor to wall is desired, i.e., carrying grout joints continuously from a floor onto adjoining walls, the design professional must confirm suitability of such based on actual tiles. If grout joint alignment cannot be accommodated with the tile specified, the tile contractor may, by necessity, reasonably adjust the pattern, for example, by "breaking the joint" at the floor/wall interface. Tiles should not be field-cut to size to accomplish modular patterns or to align grout joints as field cut edges will be dissimilar from factory edges and cannot be held to the same squareness tolerance.

# Wall Wash Lighting Considerations

- This section defines wall wash lighting and the associated challenges of shadows and undesirable effects, stating that it "highlights and exaggerates normal, acceptable inconsistencies in tile and tile work" including:
- Die release lines on the edges of tiles
- Difference in appearance between factory-edge of a tile versus an edge that has been field cut by scoring, grinding or wet cutting
- Allowable warpage
- Allowable lippage

- Allowable variation in height between field tile and trim pieces and/or accent tiles, whether such are or are not part of the same tile line, can worsen appearance of tilework that does not meet flatness and lippage tolerances which can occur in a proper installation under certain specified conditions (i.e., tiled floors sloping to drains, when project owner doesn't provide a flat substrate or contract with the installation contractor to correct flatness defects)
- To minimize the undesirable effects of critical lighting:
- Place lighting to decrease or eliminate low-angle lighting
- Install permanent lights prior to tile installation
- Reduce inherent or allowable lippage by ensuring flat substrates
- Specify a mortar bed, pourable underlayment or other tile substrate that facilitates a flat tile installation
- Include adequate allowance for substrate preparation
- Specify trade responsible for required alterations
- Reduce inherent or allowable lippage by specifying tile with minimal warpage, such as rectified tile
- Minimize the effect of lippage due to warpage by specifying wider grout joints, cushioned or beveled edge tile and tile sizes and patterns that minimize lippage due to warpage such as brick-joint patterns with 25% of 33% offset.

The TCNA Handbook Committee meets bi-annually and is comprised of representatives from tile manufacturers, setting material manufacturers, installation contractors, labor and independent industry consultants. TCAA is pleased to have two seats on the committee. I currently represent East Coast contractors with Rich Papapietro of DeAnza Tile (San Jose, CA) representing West Coast contractors.

# The 2017 TCNA Handbook is scheduled for release in Spring 2017.

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Photo features Limestone Chenille White Hexagon field tile (honed) on the floor. ©2016 Dal-Tile Corporation



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# Tech Corner



# Grout Technology for Today's Tiling Applications

By Arthur Mintie, Sr. Director of Technical Services, LATICRETE International, Inc.

# Today's tiling applications continue to evolve as module sizes continue to change and grow

in size. In addition, many of the finishes are getting thinner in profile and specifications continue to call for narrow grout joint widths. These situations and requirements can make grouting even more challenging as grout joints become narrower and shallower. Despite these challenges, the expectation is that the grout still provides the same level of performance and aesthetic appeal when compared to more traditional tiling applications (smaller module size with wider and deeper grout joints). Grouting technology must continue to evolve in order to meet the demands of today's applications and finishes. The grout must be able to be properly installed, cured and perform in these large format applications with narrow and/or thin joints. The grout must be available in relevant colors that last as long as the tiled project does, and this could mean for dozens of years. The grout should be dense, resist staining and be easy to maintain. There are basically three types of grouts specified by leading designers and architects which



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† Stainproof (residential installations only) to common household cleaners, liquids and other goods. Clean all spills immediately.

\* United States Invention Patent No.: 6881768 (and other Patents) are used by today's top tile installation contractors: epoxy grout, cement-based grout, and one-step pre-mix grouts.

# **Epoxy Based Grouts**

The best ANSI A118.3 compliant epoxy grouts (e.g. LATICRETE SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Grout) are designed for use on ceramic tile, glass tile and stone applications, for both residential and commercial installations. They cure via chemical reaction that negates any issues with narrow / shallow joints. In addition, look for an epoxy grout which has the color fused onto the aggregate. This allows the grout to achieve vibrant color resilience without the worry of color wash out or fade. This grout type can be used for both interior and exterior installations on floors and walls. Ideal for re-grouting applications, these products are perfect for swimming pools, fountains and other wet area applications. These grouts have low porosity rates, which makes them inherently resistant to staining and keeps the color looking vibrant for years.

# High Performance Cement-Based Grouts

When cement based grout is required, look for grouts that meet the higher performance standard of ANSI A118.7 (e.g. LATICRETE PERMACOLOR Select Grout and LATICRETE PERMACOLOR Select Grout NS). These grouts have the ability to offer the maximum performance available in a cement-based grout. They are designed to cure in both narrow/shallow joints as well as wider/deeper joints. Due to their formulation, they have just the right combination of working time to allow grouting of large modules and then can harden/cure quickly to allow proper joint dressing/cleanup. (*continue page 17*)



LATICRETE PERMACOLOR Select Grout is an advanced high performance ANSI A118.7 compliant grout that has STONETECH Sealer Technology and does not require sealing. It also offers the industry's first dispersible dry pigment solution, giving installers the flexibility to supply the requested color on demand.



LATICRETE PERMACOLOR Select Grout base comes as a neutral white color. Much like the paint industry, LATICRETE COLOR KIT packets are then added to the base and match almost any color available to create the exact color desired. These packets allow the grout to achieve and maintain vibrant color consistency and virtually eliminate batch-to-batch variations.

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These products are suitable for use on floors and walls in both interior and exterior projects, in residential or commercial applications and are available in both sanded and non-sanded versions. These modern cement based grouts are equipped with the ability to provide color consistency, enhanced stain resistance, crack resistance, flexibility and reduced efflorescence – many of the features and benefits that were not available in traditional cement based grouts.

# **Pre-Mixed Grouts**

The third category is the pre-mixed grout type. These grouts are one-step, open the pail and spread type products. They are typically used in dry interior residential and light commercial applications. They are ideally suited for restroom walls, countertops and back splashes. Some of the product features and benefits of this grout category include the elimination of mixing errors (e.g. adding too much water), provides vibrant color consistency, stain and crack resistance while providing a flexible and durable grout joint. As tile module size continues to evolve, grouting technology must keep pace. Therefore, whatever grout category is required and selected, look for additional product features that provide benefits to the end user, such as anti-microbial agents, which inhibit stain-causing mold and mildew in the grout. Also, today's best tile grouts are UL **GREENGUARD** Gold certified to meet appropriate indoor air quality standards for volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions. In addition, because customers select tile installations for their long-term lifecycle, they should be informed that today's high quality grouts have strong warranty programs supporting them as part of the entire tile or stone installation materials system.



PERMACOLOR Select is designed for virtually all types of residential and commercial installations and offers optimum performance on the most demanding exterior or interior applications. Easy to mix, grout and clean, PERMACOLOR Select is fast setting and is suitable for joints 1/16" to 1/2" (1.5 mm to 12 mm) wide on floors or walls.

PERMACOLOR Select NS is also available as a non-sanded/ non-scratching version for use in grout joints widths from 1/4" (6mm) and narrower.



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tion. ^United States Patent No.: 9,016,018B2 (and other Pa



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