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Publisher's Letter



Dear Readers,

If you have not already put the 2010 Concrete Decor Show on your calendar for next year — get 'er done! If your business includes decorative concrete, this is an event you must attend. If you don't know about this event already, please take the time to visit ConcreteDecorShow.com and investigate the opportunities it holds for you.

It is my belief that decorative concrete stands at an important threshold in its development as an industry. For the first few years that *Concrete Decor* was published, this industry was looked at by many as a trend that would

eventually fade and return concrete to business as usual — what a terrible lack of perspective! If everyone still felt this way, we'd have only a few warriors out there putting all of these product innovations to work.

As many will now agree, decorative concrete has not only popularized concrete with color and texture, it anchors new and existing concrete in sustainability. Yes, decorative concrete is redefining the concrete industry, but it also continues to attract people from other professions that encourage skills easily adaptable to the growing array of products now entering the market.

This enthusiasm has some people exploring ways to define decorative concrete as an opportunity for DIYers (do-it-yourselfers). This is understandable because of the existence of big retail chains designed to sell building supplies to the general public. Unfortunately, these people fail to see that decorative concrete is a specialized industry that requires an unceasing focus on training in order to demonstrate its competitive advantages over other building materials. This is probably the most important reason the Concrete Decor Show is now upon us. For decorative concrete to become a thriving and mature market here in the United States and abroad, every individual and contractor whose livelihood depends in part or fully on this industry needs to take part in this event.

This is our opportunity to define this industry and demonstrate our seriousness about developing it as a profession. Outside of quality products and workmanship, I can't think of a better way to capture the attention of architects, designers, builders and property owners everywhere.

In case you don't know this already, universities around the country are developing curricula that support this emerging industry. This means that those of you who take your business seriously may soon be getting a knock on the door from college graduates who are seeking careers in this trade.

My wife, Sheri, and I are currently participating in a survey at church to identify each of our strengths and how to better utilize them for helping others. Reading some required literature, we found a discussion that talked about the way a seed planted in good soil will grow and bear more fruit. The author made a captivating comment: "Quality is the root and quantity is the fruit." Folks, that's the key ingredient to our success in business as well.

Please enjoy this edition of *Concrete Decor*. I'm looking forward to visiting with all of you in Phoenix on March 16-19. (See the ad on page 1.)

Sincerely,

Bent Mikkelsen, Publisher

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Enter this access code to view current and older articles in *Concrete Decor's* online archive. The archive can be found and searched at www.concretedecor.net. The password changes every issue.

To continue receiving both the print magazine and access to our archives, keep renewing your subscription to *Concrete Decor*, the industry's foremost magazine on decorative concrete.



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Publisher: Bent O. Mikkelsen

Co-Publisher: Ernst H. Mikkelsen

Editor: John Strieder

Assistant Editor: Emily Dixon

Creative Director: Bill Simpson

Web Design: Brian Hollett

Writers: John Abrahamson

Doug Carlton

Amy Johnson

Chris Mayo

Mike Miller

Kelly O'Brien

Chris Sullivan

David Thompson

Business Manager: Sheri Mikkelsen

Circulation: Meg Kilduff

Editorial: (877) 935-8906

news@protradepub.com

Fax: (541) 341-6443

Advertiser Services: (877) 935-8906

info@protradepub.com

Fax: (541) 341-6443

Eastern U.S. Sales: Donna Flood

donna@protradepub.com

(770) 967-3373

Middle U.S. Sales: Bent Mikkelsen

bent@protradepub.com

(877) 935-8906

Western U.S. Sales: Troy Ahmann

troy@protradepub.com

(702) 869-4342

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by Emily Dixon



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From crushed liquor bottles to melted bits and jelly beans, aggregate made from recycled glass is making artisans see green.

by David Thompson

On the Cover: A close-up of the lobby floor at Colorado Mountain College that was polished and given decorative V cuts with caulk. The floor is part of a public works decorative concrete project by Colorado Hardscapes Inc. For more, see page 30.

Photo courtesy of Colorado Hardscapes Inc.

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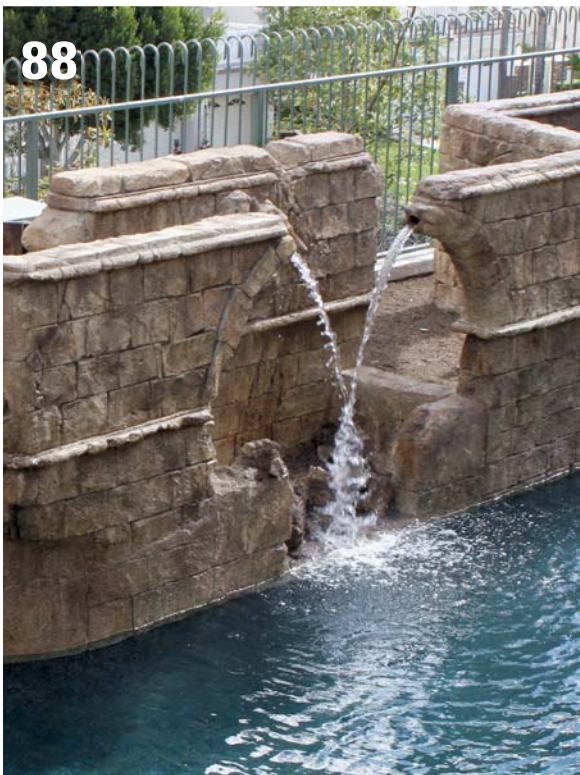
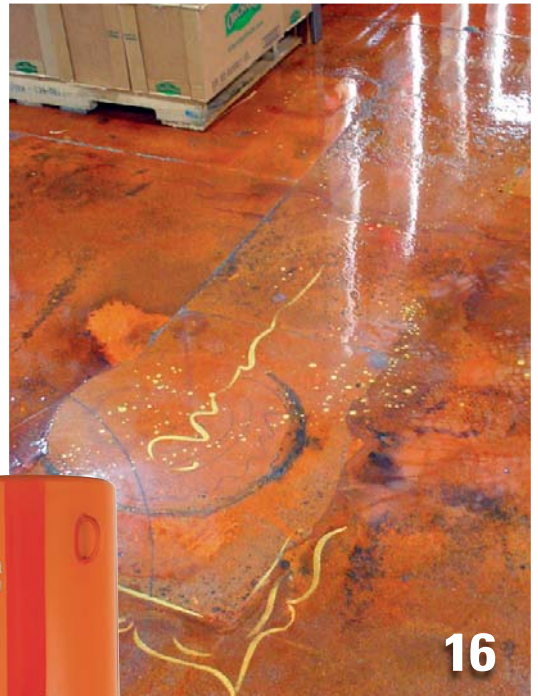
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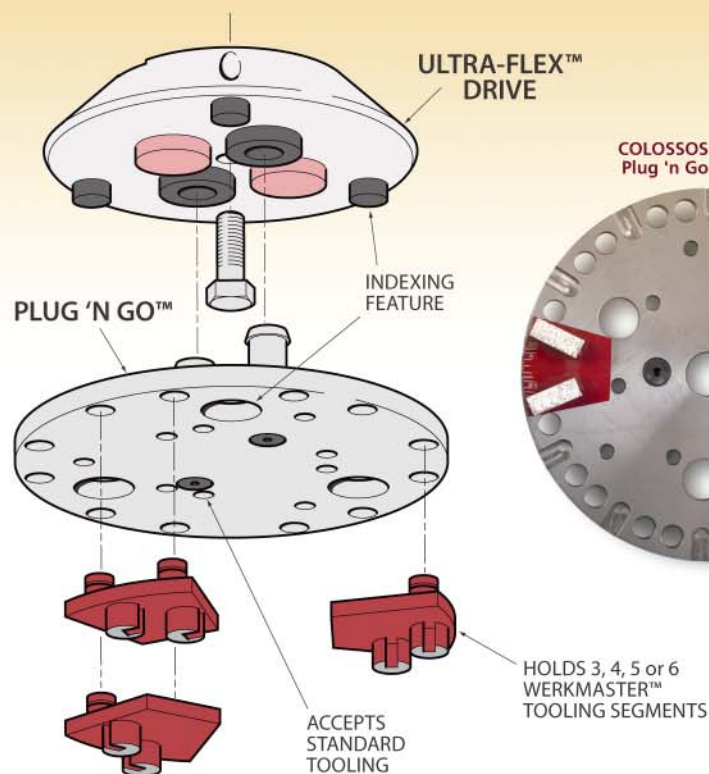
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Concrete Decor plans January 2010 issue

Attention, *Concrete Decor* subscribers: We want to start our 10th year of publishing fresh, with a January issue labeled Volume 10, Number 1.

Because of that, those little notations near the *Concrete Decor* title on the cover of this magazine will look a little different over the next couple of issues.

Here are the changes, in case you want to look forward to them:

- Your next issue of *Concrete Decor* will be labeled November/December, Volume 9, Number 7, instead of November.
- The next issue you receive will be called January, Volume 10, Number 1, instead of December/January.
- Next will come February/March, Volume 10, Number 2, and so on.

Readers will receive *Concrete Decor* magazines regularly, with no interruptions or hiccups. Subscribers will not lose or drop an issue, and the number of magazines they receive each year will not be affected.

Please contact our circulation department at circ@protradedpub.com or (877) 935-8906 if you have any questions.

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🌐 www.concretedecor.net

ASTM committee developing standards

Four proposed new standards are being developed by subcommittees under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C09 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates. Subject matter covered by these standards includes aggregate resistivity, lightweight aggregates, methacrylate bonding systems and semi-adiabatic calorimetry.

All interested parties are invited to participate in the standards-developing activities of ASTM Committee C09 subcommittees.

🌐 www.astm.org

Proceq SA acquires CNS Farnell Ltd.

Proceq SA of Switzerland, maker of portable precision instruments for testing concrete, metal and rolls of paper and film in the construction, manufacturing and engineering consulting industries, has acquired U.K.-based CNS Farnell Ltd.

CNS Farnell manufactures testing products that are complementary to Proceq's offerings.

🌐 www.proceq.com

🌐 www.cnsfarnell.com

CIM program students graduate

The first group of students from the Concrete Industry Management program at California State University, Chico, has graduated.

The graduates are Cyrus Dworak, Chad Christie, Kevin Albert, Gessel Balderrabano, Brant Guido, Frank Corzine and Jeff Kelly. According to Doug Guerrero, chairman of the Chico State CIM Patrons, most of the graduates have already found employment in the concrete industry.

🌐 www.csuchico.edu/cim

Blastrac adds Southland distribution

Blastrac, NA has added Quest Building Products as a distributor of its Blastrac and Diamatic product lines.

Located in Anaheim, Calif., and serving greater Los Angeles, Quest is a full-service store with a complete line of equipment to prep, protect, restore, decorate and maintain concrete.

🌐 www.questbuilding.com

🌐 www.blastrac.com

New hire at Cemstone

Cemstone has hired Jeff Pool as sales manager of the company's Concrete Placing Division.

In his new position, Pool will be responsible for managing and directing sales and marketing initiatives for the company's concrete placing services. Pool currently serves on the board of the American Concrete Pumping Association. He is a member of the American Concrete Institute and served on their Shotcrete and Certification committees.

🌐 www.cemstone.com

VP of Propex unit named

Propex Operating Co. LLC has appointed Chris Crouch as executive vice president for its Propex Concrete Systems business unit.

Propex is a producer of fabrics and fiber for concrete and other uses.

🌐 www.fibermesh.com

Self-Leveling Toppings Polished, Critiqued

by Bent Mikkelsen

Four manufacturers of concrete resurfacing and repair products took on the challenge presented by the Operative Plasterers & Cement Masons International Association (OPCMIA) Local 528 last July in Seattle.

The challenge: Apply competing brands of self-leveling toppings in grey and white bases onto a temporary concrete substrate on Monday morning. Grind, polish and add a few design treatments on Wednesday and Thursday, and on Friday, invite Seattle-based architects, designers and contractors to critique the results of each of these manufacturers' products.

Under the watchful eyes of *Concrete Decor* magazine and Local 528 training directors Mark Maher and Frank Benish, representatives from ProSpec, Ardex Engineered Cements, Raeco Inc. and Mapei Corp. proved to be gentlemen, demonstrating support and respect for one another and the facilities. Not only was the event educational, it also made a statement about the OPCMIA's interest in playing a leading role as educators regarding the latest innovations in decorative concrete.

Installing Prospec's Level Set Wear Topping was Prospec's product manager, Peter Golter, along with territory sales representative Jim Partridge. Installing Ardex SD-T and SD-M were director of application developments Bruce

Newborough and territory sales representative Don Richards. Raeco SLT-HS was installed by technical manager David Landrey and general manager Tony Christopher. Finally, Mapei's territory sales representative was the first on Monday to make minor crack repairs, apply bonding primer, and have his demo area coated — in his case, with Mapei Ultraplan M20 Plus in grey and white bases.

With little time to spare, the race was on to get these respective products installed and cured by sunrise on Wednesday. That's when HTC Inc. territory sales representative Tim Herz hit the switch on the HTC 500 planetary grinder and began his initial pass on each of these overlays with an 80-grit metal pad. As the polishing process continued, routine inspections were made to evaluate swirl patterns in order to make mechanical adjustments and ensure the best-quality finishes for each overlay.

As the polishing proceeded, Raeco took advantage of a window to apply a hardener/densifier. Raeco's David Landrey says that in order to get a consistent salt-and-pepper finish, they used slightly less water in their mix to keep the sand evenly dispersed. With overlays containing higher cement content, this kind of adjustment is recommended only when the applicator has consulted with the manufacturer's technical support.

As Thursday gave way to another sunny day in Seattle, random cracks that were not addressed on Monday during the surface preparation phase started showing up again. They created opportunities for applicators to exercise some creativity. Given the fact that these products were being applied to a temporary and substandard slab, this was an ideal time to demonstrate that these kinds of overlays can provide customers with a range of sheen levels,



as well as design options that might involve integral coloring, grooving and colored grouts, topical stains and dyes, and all kinds of stencil patterns. A light burnishing was the finishing touch.

I was thoroughly impressed with the overall finish that each of these manufacturers delivered. So too were a number of architects and contractors who stopped by that Friday to evaluate the results and enjoy a presentation by Tanya Wattenburg Komar, Ph.D., of California State University, Chico, on historic concrete bunkers at Pointe-Du-Hoc, France.

These products also answer an important call from designers and building owners who are striving to earn LEED credits with "green" products. 📱

Manufacturers

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The First Steps to Entry-Level Stamping

Sometimes we make things harder than they need to be. I was in a small airport the other day, and as I was leaving the men's room I stopped at the paper towel dispenser to dry my hands. For some reason, when I moved to activate the motion sensor, nothing came out, and I found myself waving my hands back and forth under the dispenser with no results.



by Doug Carlton

I could feel the presence of someone standing behind me, and this compounded the situation. That is when I heard an elderly voice say that we could stand here all day or I could turn the little handle on the side of the dispenser. It seems I complicated a simple situation.

You, like most, will thumb through this issue of *Concrete Decor* and see pictures of the best of the best. True artists have mastered our decorative trade, and this is something we can all be proud of. Now think about this: These guys all started at the entry level sometime or another.

I personally have found the most profitable decorative jobs have been the ones kept simple.

Let's run through some entry-level

stamping to get you started.

The pattern

Hands down, the easiest patterns to imprint into concrete are the texture patterns. These stamp tools overlap one another and do not interlock. The nice thing about this stamping type is that it covers a large area and fast. This is a huge benefit to the beginner as you learn your stamping window. Try starting with one of the texture patterns by making a sample. This sample will give you practice and will work great as something to show potential clients. Be sure to label the color(s) and pattern used somewhere on the sample. I like to make our samples 2 feet by 2 feet by 1 1/2 inches deep with a wood frame and plywood bottom for support. You might seal all or half the sample so folks can see the end result and how the color changes when sealed. Be sure to let your client know this is a product that will need resealing from time to time.

Pattern tip: Many rental yards are renting out variations of texture stamps, so save your purchasing money until you find a pattern you like.

The coloring

For argument's sake, you have two options when it comes to coloring the concrete. The most basic option is to have the ready mix colored as it's batched from the plant. Most ready-mix

salespeople can supply you with a color chart to help with color choices.

Now, remember that these charts are only a guide to color and not an exact replica of what your color will be. In fact, one color from the same plant will produce varying results from pour to pour depending on a multitude of things. Try using this “integral” style of coloring when a job can be completed with up to one load of ready-mix concrete.

The cost of coloring concrete with most integral colors will be close to the same as long as you’re choosing a light to medium tone. Darker colors or colors like green or blue will not be cost-effective as integral colors. These colors are best achieved through the use of color hardeners, which brings us to the second way to color concrete.

Color hardeners are the most effective and affordable way to color the concrete surface. The hardener not only has color pigments, but also strengthens the surface of the concrete. Some homeowners will have a problem with the idea of just coloring the surface and not the full thickness, but a little educating on your part will help with that. Be sure to start with small jobs or areas to get a feel for coloring with hardeners. They can be a little challenging at the start.

Coloring tip: Be sure to warn your client that the integral color will appear much darker when first poured, but will lighten as the concrete cures. I have had many frantic calls concerning this over the years. This does not happen when using color hardeners.

Release and stamping process

Now this is where the rubber hits the road. In most stamp jobs, colored release powder will be used just prior to the stamping process. This powder will sit on the concrete surface but will not be troweled in. The release powder serves two purposes, the first being as a barrier so the stamp tools don’t stick to the concrete surface. The second purpose is to highlight or antique the base color.

Be sure to fluff up the release powder prior to broadcasting it across the concrete surface. The surface should be in a plastic state but not wet when the broadcasting starts. Do yourself a favor and wear a respirator to protect your lungs and airway. Broadcasting can be quite messy, so be sure all windows and doors are closed to prevent fogging.

Once the surface is covered in release powder, the stamping can take place. The depth of imprint is dependent on the set of the concrete and the weight of the stampician. It will be best to lightly walk the pattern in and then “thump” the tools as the surface tightens. A good stamp job will be consistent, and your clients will have no problem pointing out irregular areas. What can be challenging is gauging the depth of pattern within the release powder. Don’t be afraid to look across the surface at several angles to see the depth of pattern.

Release tip: Try to make the release powder darker than the base, or integral, color. Remember, most of the release color will wash away from the surface when cleaned.

Stamping tip: Be sure your sub-base is damp before



Photo by Carlton Concrete Inc.



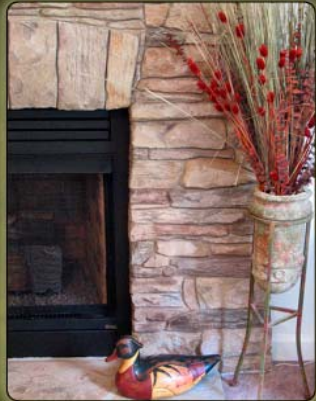
concrete placement. This will help the surface to dry evenly compared to spot drying. Keeping the concrete thickness the same will help with this as well.

Good luck and send pictures. 📷

Doug Carlton operates Carlton Concrete Inc. in Visalia, Calif. He can be reached at carltondoug@comcast.net.

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The Lack of Maintenance Standards is a Debacle

The polished concrete industry has been plagued with a slew of maintenance systems that confuse and aggravate end users of polished concrete. Many suppliers of tools, equipment, chemicals and cleaning products rush to offer systems of maintenance, none of them adequately tested or proven. Far too often, these systems are based upon what can or cannot be patented or trademarked, what may make the most money for the supplier, and what is available and convenient for the supplier, rather than what is actually in the best interest of the end user.

Other manufacturers of flooring have managed to do a much better job of working together as one unit to create industry standards, which can assure the end user that they will have no problem developing a maintenance regiment that will ensure a maximum life for their investment. Mohawk Industries Inc., Beaulieu of America and Shaw Industries Inc., the three leading carpet manufacturers, were fierce competitors, but in the 1990s, all three worked with the Carpet and Rug



by John Abrahamson


Institute to put out consistent carpet maintenance literature. VCT, vinyl, terrazzo, and other flooring industries did the same.

In contrast, among the maintenance systems recommended by polished concrete suppliers are: an autoscrubber with a janitorial cleaning pad and stone soap, an autoscrubber using expensive diamond-impregnated cleaning pads, an autoscrubber or a swing machine using bristle brushes containing diamonds, an autoscrubber or a swing machine using soft bristle brushes, a burnishing machine with plain cleaning pads, and a burnishing machine with diamond-impregnated cleaning pads. Some say no maintenance at all is necessary. I've even seen people use an acrylic floor finish, which is a topical product that should not be applied at all, as it defeats the whole purpose of polishing the concrete.

Some advise the end user sweep heavy particles off of the floor prior to cleaning with these systems, and some make no reference to precleaning the floor.

The result of the confusion can be anything from a polished concrete floor quickly losing its shine to a floor developing what people in the industry call an "orange peel," the look

of the skin of an orange. Some of the most expensive maintenance systems can create the most problems. While many of the systems may work to one extent or another, and while some may feel there are no definite right or wrong answers to the polished concrete maintenance question, one system still needs to be agreed upon.

End users like definite answers, or they will go with what they perceive to be a more proven floor system. 

John Abrahamson has been in the polished concrete industry since 2000 and was in the flooring industry for 15 years before that. His former positions include president of HTC Inc. and national sales manager for VIC International. He recently started a hard-surface flooring company in Knoxville, Tenn. He can be reached at john_abe@comcast.net.

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Busting Some Common Decorative Myths

In direct contrast to what they say at the start of every episode of the Discovery Channel show “MythBusters,” I consider all of you professionals, and I DO want you to try this at home. Today’s segment looks at some of the most common myths, mistakes, and just plain wrong practices the decorative concrete industry has embraced as commonplace.



by Chris Sullivan

I can see where some of these problematic practices came from, while others, I can only surmise, made their way into common practice after years of being passed from one installer to another without much thought as to why we do this or if it really works. I admit that at one time or another I have myself fallen victim to mob psychology and what seems like a common-sense approach, only to scratch my head later on when things just did not turn out as expected. This is where you need to start asking the right questions, taking the time to understand the products and processes you use, and never accept an answer just because someone else said it works.

Myths about muriatic acid

If I offered you a concrete cleaning and preparation product that could kill you if you drank it, blind you if it got in your eyes, leave you on a ventilator if you breathed its fumes, and would give you third-degree burns if it touched your skin, would you use it? Then someone please tell me why hydrochloric acid is the go-to

cleaning product of choice in the concrete industry.

Don’t get me wrong, there are times when hydrochloric acid, also known by its trade name muriatic acid, is the right product for the job, but those are few and far between. I recommend using diluted acid (maximum 20 to 1 with water) for surface preparation and to remove inorganic contamination from concrete — that’s it! The idea that acid should be used to clean release powder from stamped concrete or to prepare concrete prior to acid staining is just wrong, and the poor results and failures are the proof. It’s actually quite amazing how well soap, water and a good old-fashioned scrubbing work, and none of those will put you in the hospital.

The other “must” when dealing with acid is neutralization afterward. Any time acid is applied to concrete, no matter how dilute, a proper neutralizing wash must follow. This involves scrubbing with an alkaline soap — not baking soda (more on this in the next section) — followed by a clean water rinse. To cover all your bases, anytime acid is used, take all the proper safety precautions — glasses, gloves, and clothes.

Baking soda myths

Of all the poor practices that the decorative concrete industry engages in, using baking soda to clean up after acid staining takes the prize. Baking soda is great for baking, but terrible for neutralizing and cleaning concrete. What most don’t realize is that baking soda mixed with water makes a mild cleaner — which is nothing that is going to do much

to neutralize concrete with acid stain residue strewn about.

The other issue with baking soda is that it tends to leave a white residue on the concrete, only adding to the mess you need to clean up.

If you are using acid on concrete, you need an alkaline soap to neutralize the surface. Alkaline soaps not only register high on the pH scale, but also contain soap or surfactant, which add additional cleaning properties to concrete. If you don't have access to an alkaline soap, you are better off using 5 gallons of water, 2 cups of household ammonia or bleach, and a few good squirts of dishwashing detergent. For future reference, use baking soda in soda bread, toothpaste and your fridge, not to clean acid-stained floors.

While we are on the topic of cleaning, let's talk power washers. I am all about making life easier — work smarter, not harder, the saying goes. All that being said, power washers should not be used anytime concrete needs to be cleaned. It seems that the standard answer for any concrete cleaning job is the power washer. Almost every concrete contractor I know owns one, sometimes more than one. The thing we all need to realize is that water is being driven into the concrete at upwards of 2,000-plus psi, which means it is penetrating that much deeper into the concrete, requiring that much longer of a dry time before sealing, overlaying, or whatever next step is planned. The other key factor often overlooked is that a 4,000-psi power washer will win the battle over 3,000-psi concrete every time. There is no easy way to fix power-washer induced profile marks in concrete. Do yourself and your checkbook a favor. Turn down the power on the power washer, or consider using some soap and good old-fashioned elbow grease.

Misapplied sealers

Switching gears, let's look at another area of the decorative industry that often falls victim to myths and mistakes. Sealers or the art of sealing decorative concrete remains a place where more mistakes occur than any other. If you remember one thing from this article, let it be this: Sealers are not paint, so don't apply them like paint. Sealers are designed to go down thin. By thin, I mean paper thin. Too often sealers are applied as if they were paint. This is a recipe for major problems. Maybe not today or tomorrow, but sealers applied too heavy WILL fail at some time down the road. Here is an easy exercise that I have used for years when teaching classes on decorative sealers. Take a piece of any rope, cord or twine and cut it to an 80-foot length. Tie the two ends together so you have one big loop. The area inside the loop is 300 square feet, which is the standard coverage for most decorative sealers. If you can't get one gallon of sealer to cover that entire area, you're overapplying.

Solvents and sealers don't mix

Now that we have our sealer down, how do we get it off if needed? Stripping sealers from concrete has to rank up there with root canals, IRS audits, and the first day of school in terms of painful and miserable activities. As with most painful activities, stripping sealers is usually the last resort, but often has to be done. Once the decision is made, make sure you use a chemical stripper, not a solvent. A very

common mistake made when stripping sealers is to grab the gallon can of mineral spirits, xylene or acetone, thinking it will do the trick. Those are solvents, of varying strengths, that only liquefy certain sealers for a few minutes. Once the solvent flashes or evaporates, the sealer resolidifies and you're back to square one. A solvent works well if you're removing sealer from an area of less than 2 square feet, but with any more area than that, you need a chemical stripper. A chemical stripper actually destroys the sealer coating, turning it into sludge that sits and waits until you get around to scraping or shoveling it off the concrete. Using a chemical stripper allows you to cover larger areas, use less material, and get more of the sealer off the surface. The other advantage is that new green and environmentally friendly technologies in chemical strippers make the handling and cleanup that much easier.

We have covered a few common misunderstandings, mistakes and myths that seem to permeate our industry. Hopefully this has enlightened some of you who may have been operating under false information. In other cases, I hope the information gathered from others' mistakes saves some of you the pain of repeating those errors. Either way, I encourage you all to use the information to your benefit, and to the benefit of others in our industry. 🛠️

Chris Sullivan is vice president of sales and marketing with ChemSystems Inc. He has presented seminars and product demonstrations throughout North America, including at the World of Concrete convention. Contact him with technical questions at trowelanderror@protrade.pub.com.



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Underappreciated Structural Slabs Can Be Recycled

In concrete construction, as in society today in general, being green is hip. And part of being green includes recycling.

Recycling materials: Collapsed

L.A. freeways are demolished, stripped of reinforcing steel, and crushed, to rise again as an aggregate component in their replacements. Post-consumer tumbled bottle glass is seeded, then washed to be

exposed in a city sidewalk. Post-industrial defective mirrors are crushed and sized, cast integrally, ground and repolished in high-end concrete countertops.

Recycling areas and spaces: Struggling industrial districts (such as those in Berkeley and Emeryville, Calif.) are reconceived as vital urban restaurant and retail centers. Tilt-up warehouses and board-formed machine shops resurface as Old Navy stores, cool boutiques and art galleries. And all of this while still maintaining some sense of their original funkiness and history.

Recycling building parts: Revitalizing, rather than replacing, walls, ceilings and floors. Some of my favorite floors have been those that have lived a previous life. They were always concrete, but were only allowed to be concrete in a limited way. Most often, they served only as structural substrates. They were concrete covered by tile or sheet goods such as carpet or vinyl.



by Mike Miller

Sensory concrete yearning to escape. Wounded concrete that may have been trenched and/or patched, sometimes repeatedly, over years and years of loyal service. And you might say, that as The Concretist, we were able to help them come out ... come out as concrete. Honest, and completely concrete in all ways, warts and all. And therein lies its beauty!

First, to remove the dirty old clothes. Less-invasive chemical strippers, followed by a good scrub and rinse, may be able to remove old paint or adhesives following the stripping of carpet or linoleum. For consistency, these should generally be used over the surface as a whole. If you are successful in removing residues and old staining, the troweled cement paste has been minimally damaged. It may then be stained or dyed for a facelift, or it may simply be sealed. In any case, the concrete is exposed and still obviously concrete perceived as concrete.

Traditional scraping or spring-loaded, carbide-tipped hex pins mounted vertically on a 17-inch floor machine may also work. However, these are more invasive and may significantly scratch the original concrete surface. Shotblasting may work as well, but again, it's more invasive. It will at least pit the surface, exposing fine aggregates, and open up what may have been previously unseen cracks. Another disadvantage to shotblasting is the pattern the machine leaves in its wake. It's kind of like the pattern left on the lawn after a beer, a cigar and a good Saturday mow.

A personal favorite: grinding and sealing

I must say that perhaps my favorite technique for prepping an existing concrete for a relaunch is to first shotblast, then follow with a diamond grind. The slab can then be decorated, colored or simply sealed as appropriate. "Wait a minute," you say. "Why not polish? Everyone seems to be polishing nowadays!" Ah, good question ... Thanks! I'm not quite as hot on polishing as a lot of others in the industry. The equipment is expensive. There's quite a steep learning curve for consistent success. And, in my opinion, contrary to a lot of people's claims otherwise, the floors still need to be well maintained.

There is a place for polishing, and a good polisher can produce a really good result. However, one of the requirements of producing a really good polished job is starting with a floor that's flat. And in the case of an existing concrete slab that was covered and never intended to be exposed — this floor is often not so flat.

Anyway, back to prepping for relaunch ... Shotblasting exposes fines in extreme low areas. These fines are visually not that different from the fines exposed through grinding, but these areas would have been most likely missed if polishing. (I picked up this shotblasting technique from Dennis Perez of Nor-Cal Industrial Floors Inc. He's one of the top floor prep guys in the business!) Sometimes you're shooting for a deep enough grind to remove these elevation differences, but sometimes not.

If you're shooting for a lighter grind (trying to expose sand only), just realize that the universe is more likely in control than you are. You're likely to get some large aggregates along with your fines. In my mind, this is great! It's very similar to taking a walk on the beach and coming across some keen shells and an occasional sand dollar. You'd have never thought to have flown to Tahiti and had control over where the shells on



Shadows and lighting "hot spots" add to the multilayered composition that is this cafeteria floor at the University of California, Berkeley.



Art flourishes made sense of the beat-up floor of this Nugget Market in Sacramento, Calif., and supported the client's cool and funky style.

Photos courtesy of the concretist

the beach washed up, so why have any other expectation now?

Chatting with concrete

In performing work in the style of sensory concrete, our relationship with the floor often takes the form of an interesting conversation. The concrete throws something out. We mull it over and respond. And back and forth. And back and forth. More often than not, we don't try to change the basic nature of the concrete. Joints are joints. Cracks are cracks. Spalls are spalls. And trenches and patches are ... you guessed it! We often choose to graphically respond to these with color drifts or shapes that play well off the concrete's unique personality (and, sometimes, dare I say, quirks).

Generally, scratches and textural differences in low areas, where the slab has been blasted by steel shot but not quite reached by the diamond grinder, are filled in and made visually transparent by sealing and, where appropriate, finishing or waxing. I'm of the opinion that stains and dyes penetrate especially deeply, as do topically applied sealers, on this type of surface.

Additionally, when maintenance is lax or sealers don't quite do their job, the

fine and large aggregates (the strongest part of most concrete) kick in and take the brunt of the wear. Any vulnerable cement paste has been pre-removed. It's a nifty system, as evidenced by the pictures of University of California, Berkeley's new cafeteria and Nugget Market Inc.'s Florin Road store in Sacramento. Note the two different graphic styles.

Both were existing floors transformed from structural to sensory concrete through this technique. And both are performing well. But, mostly, I'm interested in just walking these floors and being surprised. I'm generally most impressed when it's the universe that's been in control rather than me. Serendipity is a wonderful thing! I think I'll go walk some sidewalks through town now, and finish up down along the beach. Bye. 🚗

Mike Miller is vice president in charge of marketing for Colormaker Surfaces, of Richmond, B.C. He is also managing principal of The Concretist, based in Benicia, Calif. He can be reached at concretist@aol.com.



Concrete Oasis Malvern, Penn.



Photos courtesy of Concrete Oasis

by Kelly O'Brien

Sixteen years ago, a couple moved from Colorado to Pennsylvania and brought with them tales of a mysterious new form of concrete work. When they approached Jim Bernardine, owner of Bernardine Construction Co., about building them a stamped concrete patio, Bernardine had to ask what that was. "Around here, there was no such thing as stamped concrete," he says. But he was intrigued.

At the time, it was difficult to get stamping training or supplies unless you bought a franchise with a particular company. (Increte and Pattern-Crete were the big names, Bernardine says.) You couldn't just walk down to your local supply store and pick up a set of stamps and

colors. After some research — trickier back then, without the Internet — Bernardine found Cobblecrete International Inc. They not only sold him colors and two sets of stamps, but they also sent a rep out to Pennsylvania for a two-day training session. These two days would prove pivotal for Bernardine's career.

He'd been running BCC for four years, doing mostly residential basements, patios, walkways — "boring stuff," he says. "Everything was just flatwork." The two-day training session with the Cobblecrete rep changed all that.

"It was great," he says. "Very hands-on." The first day they stamped a walkway at Bernardine's home, as a sort of trial run, and day two was the



patio for the Coloradan couple. And that was it for Jim Bernardine. “I fell in love with the stuff,” he says.

Bernardine used that passion to turn his company into a full-service decorative concrete operation specializing in stamping and renamed Concrete Oasis.

Based in Malvern, Penn., Concrete Oasis serves the entire Main Line region of suburban Philadelphia. Because stamped concrete was so rare in the area, it was a difficult sell at first, says Bernardine. But around 1998, things started to snowball. More and more people had heard of stamping and heard of Bernardine, and the work started coming in. Even as other contractors started adding stamping to their services, the years that Bernardine’s company brought to the table were a big advantage. “We were always a step ahead

because we’d been doing it so long,” Bernardine says.

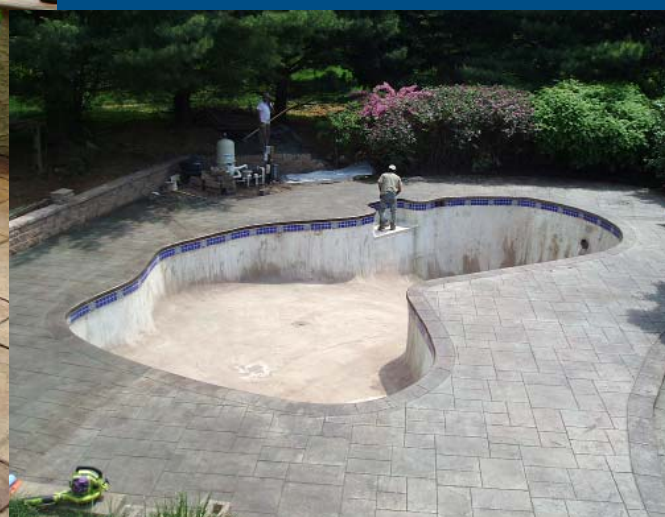
In its two decades, Bernardine’s company has changed shape dramatically. When he started the company as BCC in 1989, its staff was a 22-year-old Bernardine and two employees. Now, Concrete Oasis has 10 employees total (including four two-man crews) and a fleet of four trucks, three Bobcat skid steers and one mini-excavator.

Bernardine says that typically, a two-man crew will go out and excavate and prep a site to get a project going. When it’s ready to go, all hands are on deck for the pour. The entire Concrete Oasis team shows up for a full day of placing the concrete, getting it down as quickly and efficiently as possible. Then the crowd disperses, and each crew goes back to their respective ongoing projects.

Concrete Oasis does an average of about

10 jobs a month, and Bernardine says he’s pretty happy with that number. “I try to keep the company fairly small to keep the quality up,” he says. “And I can only design so much.” Bernardine directs the design of every project Concrete Oasis handles, delivering a signature old-world look that’s been many years in the making. Drawing from his Italian heritage as well as years of research on Roman and Italian architecture, Bernardine’s artistic style is very distinct. “We want it to look like it’s been there for 100 years but still looks great,” he says. “We’re not looking for something that looks like plastic.”

These guiding principles have driven Bernardine to experiment with every aspect of the stamping process in search of the best way get the look he wants. Bernardine’s first rule is not to overwork his surface.



"If you trowel too much, especially here in the Northeast," he says, "you're going to have the top pop off. You're going to have spalling." So after one pass with a bull float, Bernardine broadcasts about 80 percent of the color hardener he's going to use and lets it set for 30 minutes. The second round is another go with the bull float and then the remaining 20 percent of the color, typically in one shade darker or lighter than the first, to get a mottled look. "It gives it a nice little color variation — very subtle, but it works," says Bernardine.

He also goes out of his way to avoid saw cuts in his surfaces. They're a dead giveaway that you're looking at concrete, not stone,

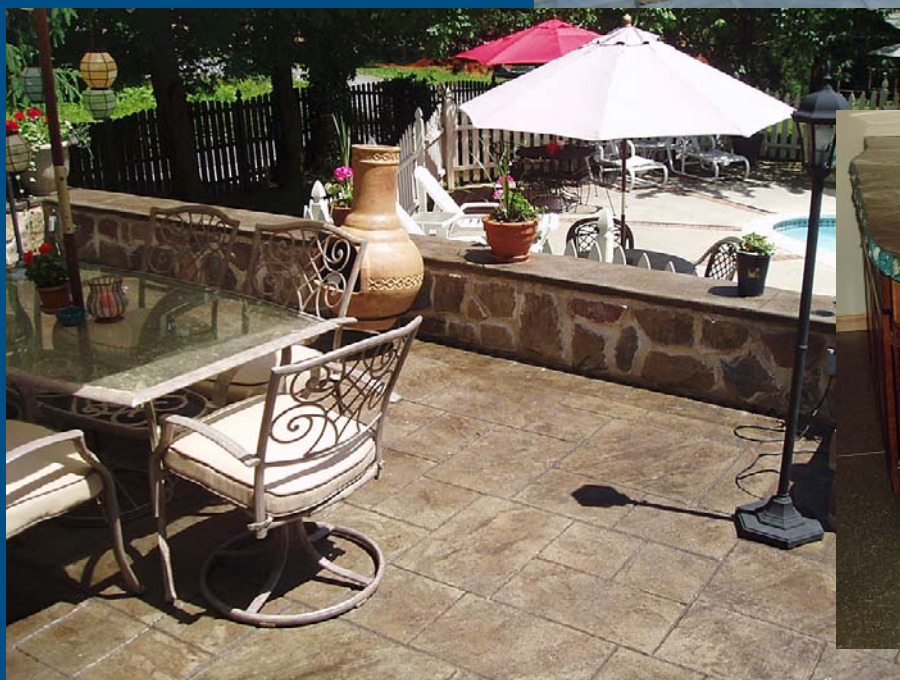
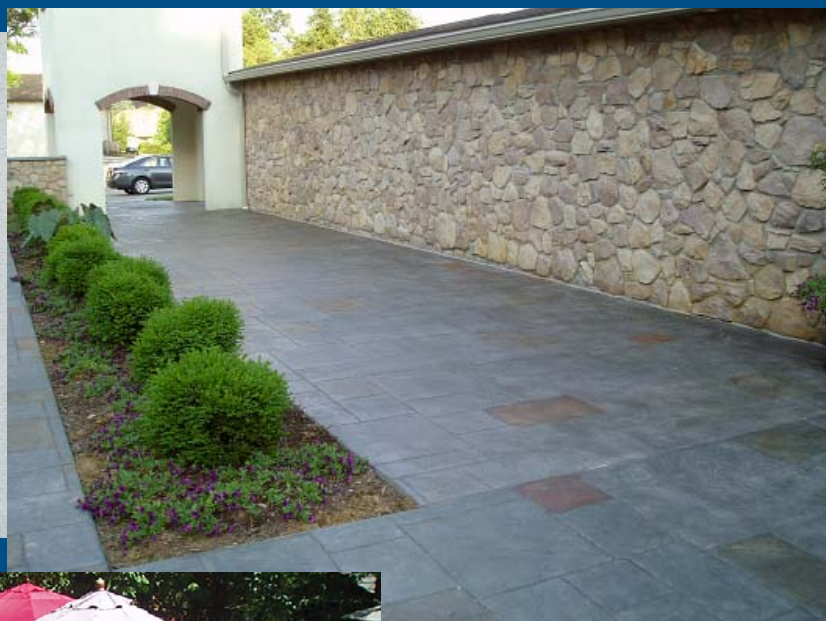
he says. He'd much prefer to let the concrete crack naturally, he says, as it will most often crack along the grooves of the stamp pattern, anyway. But that's not always something the client is ready to hear.

When doing a high-profile project at the Chester Valley Golf Club in Malvern this spring, Bernardine ran into problems talking the general contractor into skipping the saw-cut stage. "He was an engineer," says Bernardine. "He just couldn't come to grips with the fact that the concrete was going to crack." Bernardine even took the GC to two previous cut-free Concrete Oasis jobs and asking him to find some cracks. (He couldn't.) But in the end, Bernardine

compromised, breaking up 4,000 square feet of patio into 8-by-8 panels with joints between.

Bernardine's approach to color is also unusual. In addition to the mottled look he achieves with his hardeners, he uses acid stains to finish most of his work. "One of the reasons I like acid so much is that it never falls the same way twice," he says. He also never works from a color chart, preferring to match his colors to the house, a magazine, a photo — anything but an out-of-context swatch.

And Bernardine's personal touch does not stop at coloring. Concrete Oasis uses nine different concrete mixes — each of



which he has personally tweaked — for the different patterns and looks they're going for. Starting with mixes from Buddy Rhodes and enCounter, Bernardine played with the amount of cement, stone and sand in each mix until he got just the effect he wanted. For example, for a flagstone pattern, Bernardine uses a mix with a higher amount of large stones, which helps get the surface flatter, as well as extra sand, lending it a rougher texture. By comparison, his fieldstone mix has less sand, to give the stones a slicker surface, and more cement, to give the pattern a nice depth.

So 16 years of stamping have obviously given Bernardine the chance to really master

the technical aspects of the craft. But it's the art that keeps him going. "Once you get the stamp part down, it's really just being an artist," he says. And the chance to use that artistic talent to transform a client's space is the most satisfying part of the job for Bernardine.

In his entire career, the job Bernardine cites as the most rewarding wasn't a giant, high-profile gig like the country club. It was a 1,500-square-foot pool and outdoor kitchen area they did about three years ago. The client had had to replace his pool entirely, so Concrete Oasis got the chance to completely redo the entire space — pool decks, planters, outdoor bar and grill area,

built-in seating, walkways, landscaping, the whole enchilada. "That was the most rewarding," he says. "We were able to put the whole package together for some great people and it looked awesome."

Bernardine does say that he'll be going after more high-visibility commercial jobs in the coming years — "the advantage of jobs like that is that the spaces are very well taken care of, but still a public forum" — but his passion for the trade will ensure that all of his clients, big and small, receive the same caliber of craftsmanship that his company has been delivering for 20 years. 📞

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🌐 www.concreteoasis.com

Project Profile



The Atrium Building Redding, Calif. Contractor: Colour

by David Thompson

Colour, a decorative concrete company in California that specializes in elegantly colored and polished concrete surfaces, seemed to get lucky when it parlayed a small staining job into a major floor overhaul.

Then the carpet was peeled off and the horrendous condition of the 4,500-square-foot concrete floor was revealed. Some might have questioned their luck at that point. But Colour forged on, and it was rewarded with a wonderful surprise: The floor polished astonishingly well.

"It was a horribly ugly floor that everybody was worried about, and it turned out to be one of the most beautiful floors we've ever found," says Chris Swanson, who, along with his father, Jim Swanson, and their partner, Jamie Schneider, run the Placerville-based company.

The challenge: Transform an aged floor in atrocious condition into a beautifully polished and colored surface.

Polishing machines used: HTC 800 HDX, HTC 500, HTC 400, HTC 130

Acetone dyes: Ameripolish

Coloring decisions made: At the last minute.

Local supplier who got acetone dyes ordered and shipped in record time so project could proceed without any delay whatsoever: Spec West, Sacramento, Calif.

The project was part of the renovation of a nearly century-old building in downtown Redding, Calif. The structure was being transformed into The Atrium Building, a shopping arcade in the new Market Street Promenade development, and



Above: The Swansons incorporated the city seal of Redding into their design for the floor of The Atrium Building after noticing the logo on a manhole cover. Colledi Signs used a photo of the manhole to fashion a set of vinyl sandblasting stencils.

Upper right: A closer look at some of the Swansons' work.

Lower right: "Center of the Universe," beneath a nail embedded in the floor. It can be found in almost the exact center of the room, inside the Redding seal.



the owner hired Colour to acid stain the walls around the elevator. The ground floor of the building, which sits near the Sacramento River, is well below street level and suffers from moisture vapor problems. Despite that fact, the owner wanted to replace the old carpeting on the floor with tiles, keeping his fingers crossed that the moisture wouldn't cause the tiles to pop up.

When the Swansons pointed out that refurbishing the existing concrete would avert a tile-popping moisture vapor nightmare, the owner was skeptical but curious. When the Swansons pulled out photographs of some of the exquisite refurbished floors they've done in the past, the idea of laying tiles flew out the window.

"He went berserk when they saw what we can do," says Chris Swanson.

At that point nobody had any idea what kind of condition the concrete was actually in. It wasn't until the carpet was pulled up and three layers of glue were painstakingly removed that the horror beneath was revealed.

"We expected some plumbing cutouts, electrical cutouts and cracks,"

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Project Profile

Swanson says. “But it was much worse than we expected.”

The cracks were extensive, long, and often gaping. The cutouts were many, and in some cases mysterious, made for no obvious reason. The pourbacks were loose and chunky or dusty. The floor was uneven, with lots of high and low points. And to top it off, the original pour was littered with embedded foreign objects, including nails, electrical boxes and pieces of wood.

Leveling the peaks and valleys was one of the first steps toward transforming the eyesore of a floor into something beautiful. That took several days of aggressive grinding with 25-grit metal-bond diamond tooling.

Next came crack repair and the stabilizing of problem pourbacks. For hairline cracks Colour used VersaFlex Quick Mender in its low-viscosity form, where it penetrates deeply into the substrate and acts like a repair mortar. For the wider cracks and the problem repours, the Quick Mender was made into a parging compound by loading it with 30-mesh sand and dust left over from the grinding stage.

Then the diamond grinding resumed, proceeding in this order: 40-grit metal bond, 40-grit resin blocks, 80-grit resin blocks. With the floor's pores still wide open after the 80

grit, Colour applied a lithium-based densifier, which hardens and expands over the course of several months, slowly increasing stain resistance.

After the densifier was applied, the floor was honed using 100-grit, then 200-grit mixed resin blocks. Then it was polished using 400-grit resin diamonds. Next, all the design and coloring took place, and the floor was polished with 800-grit resin diamonds.

It wasn't until the grinding got underway that what Swanson thought

was a “horribly ugly floor” began to reveal its true colors. Those colors included rich reds, greens, blues, yellows and pinks — rock that a concrete artisan might have selected, but which was actually the locally available aggregate when the floor was poured at the beginning of the 20th century.

“We weren't able to see how pretty the rock was until we were done with the 40 grit,” Swanson says. “By the time we got done with the 400 grit, you could really see how much rock was showing and the color of the rock.”

For the edges Colour used a stand-up edging machine and plenty of hand grinding. The budget didn't allow for the monumental task of polishing the edges, so Colour used an edge tint to create dark brown borders that complement the color of the baseboards.

The owner gave the Swansons more or less free rein to come up with the floor's design, which features three sections of tortoise-shell colored concrete set against long gray stretches of naturally colored concrete. “By leaving some natural gray, all the other colors we used get a really nice contrast,” Swanson says.

The main section of the floor is defined by intricate borders and contains a compass rose, along with the Redding city seal. After diamond-scoring the borders and compass rose,



the Swansons scored crisscrossing diagonal lines across the floor's colored sections. The lines create the illusion that the floor is composed of 6-by-6 diamond-shaped slabs. The technique is one of Colour's hallmarks. "We like to make it look believable, as if there's inlaid stone there rather than just a big strip of colored concrete," Swanson says.

All of the scored lines were later mortared to complete the effect.

The incorporation of the city seal was inspired by a manhole cover the Swansons noticed on the street. Redding's manhole covers are embossed with the seal, and the Swansons took a photo of one and sent it to Colledi Signs in Fresno, which used it to fashion a set of vinyl sandblast stencils. The seal was then sandblasted into the center of the compass rose, and the recessed areas were dyed black. The seal offers a roughly-textured contrast to the gleam on the rest of the floor, as if the seal had been engraved into the polished surface.

Of the 15 colors of acetone dye used on the floor, the black in the seal is the only one that came straight from the dye can. The other 14 were custom mixed by the contractor. On the central part of the floor, four earth tones — a main color and three highlights — blend into each other, creating a variegated look. Exactly how Colour achieved that look is something you'll have to guess at. "We have techniques we don't share with other contractors," Swanson says.

Once all of the coloring was done, Colour densified the floor and polished it with 800-grit resin diamonds. Then the floor was burnished with diamond-impregnated twister pads and an application of stain guard went down. It was burnished again with 1,500-grit twister pads and a second application of stain guard, then burnished once more with 3,000-grit twister pads. The burnishing and stain guard were woven into a five-step process that went like this: 800-grit diamond twister, stain guard, 1,500-grit twister, a second application of stain guard, 3,000-grit twister.

In a whimsical finishing touch, the Swansons stenciled the words "Center of the Universe" beneath one of the tiny nails embedded in the floor. The nail, which is so small you practically

have to get down on your hands and knees to see it, lies at almost the exact geographic center of the room — right in the middle of the compass rose. The building's owner frequently pointed to the nail and joked that it was the center of the universe, which prompted the Swansons to ask if he wouldn't like to make that official. What the heck, he said. So the Swansons stenciled the tiny letters into the floor.

"Now every time he brings people

in to see his building, he points it out and says, 'See, I told you it was the center of the universe,'" Swanson says.

Shelly Shively, the interior redesigner who worked on the project, says the one-of-a-kind nature of the floor gives the building's owner a lot of satisfaction.

"He likes being exclusive," she says. "And now he has a floor that nobody else could buy." 🗑️

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Epoxy Systems for Concrete Floors



Photos courtesy of Special Effex

This epoxy floor coating hides repairs made to a badly cracked floor. The epoxy patch material was ground flat with the rest of the floor so the coating would be smooth.

by Amy Johnson

A decorative concrete floor is almost never really finished until it is sealed or coated. A coating protects the concrete and its colors from wear and contamination. Coatings can even add an extra decorative dimension.

Epoxies are widely used by themselves or with other materials to coat concrete, and they have a long track record of success.

Popular for their adhesion, hardness, chemical resistance and versatility, epoxies are usually two-component materials, composed of a

part A resin and part B hardener. "They were originally designed as adhesives and are primarily derived from petroleum-based chemicals," explains Paul Koury, president of Westcoat Specialty Coating Systems.

Epoxies can be formulated into 100 percent solids materials or water-based emulsions, which are usually composed of 40 percent to 60 percent solids, Koury says. Materials that are 100 percent solids can typically be thinned using an appropriate solvent when a lower-solids material is required — for

example, for use as a primer.

Reducing the solids percentage does not reduce chemical resistance and durability, Koury says — but it does change wetting characteristics, and since the lower-solids material soaks in deeper, it can improve adhesion of the coating to the concrete.

Lower-solids clear epoxies can be used as sealers. “A coating and a sealer differ in the thickness of the material applied,” Koury says. “And epoxy makes an ideal sealer due to its excellent adhesive qualities, its chemical resistance, its durability and its ability to create a ‘wet look’ finish.” Lonnie Salyers, director of floor coatings for General Polymers, explains that the epoxy molecule is too large to penetrate concrete pores, but the material seeks imperfections and adheres tenaciously to seal the concrete. “Sealers are typically low solids materials which provide little film build. Sealers are typically applied at 1 to 5 mils wet film thickness, and coatings can range from 5 to 30 mils wft and are much higher in solids.”



The look of a terrazzo floor at this retro diner was achieved with an epoxy floor coating.



Photos courtesy of Westcoat Specialty Coating Systems

Epoxy floor coatings are coming out of the garage and into showrooms, restaurants and commercial spaces like this hair salon, where beauty, durability and chemical resistance are high priorities.

Chemical resistance is the reason epoxies became so popular for garage floors in the 1970s. The same quality makes them a good choice for food preparation areas, pharmacies, factories — any place where oil, acid (think lemon juice) or other reactive contaminants might hit the floor.

One of the strengths of epoxy is also its weakness. The material is very hard, which makes it very durable. But unlike softer coatings, hard epoxies show scratches, so they can lose their gloss with traffic.

Epoxy's adhesion properties comes to the rescue here. Epoxies adhere well to other materials, so a topcoat of urethane or maintenance coatings of acrylic or wax can be used to protect the gloss. In the worst case, the coating can be repaired successfully. “Sometimes you have to grind out a section and replace it, but generally epoxy is pretty forgiving,” says contractor Craig Adamson, owner of Special Effex, based in Machesney Park, Ill. “You can make a nice repair job look like it was never there.”

How to Make Epoxies Decorative

Decorative epoxies for colorful garage floors burst onto the scene in the 1970s, when applicators began to saturate chemical-resistant epoxy coatings with colored vinyl chips. These floors went out of style for a while, but General Polymers director of floor coatings Lonnie Salyers says they are making a comeback, and not just in garages. The same chemical resistance and colorful aesthetics that make them popular in garages are now valued in showrooms, restaurants and schools.

Contractors can either add a few chips to the mix or flood the floor with them for denser color. What's more, Salyers points out that whatever final look you settle on is easy to change later. "Just abrade the old surface to remove the gloss and then apply another epoxy layer and broadcast chips in another color for a whole new look."

What's more, the color chips themselves are becoming high-tech. For example, H & C Concrete Coatings offers hexagon-shaped holographic flakes that add sparkle to the floor. "They shimmer almost like a diamond reflective," says H & C product manager Justin Brazie. They can be used alone, but Brazie recommends the applicator spread them randomly along with regular paint flake colors.

Color chips are not the only things contractors are adding to epoxy coatings. "Since epoxies are such excellent adhesives, various materials can be added to epoxy systems for decorative purposes," says Westcoat's Paul Koury. "Some examples are pebbles, colored sand, glass and marble chips."

Another innovation is brightly colored metallic epoxies. Metallic pigments can be added on-site. Westcoat Specialty Coating Systems has advanced this technology in its new Liquid Dazzle coating by premixing the pigment with the company's epoxy resin for better consistency. The metallic additives uniquely flow when applied, producing a color-changing effect, according to the Westcoat Web site.

Contractor Craig Adamson likes the look of epoxy coatings over acid-stained concrete. "One hundred percent solids epoxies really bring out vibrant acid stain colors," he says. He also likes using water-based emulsions because they breathe and let moisture escape without chalking. The topcoat of the system is a wear surface that the end user can easily reapply when it begins to dull. He cautions that all the acid residue must be completely removed to ensure good adhesion. "Do a white-glove test," he says.

A new opaque epoxy coating mimics the look of acid stain, but with greater control and consistency. The three-coat pigmented coating system from Thermal-Chem Corp. starts with a typical

clear epoxy primer and finishes with a urethane topcoat for scratch resistance, low maintenance and UV protection.

It is the opaque epoxy second coat that gives the effect. This material is factory-tinted to guarantee consistent color from batch to batch. The contractor then has substantial



Photo courtesy of H&C Concrete Coatings

leeway in making the color dynamic. By moving the material around on the floor, the contractor can create the same variations that make acid stain so attractive, says Scott Schemmel, in technical sales for Thermal-Chem. Artisans have used blowers, dispersing agents and textured rollers to animate the color, he reports.

And because the coating is opaque, it can hide patches, repairs, zinc strips or discolored concrete, unlike an acid stain, which would leave all these flaws visible.

The coating can also be applied over substrates other than concrete. Schemmel is planning to build a countertop out of wood and coat it with the new material to get a seamless concrete look at a fraction of the weight and cost.

With a track record spanning decades, from garages to concept restaurants, epoxy coatings are proven performers for decorative concrete floors. Epoxy on a concrete floor is like frosting on a cake — both functional and decorative. It protects the concrete and prolongs its life. And in the hands of a craftsman, it adds color and pizzazz.



Photo courtesy of Westcoat Specialty Coating Systems

Perhaps the biggest limitation of epoxy coatings is their tendency to amber with exposure to sunlight. As a result they are not recommended for outdoor applications. Even interior light can eventually discolor an epoxy coating.

Epoxy prep

To take full advantage of an epoxy coating's adhesive qualities, a concrete floor needs to be prepared properly. Ken McKinnon, president of McKinnon Materials, recommends shotblasting, sanding or grinding the concrete. Acid washing can leave a residue that will impair adhesions.

Also, the high gloss of epoxy can telegraph the flaws of underlying concrete, he says. One solution is to apply a scratch coat or skimcoat of acrylic polymer-modified concrete before installing the epoxy.

The floor also must be sufficiently cured and dry to avoid bubbling or chalking caused by moisture escaping the concrete. McKinnon cautions that a moisture meter only measures the moisture at the spot where it is used, which is not necessarily consistent throughout the whole floor, so multiple meters may be necessary. He prefers the old-fashioned moisture-test method of taping plastic over sample areas of the slab. "If there is moisture on the plastic and the concrete the next day when you pull it up, it's still too wet," he says.

Handling two components

Because two-component epoxies cure by chemical reaction, not by drying the way paint does, contractors need to handle them properly for the best application and end performance. The biggest issue is pot life. The chemical reaction that cures the coating begins in the bucket as soon as the two components are mixed. The applicator must plan to be able to use the whole batch before it cures. Pot life varies from 10 minutes to two hours according to McKinnon, so contractors need to be familiar with the limitations of the particular material they are applying. Once the two components are mixed, he says, "If your phone rings, don't answer it!"

Proper mixing is also important, and pot life plays a role here as well. If the same bucket is used to mix one batch of epoxy coatings after another, the pot life of each will be shorter than the last. Justin Brazie, product manager for H & C Concrete Coatings, explains that this is because the residue of the earlier batch reduces the pot life of later batches. For example, if a coating with a pot life of two hours is used in half an hour and the same bucket is used to mix the next batch, the new material will only have a pot life of an hour and a half. The chemical reaction that cures the material also generates heat, so the bucket gets hot as the pot life expires. This heat shortens the pot life of the next batch mixed in the same bucket.

McKinnon recommends changing the mixing vessel periodically and keeping the material in the shade, as cool as possible, to prolong pot life. Craig Adamson recommends getting the coating out of the bucket as quickly as possible. "Ribbon it out on the floor right away so you have more working time with it," he says. "Epoxies set up fast, so your work time has to be planned out in advance. You should



Photo courtesy of Thermal-Chem Corp.

Contractors can manipulate this pigmented epoxy floor coating from Thermal-Chem Corp. to create a look similar to that of acid stain. Unlike stain, this opaque coating hides flaws in the floor.

have everything ready so the epoxy can go down right away. We only mix enough to work for about 10 or 15 minutes at a time."

Contractors also need to be sure they mix the two components in the correct, manufacturer-directed ratios and agitate the mixture adequately. Some formulations need to be mixed, left to rest and then mixed again.

Finally, the elimination of solvents from 100 percent solids formulations because of VOC concerns has narrowed the temperature range at which epoxies can be applied. Lower temperatures make the mixed material thicker and thus harder to apply and level. 🛠️

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Public Art

Decorative Concrete

In Public Works Projects



by Emily Dixon

Although decorative concrete used in public works projects usually serves a practical purpose, it also often qualifies as art. This art can show up anywhere from on a retaining wall or sidewalk to in elaborate murals. *Concrete Decor* has talked to five artisans to showcase the variety of public works projects available to contractors.

Arkansas River Mural

Little Rock, Ark.

Contractor: Steven Ochs

Concrete artisan and Southern Arkansas University art professor Steven Ochs recently had the opportunity to create a public art project depicting the Arkansas River and the state's history. With a crew of 11 and help and input from many others, the end result was a unique 200-foot long walking mural on the main campus of the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock, Ark.

Flowing along a sidewalk, the concrete river is designed to scale, accurately showing every bend and turn of the river's presence in the state.

Ochs worked with more than 20 museum directors from across Arkansas, having them select artifacts that would be drawn into the project to help tell the story of Arkansas' people and the importance of the river. "The objects that are represented in that river are not my choice at all," he says. "I wanted to leave it up to those who know their history."

The 110 chosen items ranged in age from 8,000 years old to 80 years old, highlighting the lives of Arkansas' indigenous population, Indian tribes, and early pioneers and settlers. "It's a pretty good cross-representation," Ochs says.

Ochs put together a team of eight local artists, ranging from high school students to professional artists, to replicate the artifacts as well as 46 types of aquatic life found in the



Little Rock, Ark. artist John Kushmaul paints a largemouth bass.

river. Each artist was given a full-color 8-inch by 10-inch photograph of an artifact to reproduce on concrete using water-based stains from Smith Paint Products.

The artifacts are designed to look like they are actually underneath the flowing river. This was done by coloring some parts of each image in detail, while fading other parts to look as though they are underneath water. "They are very interesting aesthetically," Ochs says. "They create a lot of mystery. People look at them and want to know what they are."

The cut lines and texture of the "current" also aid in this effect. To enhance the illusion of the river, the concrete was broomed in one direction to represent flowing water, and Ochs' partner, Gerald Taylor, scored in the curved lines.

In all, the process took almost 4 years to complete after Ochs proposed the idea to library director Bobby Roberts in November 2005. There was plenty of research, travel, and meeting with architects. "One of the most challenging aspects of public art is maintaining a momentum of excitement through the long process," Ochs says.

Clearly all that time didn't hurt Ochs, as he was able to create a truly unique piece of public art. He says that this is the largest and most complicated public art project he has created with decorative concrete to date.

☎ (870) 904-3512

🌐 www.saumag.edu/art/sochs.html



Colorado Mountain School Breckenridge, Colo. Contractor: Colorado Hardscapes Inc.

When OZ Architecture and general contractor FCI Constructors Inc. were hired to construct a building to house Colorado Mountain College's presence in Breckenridge, Colo., they knew they wanted to incorporate

decorative concrete into the project.

Their initial vision for the lobby floor was a simple grind followed by a Bomanite stain-and-seal finish, but Colorado Hardscapes Inc. of Denver, Colo., proposed a more elaborate concept, involving polished concrete with decorative radial saw cuts and caulking, says business developer Karen Van Heukelem, LEED AP, of Colorado Hardscapes.

Working in the lobby as well as on a staircase, Colorado Hardscapes used Bomanite's Patene Teres polishing system in conjunction with Bomanite's Ebony and Auburn stain colors. V cuts were made for aesthetic appeal and caulked to visually enhance the straight and radial saw cuts.

To obtain the job, Colorado Hardscapes submitted a bid to FCI. They showed the general contractor several photos of similar projects and completed two samples on-site before they were given the contract.

According to Van Heukelem, working with FCI was the best part of the project because of its attention to detail. "Before we came in they had torn up the floor twice because it wasn't up to their standards," she says.

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🌐 www.coloradohardscapes.com





Mona Park Pool Mural Compton, Calif. Contractor: Dakota Warren

Given a large project and a small budget, Dakota Warren of Los Angeles knew that concrete was the way to go. Warren was commissioned by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission to create a mural for the Mona Park swimming pool in Compton, Calif., on a wall that spanned 120 feet long and 8 feet high.

Warren was given the job after the Arts Commission contacted him and encouraging him to apply for the project. They remembered his work from a previous bid he entered, and felt he would likely be a good match for the mural job.

"They weren't quite sure what to do with this wall," Warren says.

Although he does many of his murals with ceramic tiles, he felt that concrete would lend a more classic appeal to this project. "It gives it a really nice effect," he says of the concrete. "It worked out perfectly."

The original wall was constructed out of cinder blocks,

so the first step was to resurface it with Surecrete Wall Spray using a hopper and trowel it back. Warren stained the wall using Deso Dyes from Colormaker Floors. Pieces of ceramic, aluminum and glass were planted into recesses in the wall after the concrete had cured.

Working through the unseasonably hot summer temperatures was a challenge for Warren, as was keeping the project at a low cost.

"Because it was a really big wall and the budget wasn't huge, I basically did the entire thing by myself," he says.

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Photo courtesy of Hunt Valley Contractors Inc.

Memorial Sign Frederick County, Md. Contractor: Hunt Valley Contractors Inc.

When the Maryland State Highway Administration contacted Hunt Valley Contractors Inc. president Tom Sparks to construct a sign for a newly dedicated section of Interstate 70, he viewed it as a great way to give back to the community.

The 40-mile stretch of freeway is now known as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway, with a sign from Hunt Valley marking it at each end. A veteran himself, Sparks worked with the highway administration and a Korean War veterans group in Frederick County to come up with a design and plan for the marker. "We worked with them very closely on the engineering and constructability of it," he says.

Each sign is approximately 8 feet tall, 16 feet wide and 12 inches thick. The base of each sign is constructed out of cast-in-place concrete, while the rest

was done with precast. The combination was done to help keep the overall weight to a minimum.

"We wanted to be able to lift it and move it around with a reasonable-sized crane," Sparks says.

The shape of Korea was created using a styrofoam cutout of the country. The South Korea portion was poured directly to the sign, while the North half was poured separately and attached with a metal plate.

In order to keep costs down, Sparks says, several local companies donated time and materials to the project. Sparks subbed out the concrete base to McGuire Inc. of Baltimore, and Back River Supply Inc. of Maryland poured the actual sign.

"A lot of things were donated," he says. "It was all in the spirit of giving back something to the community, especially the veterans."

📞 (410) 356-9677

🌐 www.huntvalleycontractors.com



Photos courtesy of Donnie Vachon

Soundproofing Panels

San Diego County, Calif.

**Contractors: U.S. Precast Concrete Group,
New Images Concrete Construction**

When U.S. Concrete Precast Group was hired to develop sound-dampening concrete wall panels alongside California Route 125, the original plan was to create texture on only one side of the 4-by-8 panels. However, a decision was made to have texture on both sides of the panels after the molds were created.

Instead of redoing the molds, U.S. Precast called on Donnie Vachon of New Images Concrete Construction to stamp the plain side of every one of the 126 panels. And with a background in the precast industry, he was just the guy for it.

Because the pattern on one side of the panels needed to match the other side, Vachon contacted Proline Concrete Tools. Together, they were able to create a set of stamps that produced a pattern identical to the original.

The team also had to engineer a new liquid stamp release. The form liners in each piece kept bleed water from escaping into soil, so the water had to come out of the top. That made stamping difficult. Trials were done with existing stamp releases, but they didn't cut it, and a special mix needed to be created.

Waiting for the bleed water to escape from the top of each panel also affected the stamping process, Vachon says. "Timing was a whole lot more critical. You had to wait for that to happen, and once it was out, boom, it was ready to go."

Vachon says that he would often wait around 5 or 6 hours for bleed water to come out, and then only have 15 minutes to stamp a set of 5 panels. When there are more than a hundred panels, this is tough. 📱

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Photo courtesy of Concrete Central

This counter by New York-based Concrete Central is a retail display piece for Nassau Suffolk Lumber & Supply Corp.

Recycled Glass Aggregate

by David Thompson

At a busy street corner in Beverly Hills, motorists fill their tanks at the world's first LEED-certified gas station, which features a gleaming canopy of recycled aluminum that looks like a cross between a UFO and a vintage Airstream trailer. The BP service station, called Helios House, is as green as a place selling fossil fuel can be, from the solar panels and drought-tolerant landscaping on the roof to the crushed and tumbled Coke bottles and post-industrial mirror shards in the concrete pavement.

The recycled glass aggregate in the concrete not only adds to the LEED points, it also complements — and literally mirrors — the structure's design.

That combination of environmental and aesthetic qualities underscores the appeal of glass aggregate: It's good for the planet, and looks good too.

Mike Miller, founder of the group of northern California artisans known as The

Concretist and the contractor behind Helios House's concrete, is a big proponent of glass aggregate. He's such a fan that the exposed aggregate in the concrete floor in his office is a mix of crushed and tumbled red brick and 3/4-inch pieces of amber-colored beer bottles. His partner, Kelly Burnham, is also a fan. Her office floor contains fist-sized chunks of post-industrial lampshades mixed with broken ashtrays and pieces of steel.

"Kelly and I really like glass," Miller says. "We consider it a very simple, basic, important building material, just like wood, steel, stone and concrete itself."

Glass brings a whole new set of variables to a concrete artisan's palette. The most unique is probably depth. Unlike rock, sand and other kinds of aggregate, glass aggregate allows you to actually see into the matrix. The lighter the glass, the stronger the effect.

Glass also multiplies color and contrast possibilities. Combining light and dark



Block-outs in this market floor were seeded with transparent, round and polished jelly bean glass and exposed through washing to maintain aggregate clarity and a river-pebble profile.



The studio floor at the Benicia, Calif., office of The Concretist was seeded with broken post-industrial glass and bits of scrap steel, then diamond-ground for better exposure and sealed with a solvent-based acrylic.

colors of glass for a terrazzo effect is one popular approach, and coordinating a single color of glass with the color of the matrix is another.

Steve Melnick, owner of Concrete Central in Huntington, N.Y., says that the numerous choices can actually overwhelm clients.

"We offer the entire Benjamin Moore color wheel plus 40 or 50 stains," he says. "When you add glass aggregate and all of its variations, it gets really

mind-boggling. So you have to really sit down and help people design what they want."

Glass aggregate is typically graded by size, and sizes can range from sand-like powder to fist-sized chunks. Using finely ground clear glass in place of sand can make for purer colors of the matrix. Finely ground glass also lends itself nicely to highly polished finishes. Putting a high polish on concrete loaded with finely ground, earth-toned

glass aggregate can create marble or granite effects.

Blending glass with other types of aggregate can create interesting contrasts. In Charleston, S.C., Harry Gressette of Grescon Construction LLC mixes glass with exotic stone, such as white marble, cherry granite, and — one of his favorites — Nova Scotian granite.

"The Nova Scotian granite is white with black speckles, and it's really

How to Seed Glass Aggregate: Tips from a Pro

Harry Gressette of Grescon Construction LLC in Charleston, S.C., puts enough glass in his concrete each year to fill two tractor trailers. So he knows the ins and outs of exposed glass aggregate. Here are a few tips for creating exposed glass aggregate floors that he shared with *Concrete Decor*:

1. Make sure the substrate is clean — in other words, shotblasted.
2. To get good coverage when seeding, use at least 3 pounds of glass per square foot of floor.
3. Seed the edges as thoroughly as the rest of the floor. There's nothing worse than an otherwise good-looking exposed glass aggregate floor with little or no glass on the edges.
4. Wash the glass well, and keep it moist while seeding. This will

reduce pop-outs.

5. Make sure the glass is not thicker than the depth of the pour.
6. When seeding, always start at the back of the room and work toward the door so you don't step in what you've just broadcast.
7. Wear spiked shoes and always lift your feet straight up and down. Never drag the spikes through the concrete, and don't even graze the surface. You can't float out tears that go all the way down to the subfloor. Four days later, when you start to polish, you'll find voids that look like pine straw and holes that look like golf tees. Ask me how I know. (I would have had to fire myself for that one!)
8. For large rooms, have someone floating or running a blue steel smoother over the seeded

areas to embed the glass as you go.

9. Glass sinks in wet concrete faster than it does in stiff concrete. When pouring, keep a wet edge, and when seeding, move fast so you can get the aggregate in before the slump changes. That way, if there's any settling of the aggregate, it's all at the same rate.
10. Seed heavily around protruding pipes, electrical boxes, etc.
11. Screed with a gauge rake before seeding, and float with a blue steel smoother or large magic trowel. Don't use a bull float — it's too heavy and will move the glass around, causing bald spots.
12. Wait at least four days before polishing, so you get good aggregate lock.



beautiful, especially with dark blue glass,” Gressette says.

To maximize concrete’s environmental friendliness, recycled glass aggregate can be used integrally as a substitute for some or all of the stone aggregate. But to ensure maximum coverage, contractors typically seed the glass, float it into the wet concrete, then trowel the surface closed.

Exposed glass aggregate is revealed just as other exposed aggregates are, typically through washing, diamond grinding or sandblasting.

The clarity of the glass can be a factor in picking the method used to

reveal it. A supertransparent glass, for instance, will lose clarity with sandblasting. Washing or diamond grinding and polishing would be better options in that case.

Decorative concrete industry instructor Glen Roman once worked on a job with Las Vegas contractor Chief Concrete for an auto dealership that wanted the logos of Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep to appear in a trio of concrete pads where the cars would be displayed. Chief Concrete seeded black glass into the freshly poured pads, gave the surface a very light broom finish, sealed the concrete, applied stencils, and sandblasted away, revealing deep black logos in the gray concrete.

“We sandblasted into the night,” he says. “It was a tough haul but it came out great. Unfortunately, the only time you could really see it was right after we finished. Now it’s covered with cars.”

Cullet vs. specialty glass

Glass aggregate can be obtained from a variety of sources. Regional recycling centers may have cullet — crushed bottles and other

Black glass was seeded into freshly poured concrete pads at a Las Vegas auto dealership.

Glass Acts More Decorative Materials Made With Recycled Glass

Not all of the recycled glass aggregate used these days goes into concrete. Here’s a quick look at some decorative building alternatives made possible by recycled glass:

The Spanish company Cosentino, the world’s largest manufacturer and importer of natural quartz, puts recycled glass, porcelain, and scrap from stone quarries into a countertop alternative it calls Eco by Cosentino. Seventy-five percent of Eco by Cosentino comes from recycled materials, all held together with a binder made partly from corn oil. Eco slabs come in various dimensions and thicknesses, 10 colors, and either a polished or a matte leather finish.

Texas-based EnviroGlas uses recycled glass and porcelain in a resinous binder to make a terrazzo-style countertop slab known as EnviroSlab. With 23 resin colors, aggregate available in six sizes and 18 colors (including two photoluminescent colors), and either a matte or a high-gloss finish, there’s plenty of variety. For floors the company has a tile-sized version called EnviroPlank, as well as a pour-in-place product called EnviroTraz, which — at less than \$1 per square foot — is a good choice for big public spaces.

Glass aggregate is also a key component in an industrial flooring system called GR Stonclad, made by a New Jersey company called Stonhard. The glass is mixed with an epoxy resin, an amine curing agent, and soy-based additives to form a surface resistant to chemicals, abrasion and wear. It comes in a dozen standard colors, with custom colors available.

www.ecobycosentino.com

www.enviroglasproducts.com

www.stonhard.com

Photos courtesy of Chief Concrete





Photo courtesy of Concrete Central

A 1/2-inch thick countertop made with integral color and recycled glass aggregate. The inlaid trivet is made out of stainless steel bolts.

glass — cleaned and sorted by size and color. Nationally, specialty glass manufacturers melt down bottles and other recycled glasses to produce glass aggregate for terrazzo floor contractors, landscapers and decorative concrete artisans.

Sometimes concrete artisans simply use what they have on hand.

While conducting a concrete countertop training seminar, Scott Hogue of Artistic Concrete Surfaces LLC in Spokane, Wash., used crushed blue Skyy Vodka bottles and brown Henry Weinhard's beer bottles as an exposed aggregate.

Why that combination?

“Cause that’s what the guys were drinking,” he says.

Cullet tends to be flatter and less translucent than the specialty glasses, which typically have fuller, more irregular shapes, like crushed gravel. The purer colors and clarity of specialty glasses appeal strongly to many artisans. But others prefer cullet because its flatness means it takes less grinding to expose.

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At a Las Vegas auto dealership, Chief Concrete broadcasts black glass onto a wet concrete pad, then floats it into the concrete surface with magnesium bull floats.



Adhesive stencils are laid in rows.



After the stencil has been adhered, computer-rendered precut material was removed, revealing the final design of the Dodge logo. Panel seams and exposed edges are being covered for sandblasting, which will expose black glass aggregate in the gray concrete.

The color choices among specialty glasses go far beyond the limited colors of cullet. The irregularly shaped glass aggregate sold by American Specialty Glass in North Salt Lake, Utah, comes in 23 colors. Sizes range from a talc-like sand substitute to 1/2 inch to 8-inch chunks. The company's jelly bean glass, which looks so much like the candy it's named after that it comes with a do-not-eat warning, is available in 13 flavor-themed colors, such as Root Beer and Concord Grape.

The company will send you few free samples upon request, or, for \$10, a complete terrazzo floor sample kit.

Perhaps the biggest drawback to using glass aggregate is its potential to trigger an alkali silica reaction (ASR). This occurs when silica in the glass combines with the alkali in the portland cement to form a gel that swells in the presence of moisture. The reaction might happen right away or it might not happen for decades, but in either case it can lead to cracking. Any source of moisture can set it off, including excess water in the concrete, mopping, and so on.

But ASR can be prevented. Engineers at Columbia University who work to develop more environmentally friendly building materials have found that the reaction doesn't happen if the glass is ground finely enough to pass through 50-mesh or smaller screen. They also report that green glass does not cause ASR, thanks to the chromium oxide that gives the green glass its color.

And the researchers found that the mineral admixture metakaolin will suppress the reaction when it replaces at least 20 percent of the portland cement — an effective but expensive solution.

Other studies have shown that fly ash, a cheaper alternative to metakaolin, also suppresses ASR.

An East Coast company called CeraTech Inc. uses fly ash as the main ingredient in Eccorok, a substitute for portland cement in countertops and other architectural surfaces. When Eccorok is used with recycled glass aggregate, it produces a concrete composed of nearly 100 percent recycled materials, which is good for both



Glen Roman sandblasts a portion of the Chrysler logo at the dealership.



Completed concrete pads represent vehicle makes sold.

sustainability and marketability.

"I am not an environmentalist," says Mark Celebuski, general manager of Pinnacle Cast Concrete in Brownstown, Penn., who helped CeraTech adapt Eccorok for countertops. "But if I can make things people want to buy and they're green, I'd rather do that."

www.americanspecialtyglass.com

www.ceratec.com



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Product Profile



Photo courtesy of HP Spartacote LLC

Sparta-Stain from HP Spartacote LLC

by Chris Mayo

Many companies might have been satisfied with creating a successful coating system that has steadily gained in popularity. Wilmer Rowe, chief chemist of HP Spartacote LLC, is cut from a different cloth. Taking inspiration from some of the staining exhibits at World of Concrete, he began working toward creating stains that would integrate with HP Spartacote's polyaspartics.

HP Spartacote introduced Sparta-Stain in March 2009. The semitransparent, dual-component stain is a polyaspartic system that also acts as a sealer. The base component

contains the pigment and a polyaspartic compound. The other component is an isocyanate hardener. When the components are mixed equally, the staining product provides excellent penetration into properly prepared concrete, as well as the high level of adhesion and durability for which polyaspartics are known, Rowe says. Sparta-Stain is available in 12 translucent base colors.

"We've always felt that we have a unique product in our polyaspartic system, and we're proud that we own the patent on the index for the formula," says HP Spartacote marketing director

Ben Grier. "If there has been a downside, it has been that color and pattern options were, until now, somewhat limited. Before Sparta-Stain, decorative touches were achieved via color chips or sparkles. Now contractors can achieve an acid-stain, mottled or faux finish look, or even mosaics with a little taping off."

Polyaspartics offer a number of benefits to the decorative concrete contractor: rapid cures (within 30 to 45 minutes), UV stability, and high abrasion and stain resistance. A polyaspartic topcoat can typically withstand vehicle traffic within 24 hours of application. The challenge was to create a stain that wouldn't diminish the existing properties that polyaspartics offer the decorative concrete contractor.

"Sparta-Stain has the same strength and durability as our original polyaspartic floor system," Rowe says. "One of the challenges was to determine the right amount of solids in the base coat. We wanted vibrant colors, penetration into the concrete and the semitransparency that you see in most stains, yet we wanted to maintain the polyaspartic aspect of high stain and abrasion resistance and UV durability."

David Schneider, owner of Global Garage Flooring & Design in Denver, recently added Sparta-Stain to his repertoire. It's easy to apply and sets up quickly, he says. "I've used it on jobs as big as large warehouses to as small as residential garage floors. The quality of the end product is second to none — excellent UV durability, it doesn't scratch or wear, and it doesn't delaminate."

By rolling or spraying multiple layers of stain, Schneider can create an endless array of colors, he says. "The durability is the same as with the original product and the time-frame advantage — done in a day — offsets any difference in cost."

Developing a polyaspartic polyurea semitransparent stain and sealer was a huge research and development challenge, says HP Spartacote president Sean Shiers. "We needed to ensure that contractors know they're getting the same quality that we've given them with the flooring products. Contractors can either use the stain as a stand-alone system or seal the stained surface with our original sealer. Now the challenge lies in educating contractors in the plethora of options available. To meet this challenge, we've stepped up our training efforts and look forward to our live demonstration at this year's World of Concrete."

From Shiers' point of view, the speed and ease of Sparta-Stain application coupled with the durability of a polyaspartic coating is the real achievement. "When you consider that applying other stains is a multiday, high man-hour proposition, and add to that the durability and longevity of our patented polyaspartic coatings, we think we're offering contractors a great alternative."

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Dust Containment Equipment

CDCLarue Industries Inc. — Pulse-Bac 1000 Series

CDCLarue Industries Inc. has introduced the Pulse-Bac 1000 Series. The series consist of three new models: the PB-1050, PB-1150 and PB-1250.

All three models are equipped with an exclusive CDM system that lowers dust and debris inside the tank during operation, preventing the debris from continually cycling up to the filters. Also included is a tank capacity sensor system that warns the user when debris has reached a predetermined level. If the user does not empty the tank or shut off the machine in a timely manner, the TCS system will automatically shut off the vacuum.

All Pulse-Bac dust collection systems come equipped with filters that allow the Pulse-Bac filtration systems to capture dust particles as small as 0.1 micron.

[\(866\) 954-9700](tel:8669549700)

www.cdclarue.com



CS Unitec Inc. — CS 1500

The compact CS 1500 wet/dry vacuum from CS Unitec Inc. is ideal for concrete and masonry dust and debris cleanup. The vacuum's heavy-duty plastic polyfilter bag holds up to 10 gallons of fine dust and allows for simple, safe disposal of waste. Additionally, the CS 1500 can be used with a porous slurry filter bag to capture the heavy waste encountered while drilling or sawing wet concrete. The CS 1500 features a water detection sensor with automatic switch-off when the maximum filling level in the tank is reached. The vacuum has a 13-gallon canister volume and a 25-foot cord.

To maintain maximum airflow and suction power, the CS 1500's Electromagnetic Pulse Filter Cleaning System automatically shakes

dust from the dual-filter system. The filters efficiently remove 99.93 percent of particles 0.3 microns and larger. HEPA filters are also available.

Also included is a nonstatic 15-foot heavy-duty vacuum hose that maintains its shape without kinks or knots. Optional accessories include a heavy-duty cleaning kit with wands, hose, crevice tool and floor-cleaning tool.

www.csunitec.com

Dustcontrol Inc. — DC3800c Twin Turbo

The DC3800c Twin Turbo from Dustcontrol Inc. is powerful enough for most applications, yet can be moved and transported easily.

It has a pre-separator and a filter unit on the same chassis. Eighty-five percent of the collected dust is separated out of the airstream in the pre-separator, allowing the filter to operate longer before cleaning is required.

The full line of Twin Turbos ranges from a small 115-volt unit to a three-phase power, 10-horsepower unit. A line of air-powered units is available as well.

[\(910\) 395-1808](tel:(910)395-1808)

www.dustcontrolusa.com

Dustless Technologies — DustBuddie

The DustBuddie dust shroud from Dustless Technologies is designed to fit all major makes and models of hand grinders. A 5-inch size fits both 4-inch and 5-inch grinders, and a 7-inch size fits 7-inch through 9-inch grinders.



The DustBuddie is made of durable clear polycarbonate for improved visibility. It is easy to install — once the existing guard is removed, simply slip the DustBuddie around the collar and tighten a band clamp. It features a removable front lip that enables an operator to grind up against a wall. This lip quickly and easily snaps in and out of place to maximize productivity. The brush skirt provides a cushion to help support the grinder and promote better control and smoother grinding.

The DustBuddie comes with an optional cover plate that enables an operator to perform dust-free tuck-pointing, decorative concrete cutting and crack chasing.

www.dustlesstechnologies.com

EDCO Inc. — Vortex 200

The Vortex 200 vacuum from EDCO Inc. is ideal for collecting concrete dust. It attaches to a variety of EDCO machines, including grinders and saws.

The vacuum features a 110-volt, 3.2 horsepower motor and has an airflow rate of 200 cfm. The tank capacity is 9 gallons, and a micro-clean filter is guaranteed for three years.



A larger version, the Vortex 290, is also available.

[\(800\) 638-3326](tel:(800)638-3326)

www.edcoinc.com

Hilti Corp. — TE DRS-B Dust Removal System

The Hilti Corp. TE DRS-B Dust Removal System clips onto all recent Hilti demolition hammers and combihammers. It reduces the operator's exposure to fine dust while increasing



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For durability, the TE DRS-B is made with long-lasting rubber.

(800) 879-8000

www.hilti.com

HTC Inc. — iAD Vacuum Series

HTC Inc.'s iAD vacuum series is comprised of the HTC 5 iAD, HTC 10 iAD and HTC 15 iAD. The series offer several advantages over traditional vacuums.

Features include an integrated pre-separator, automatic cleaning of filters, and maximal separation of small dust particles. Sizes range from 4 horsepower to 12 horsepower, with air intake at 293 cfm to 883 cfm, depending on the model.

www.htc-america.com



Husqvarna Construction Products — DC 5500

The DC 5500 from Husqvarna Construction Products provides industrial strength and performance for demanding industrial applications when high suction and flow are required to eliminate airborne dust.

This mobile and versatile unit can be used for both wet and dry applications when coupled with the Husqvarna PG 820 or PG 680. The DC 5500 has a three-way filtering system for efficient containment of dust and boasts an efficient particle filtration rate of 99.9 percent at 1 micron.

The vacuum is quiet in operation and compact in design. Its unique bag-disposal system keeps messy and hazardous substances contained.

www.husqvarna.com



Kut-Rite — KRV15 and KRV25

Kut-Rite now offers a new line of vacuums. The KleanRite vacuums are available in two models, the KRV15 and KRV25. Both models are equipped with self-cleaning Reverse Flow Technology, operate below 67 dba and are capable of operating wet or dry.

The KleanRite KRV25 is the more powerful model, generating up to 300 cfm. The KRV25 comes equipped with standard features that include 110-volt/220-volt operation, a quick-release debris removal tank, and an ergonomically designed mobile cart. The KRV15 has an airflow rate of 140 cfm.

The reverse-flow filter-cleaning technology helps ensure constant suction for any application. The ergonomically designed transport carts provide excellent maneuverability and enable simple transport from job site to job site. Dust extraction is a snap with either the tilt-tank or drop-tank option. Specially designed plastic or paper bags minimize contact with the debris collected.

www.kutritemfg.com





Shop-Vac Corp. — Drywall Vac

Shop-Vac Corp.'s Drywall Vac is ideal for cleaning cement dust and other fine particles.

The Drywall Vac has a 5-horsepower motor, 10-gallon plastic tank, 18-foot power cord, rear tool basket, and wet or dry fine-particle pickup filters.

Other features include a 12-foot lock-on hose, a 14-inch floor nozzle, and extension wands.

www.shopvac.com

Superabrasive Inc. — Lavina vacuums

Lavina vacuums from Superabrasive Inc. (models 1150, 1250 and 2150) feature patented self-cleaning Pulse-Bac technology and provide maximum operational reliability. They are ideal for vacuuming up fine powders when working with concrete, terrazzo and any other noncombustible dry material.

The filtration technology automatically and continually flushes dust and debris off the filters while you work, preventing them from clogging and helping the machine maintain lift and suction from start to finish. The Lavina 1150 and 1250 models are lightweight vacuums suitable for use with smaller and medium-sized floor grinding and polishing machines, whereas the Lavina 2150 model is a more

powerful vacuum designed for large machines. The Lavina 2150 vacuum also features a tank sensor located inside the upper collection chamber, which warns the user when debris inside the collection chamber has reached a predetermined amount.

[\(800\) 987-8403](tel:8009878403)

www.superabrasive.com



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New Stonblend ideal for commercial applications

Stonhard's new Stonblend GSI-G epoxy mortar flooring system is ideal for projects in healthcare, education, retail and public settings.

Recycled brown, green and blue glass chips are blended together with color-coated aggregate to create a terrazzo-like appearance. Stonblend GSI-G has a low-gloss finish and is extremely easy to maintain. It's offered in six standard colors, and custom variations are also available.

This system offers a new option in floor design, a commitment to environmentally conscious standards, and Stonhard's promise of durability and wearability.

[\(800\) 257-7953](tel:(800)257-7953)

www.stonhard.com

New wall coatings from Stonhard

Stonhard has expanded its product line with two new options for wall coatings.

The Stonglaze VSF wall system integrates decorative flakes and high-performance topcoats, providing a

durable system with entirely new design options. VSF's glossy finish is long-lasting, easy to clean, meets tight installation schedules, and is an effective solution for healthcare, pharmaceutical, education, manufacturing and retail settings. Eight completely new color options have been developed for this system.

Stonglaze VSI is an epoxy wall system designed for application over drywall that incorporates glass microfiber additives for increased resistance to cracking, chipping and punctures. The result is a smooth, durable, tile-like finish that is suitable for a multitude of environments, including healthcare, education, pharmaceutical and food processing.

Both the VSI and VSF systems are available in a wide array of colors and blends, with custom colors available.

www.stonhard.com

Now to the Lavina line

Superabrasive Inc. has introduced three products to the Lavina SPS line of chemicals.

Lavina SPS Premium Densifier enables diamonds to grind at their highest potential. The patented formulation penetrates and reacts quickly to produce better initial and ultimate hardness. It also provides better abrasion resistance than conventional hardeners and produces fast surface gloss, which improves with traffic and maintenance. With an easy one-step application process, SPS Premium Densifier may be applied to broom-finished, steel-troweled, power-troweled or burnished concrete floors. It cures quickly — most floors can be opened to traffic within 1 hour of treatment. Treated surfaces are easy to maintain and require no waxing.

Lavina SPS Glow is a gloss-

enhancing, micro-impregnating, lithium silicate concrete hardener and sealer. In combination with Superabrasive diamonds, Lavina SPS Glow produces an ultra-high-gloss finish on any floor.

Lavina SPS Klean is a cleaner that contains lithium silicate. It keeps concrete floors and countertops looking and performing their best.

☎ (800) 987-8403

🌐 www.superabrasive.com

New crack repair product

Roadware Inc.'s MatchCrete Clear is a two-component polyurethane for repairing cracks, spalls and joints in concrete subject to UV exposure from sunlight. It can be used to repair building entryways, pool decks, stamped concrete, colored concrete and exposed aggregate.



The material is crystal clear in appearance when applied and cured. Colored sand and pigments may be added to create color-stable repairs that match almost any decorative type or shade of concrete surface. MCC will resist UV yellowing over time and is an excellent choice for repairing cracks, hairline or larger, in exterior or interior applications subject to direct sunlight. The very low-viscosity material penetrates deep into cracks and cures in about 30 minutes.

☎ (800) 522-7623

🌐 www.concretemender.com

Portable vacuum from Ruwac

Ruwac has introduced the durable, fully portable, dual-motor Little Red WNS 2220 vacuum for the concrete industry. The Little Red WNS2220 offers the concrete industry a 3-year filter guarantee and lifetime vacuum housing guarantee.

As Ruwac's most compact machine, Little Red is easy to use for picking up both concrete chips and fine powders, and can be adapted for use with grinders, scarifiers, polishing equipment, shotblasters, tuck pointers, prepreparation systems, point-of-source extraction, or general maintenance.

Little Red is easily maneuverable and capable of moving 200 cfm. Little Red's oversized, long-lasting MicroClean filter is 99.9 percent efficient at 0.5 microns, allowing large quantities of fine material to be collected without loss of suction, and is HEPA-ready for absolute filtration. Loose debris is dropped out of the filter with a newly redesigned, maintenance-free filtration system, extending filter



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Compact MINI touch-up gun from DeVilbiss

DeVilbiss has introduced the Compact MINI touch-up gun.

The MINI is a gravity spray gun with many practical uses, including fine shading, retouching, stenciling, spot repair and reworking.

A fine-finish spray gun, the Compact MINI incorporates sensitive fan control into the comfort of a full-sized



gun. This spray gun has the pattern range and versatility needed for top-quality fine finishing, including touch-up applications. Available with HVLP or Trans-Tech air cap technologies, the Compact MINI is suitable for solvent and water-based paints as well as stains and varnishes, inks and dyes, and lacquers. Features include anodized, forged aluminum bodies, stainless steel fluid tips and needles, nickel-plated brass knobs, balanced air valve design, and an antistatic plastic cup with threaded lid.

☎ (800) 992-4657

🌐 www.devilbiss.com

Broadcast gun introduced by Kraft Tool

Kraft Tool Co. has introduced a simple and efficient alternative to inconsistent hand-thrown distribution of vinyl colored flakes with the PC801 Broadcast Gun & Hopper.

The traditional practice of hand-throwing chips is quick and easy. However, this method can leave clumps

of too many chips and areas with too little color.

With the PC801, simply attach the quick coupler to an air hose and compressor that produces around 15 psi, and you are ready to broadcast decorative vinyl color chips evenly, efficiently and under your complete control. With the variable psi setting, you can easily broadcast chips over 20 feet or reduce the psi for a natural floating of chips onto the surface. The broadcast gun will result in a fast, efficient and sharp-looking design as well as a significant reduction in chip usage.

☎ (800) 422-2448

🌐 www.krafttool.com



Super concentrate cleaning power by the ounce

Prosoco Inc.'s new Consolideck LSKlean Super Concentrate packs hundreds of square feet of concrete-floor cleaning power into each ounce of easy-to-mix blue liquid.

That makes LSKlean Super Concentrate economical to transport and saves valuable shelf and storage space. It also minimizes disposal costs for empty containers.

The new super-concentrate version of Prosoco's popular maintenance floor cleaner is available in container sizes from 5 gallons to four-ounce "pillow-pack" PAX containers. With the PAX containers, simply dump the fluid into a bucket or autoscrubber with 5 gallons of fresh water and a quick stir, and you're ready to take on hundreds or thousands of square feet of finished concrete floor.

LSKlean contains lithium silicate. Its specialized blend of degreasers and detergents removes most common soiling found on concrete floors. It's ideal for concrete floors everywhere, from steel-troweled warehouse and manufacturing plant floors to burnished and highly polished floors in schools, stores, hospitals and restaurants.

Though LSKlean Super Concentrate is specifically designed for lithium-silicate hardened/densified floors,

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it brings its cleaning and hardening benefits to untreated concrete floors as well. It was made for regular maintenance cleaning, but it is also perfect for light restoration cleaning of old concrete floors.

 www.prosoco.com

Oil stain remover released

Supreme Chemicals has launched an oil stain remover. Oil Grabber is a citrus-based product that absorbs and lifts embedded oil stains (no scrubbing needed) as it dries from liquid to powder. It also removes stains left by antifreeze, brake fluid, cooking oils, diesel fluid, grease, hydraulic fluid, tar, transmission fluid, tree sap and wax.

Unlike conventional degreasers, Oil Grabber is first absorbed into the substrate, then pulls the stains out



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as it dries into a powder, which can then be brushed from the surface. It will even remove old stains. It is ideal for driveways, garage floors, patios, walkways and factory floors. While the main application for Oil Grabber is on concrete, it can also be used on asphalt, masonry, wood, and composite decks.

☎ (800) 466-7126

🌐 www.krudkutter.com

New barrier from Sto

Sto Corp. has introduced StoGuard RapidSeal, a one-component air barrier and waterproof material used to protect rough openings and for transition detailing in above-grade wall construction.

Benefits of StoGuard RapidSeal include fast cure time, the ability to be installed even in near-freezing temperatures, and low VOC emissions. It is a high-build, tough, resilient surface

with excellent elongation and water-vapor permeability. StoGuard RapidSeal is compatible with most urethane and silicone sealants and coatings.

☎ (800) 221-2397

🌐 www.stocorp.com

Laser measuring tool from Dewalt

Dewalt has debuted the DW030, a laser distance measurer that provides users with a quick and efficient way to estimate space on the job site. The DW030 can be used to measure distance, square footage and volume.

Dewalt built the DW030 with a compact design and rubber over-molding for easy grip and operation. Additionally, the unit has large, clearly marked buttons that allow users to quickly and accurately select units, area, distance and volume. For added ease of use, the DW030 has a backlight display for improved visibility on job sites.

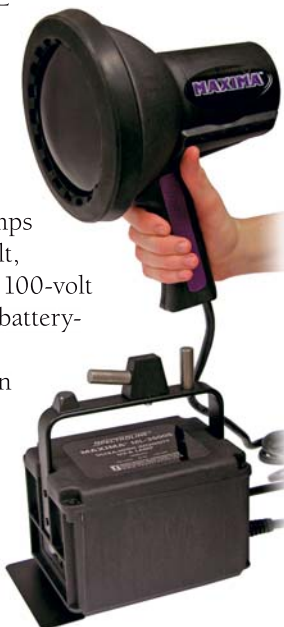
The DW030 is built to withstand a six-foot drop and is resistant to water and dust.

🌐 www.dewalt.com

UV lamp series introduced

The Maxima ML-3500 Series of ultraviolet lamps from Spectronics Corp. use advanced microdischarge light technology, plus a unique filter and bulb/reflector, to deliver up to 10 times the UVA output of conventional HID inspection lamps. With the three lamps in this series — the ML-3500S, ML-3500D and ML-3500FL — NDT inspectors can see small surface defects, hydrocarbon contamination and other flaws that escape less powerful lamps.

Maxima Series lamps are available in 120-volt, 230-volt, 240-volt and 100-volt AC versions as well as battery-operated versions that come with a battery. An instant on/off/restrike feature eliminates lamp warmup and reduces inspection time. The lamps produce virtually zero hazardous UVB




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www.spectroline.com

New Impact Sockets from Hilti

Available in standard and deep configurations, the models in Hilti's new line of Impact Sockets are built for quick attachment and durable performance.

Hilti Impact Sockets are constructed of hardened alloy steel for long-lasting service. Use of the hardened alloy steel allows the socket walls to be thin for use in tight spaces, yet strong enough to handle the most difficult torque and working conditions. The quick attachment time of the new Hilti Impact Socket portfolio improves productivity. Two beveled detent holes allow quick attachment and increase attachment accuracy.

Built for use on 1/2-inch drive impact wrenches, sizes of the new Impact Socket line range from 3/8 inch to 15/16 inch. The Impact Socket line can be used for anchoring HUS and HCA coil, fastening lag bolts and bolting grades 2, 5 and 8 stainless steel or galvanized bolts. Along with the thin wall construction, the option of using deep sockets also aids in tight-space applications.

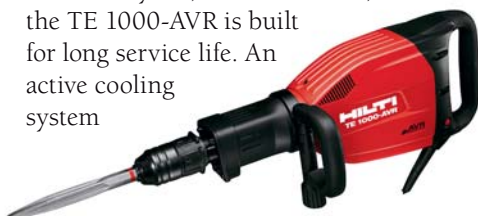
[\(800\) 879-8000](tel:(800)879-8000)

www.us.hilti.com

Hilti releases demolition tool

Featuring the lowest vibration in its class, the TE 1000-AVR from Hilti has the power for outstanding demolition productivity, yet offers the flexibility to reduce impact for precision work.

With 16 foot-pounds of energy, the TE 1000-AVR is a productive tool for a wide range of demolition applications. Powered by a 1,600-watt motor, the TE 1000-AVR is built for long service life. An active cooling system



reduces wear and tear, the three-chamber sealing helps keep dust out of the tool, and the innovative brushless SR motor eliminates the need to replace carbon brushes. The result is longer intervals between service and twice the expected tool life.

For precision work, the TE 1000-AVR's Power Reduction Switch cuts impact by 30 percent to improve handling and control in sensitive applications.

[\(800\) 879-8000](tel:(800)879-8000)

www.us.hilti.com

Husqvarna updates engines for EPA compliance

Husqvarna Construction Products has introduced Tier 3/Interim Tier 4 compliant diesel engines in all large flat saws to be in accordance with federal regulations.

The EPA's Clean Air Act requires certain air pollutants generated by diesel engines to be gradually reduced in four Tiers over several years. Currently, Tier 2 regulations are coming to a close

and Tier 3 regulations are becoming standard.

Tier 3/Interim Tier 4 engines reduce nitrogen oxide and hydrocarbon emissions. The engines run cleaner and the reduction in emissions will help improve the environment for the operator and surrounding communities.

www.husqvarna.com



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Association News


American Concrete Institute

Fall seminars offered

The American Concrete Institute will offer three educational seminars this fall to help concrete professionals remain up-to-date on concrete construction and technology.

The courses are Reinforced Concrete Design, Troubleshooting Concrete Forming and Shoring, and Troubleshooting Concrete Construction. Each course is offered in multiple locations across the country.

Attendees will receive 0.75 Continuing Education Units or 7.5 Professional Development Hours.

 (248) 848-3815


 www.concreteseminars.com

American Shotcrete Association

Papers explore repair, rehab with shotcrete

American Shotcrete Association has released a compilation of papers focusing on shotcrete's use in the repair and rehabilitation of infrastructure.

The 34-page book, "Infrastructure Repair & Rehabilitation Using Shotcrete," includes eight papers previously published in ASA's Shotcrete magazine. The document was created for distribution at the recent International Bridge Conference, held in Pittsburgh.

 (248) 848-3780

 www.shotcrete.org/RepairBulletin

International Concrete Repair Institute

Fall convention details announced

The International Concrete Repair Institute will hold its 2009 Fall Convention Oct. 21-23, 2009, at The Buttes in Tempe, Ariz. The convention theme for this event will be "Flooring Issues."

ICRI will offer 12 technical presentations by industry experts. Subject matter will include self-levelers, curing

issues, fixing new-construction problems, forensics, cracking and moisture testing.

In addition to these technical presentations, ICRI will introduce highlights of its new Slab Moisture Testing Technician Certification Program. This program was developed by ICRI to standardize moisture testing in the United States for consistent, accurate and truly representative results, which will allow flooring manufacturers, architects and contractors to make better decisions on when a concrete floor is ready for a floor covering.

The featured program will be the 17th Annual ICRI Project Awards banquet honoring the winners of the annual contest.

 www.icri.org


International Surface Fabricators Association

Sessions announced for ISFA's new countertop trade show

The International Surface Fabricators Association has announced a comprehensive conference program to be held in conjunction with its International Countertop Expo, which premieres Feb. 8-10, 2010, at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas.

The program will include sessions on marketing on a budget, bonding dissimilar surfaces, setting up a concrete shop, shop layout, and installation techniques, just to name a few. A highlight of the program will be a two-part session on "Emerging Products," which will give attendees a look at new materials and their properties.

The International Countertop Expo is owned and produced by ISFA.

 (877) 464-7732

 www.isfanow.org

National Center for Construction Education and Research

Course to include LEED Version 3

The National Center for Construction

Education and Research curriculum for "Your Role in the Green Environment" has been updated to include LEED Version 3 and a Training Course Study Guide: Preparation for Green Advantage Exam. This guide will assist students and practitioners in their preparations for the Green Advantage Commercial/Residential Certification Exam.

Additional enhancements to the updated green module include a list of common acronyms used in green building, updated statistics, revised and updated review and test questions; and a "Green Jobs" Initiative Framework chart. Additionally, the LEED for New Construction Project Checklist is now based on a 100-point model.

www.nccer.org

Portland Cement Association

Stimulus funds not affecting current cement consumption

Bureaucratic delays in releasing funds coupled with long lags between outlays and construction activity for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects will result in very little stimulatory impact on cement consumption in 2009, according to the most recent economic forecast from the Portland Cement Association.

PCA expects total cement consumption to decline 22 percent during 2009 to 75 million metric tons. The meeting of total ARRA obligations in 2010 combined with the beginning of a sustained pickup in the residential sector should contribute to a 10.9 percent increase in total cement consumption in 2010, followed by a 13.1 percent gain in 2011.

The public construction sector, which typically accounts for 50 percent of cement consumption, is also hampered by large state deficits caused by a perfect storm of adverse economic conditions and job layoffs, leading to declines in state tax revenue. Ed Sullivan, PCA chief economist, expects that as jobs are created and consumer spending returns, public construction spending will rebound, but not until 2011.

www.cement.org

Technical Institute for Polished Concrete

Specification updated

The Technical Institute for Polished Concrete has released the second version of its technical concrete polishing specification.

The specification takes into consideration all of the controllable variables when processing concrete to a polished finish. It is written in a format that allows any manufacturer or specifier to easily specify equipment and supplies while maintaining a solid foundation for installation.

The Technical Institute for Polished Concrete is an organization designed for polishing contractors by polishing contractors. It is dedicated to promoting mechanically ground, honed, and polished concrete through research, standards development, accreditation and education.

[\(410\) 643-4074](tel:4106434074)

www.polishinginstitute.org

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Vytaflex® 60 perfectly reproduced the stone detail for each panel.

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Restoration Contest

Show us your best work!

Enter your project into *Concrete Decor's* 2010 Concrete Restoration Contest, where we will highlight the top decorative concrete restoration jobs of 2009. Finalists will be showcased in *Concrete Decor's* February/March issue.

To enter, please send ALL of the following:

- Company name and contact information.
- Date and location of your project.
- A brief explanation of the project, including challenges you encountered, and a list of the tools and materials you used.
- Photos of the project. You must send before and after photos in order to be eligible.

* Photos must be high-resolution (300 dpi) in JPEG format.

* Qualifying entries must have been completed after October 30, 2008

Categories: Concrete Restoration (Indoors), Concrete Restoration (Outdoors)

Deadline: All entries must be submitted by **January 15, 2010**

Send materials to:

editor@protradepub.com

Questions? E-mail

emily@protradepub.com

or call (877) 935-8906

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THIRD ANNUAL

Concrete

The Journal of Decorative Concrete

Decor

Welcome to *Concrete Decor* magazine's third annual Decorative Concrete Training Guide – the industry's go-to source for locating training in virtually every aspect of decorative concrete. Whether you are interested in learning new skills or refining techniques you and your staff already use, the new Training Guide will point you in the right direction.

The Decorative Concrete Training Guide includes an A to Z Company Index that provides easy access to information about the industry's training opportunities. Also, a Training Index identifies the wide range of training services available and the companies that offer these specialized training opportunities.

Whether you are a beginner or advanced, the Training Guide helps you find classes that fit your specific

needs. It can direct you to training services offered in Spanish, online Webinars, books, DVDs, and even on-site training for your staff.

While this print Guide tells you who offers training, *Concrete Décor's* online Training & Events Calendar at www.ConcreteDecor.net tells you when and where classes are being held. Online calendar information is updated on a daily basis.

Keep this handy reference near you at all times. New business opportunities appear on the horizon every day. The Decorative Concrete Training Guide and the online Training & Events Calendar will help you get ready for whatever lies ahead.

Have questions? Give *Concrete Decor* a call at (877) 935-8906.

2009/10

Decorative Concrete TRAINING GUIDE

A



Arizona Polymer Flooring
7731 N 68th Ave
Glendale, AZ 85303
p: 800.562.4921 f: 623.435.8585
www.apfepoxy.com

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B



Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products
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www.buddyrhodes.com

Buddy Rhodes Artisan Concrete is dedicated to creating fine finished precast concrete by supplying materials, training, support and production to artisans and designers. We seek to inspire and educate emerging artisans in developing their skills, to assist designers in realizing their creations, and to manufacture and distribute the finest decorative concrete products available.

Butterfield Color
625 W. Illinois Ave
Aurora, IL 60506

P: 630.906.1980 f: 630.906.1982
www.butterfieldcolor.com

Butterfield Color manufactures a complete line of Decorative Concrete Products. Drawing on our extensive experience with installing decorative concrete, we provide an in-depth review of Butterfield Color products and tools used to color, stamp and pattern concrete. Continuing education presentations are also available for architects and other design professionals.

C



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p: 972.485.8648 f: 972.485.0339
www.chem-coat.com

Chem-Coat Industries Inc. became the First coating, sealer, and maintenance product manufacturer to launch and specialize in the concept of single source accountability in total floor care. We service national and international markets such as commercial, industrial, corporations, and institutions. The Chem-Coat package includes the coating, reactive acid stains, Dyes, Sealers and daily maintenance products. Chem-Coat Industries Inc. provides our customers high quality professional and personalized service, highly competitive pricing on the broadest selection of products, plus the convenience and simplification of our time-proven centralized system.

See our ad on Page 65 & 86 • Reader Service 07



CHENG Concrete
2808 San Pablo Ave
Berkeley, CA 94702

p: 510.849.3272 f: 510.849.3274
www.chengconcrete.com

CHENG Concrete offers the most complete concrete countertop product line and information. CHENG Concrete Training Academy provides comprehensive hands-on training on residential and commercial concrete applications focused on design and technical processes. Available programs include a 1-Day Concrete Countertops Essentials Workshop, 1/2-Day Outdoor Living Essentials Workshop, 3-Day Professional Concrete Countertop Training, 1-Day Professional Mold Making Training, 2-Day GFRC Countertop + Sink Training, 5-Day Advanced Countertop Design Training, and an Advanced Fireplaces, Islands + Walls Training. The leaders in concrete design training, CHENG Concrete has trained over 2,500 professionals and DIYs to date.

See our ad on Page 23 • Reader Service 08



Concrete Coatings Inc.
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p: 800.443.2871 f: 801.544.5896
www.concretecoatingsinc.com

Concrete Coatings Inc. has been a premier manufacturer of decorative concrete products since 1996. CCI strives to provide quality products and superior customer/ technical support. Concrete Coatings Inc offers both product demonstrations and training on-site or at our facility. Please feel free to browse our online catalog for further information.

See our ad on Page 15 • Reader Service 10



Concrete Coatings of Georgia
1092 W Atlanta St SE #250
Marietta, GA 30060

p: 770.426.1199 f: 678.388.9699
www.ccoga.com

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Concrete Countertop Institute, The
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Raleigh, NC 27607

p: 919.270.3707 f: 919.882.9700
www.concretecountertopinstitute.com

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Concrete Countertop Specialties
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Waite Park, MN 56387

p: 866.902.7311 f: 866.522.1817
www.concreteartisancooperative.com

The Concrete Artisan Cooperative is a new and innovative collaboration established between Blue Concrete and Concrete Countertop Specialties to bring the most proven and groundbreaking products, research & development, along with an industry-leading multifaceted training program to the concrete countertop fabricator and specialty concrete artisan.



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3904 Riley St
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www.concretesolutions.com

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D



Davis Colors
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p: 323.269.7311 f: 323.262.1780
www.daviscolors.com

Davis Colors is the leading U.S. producer of mix-in color additives for decorative concrete, concrete countertops and anything else that can be made of concrete. Davis Colors come in powder, liquid or granular form and are added to the mix with the exclusive Chameleon™ PC-operated automatic dosing system or with Mix-Ready® disintegrating bags. Davis Colors products are available through Ready-Mix suppliers and concrete building material dealers nationwide. Color cards, sample sets and specification information is available from dealers or direct from the company or at www.daviscolors.com.



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H



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See our ad on Page 51 • Reader Service 27

I



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P

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Proline Concrete Tools, this year celebrating their 20th anniversary, is a leading manufacturer of a full range of decorative concrete products including stamping tools, coloring systems and accessories. Originators of the Seamless Texturing system, Proline continues to set the standards in quality and innovation.

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S



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www.betterpaths.com

Bryan Gauthier is the founder of Something Better Co. and has been an established artisan for over 23 years. Bryan's giftings include being a sculptor, inventor, author, teacher, visionary, and is a multifaceted individual. Something Better Co. is active in over 195 Countries with hands-on & online training in the Decorative Concrete Industry. A provider of books, DVDs and specialty products for the trade. Those who know Bryan call him "MacGyver." He is able to see things much differently than the next guy. His top 3 passions are: a giving-it-all-out training approach, new product development and creating new concepts in the industry to pass on to students.



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W

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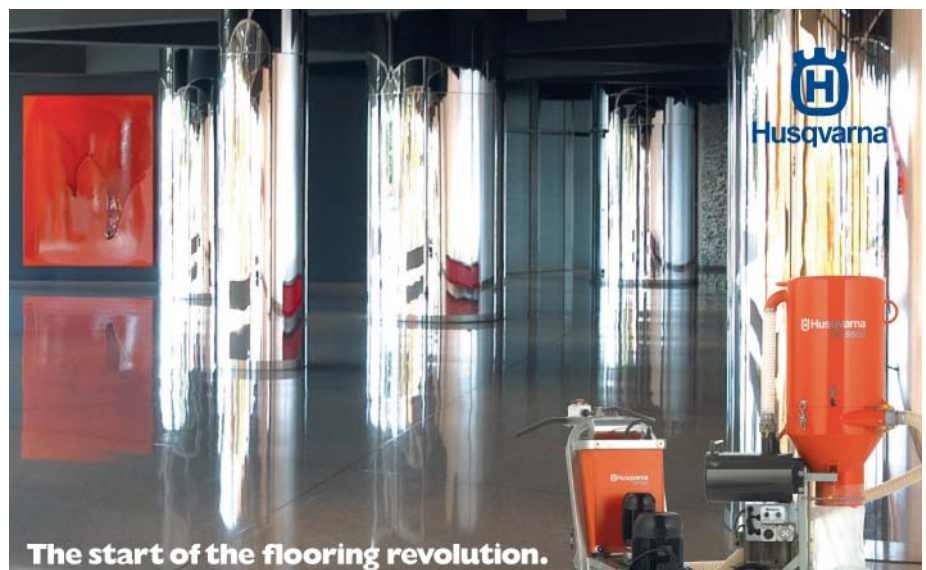
Wagner Electronics is the world leader in providing total moisture measurement solutions. In 2005, Wagner partnered with CTLGroup to develop the Rapid RH™, a fast, accurate moisture test for concrete floors. Wagner provides moisture measurement training webinars and technical support as well as many more educational resources on their website.

See our ad on Page 51 • Reader Service 58

Westcoat
770 Gateway Center Dr.
San Diego, CA 92102

p: 800.250.4519 f: 619.262.8606
www.westcoat.com

With over 28 years of industry experience, Westcoat offers innovative, durable surface solutions for the discriminating architect, contractor, specifier, or property owner. Westcoat's educational product trainings are free for licensed contractors, distributors and architects and provide a detailed demonstration of many of our coating systems. Visit www.westcoat.com for more information.



Husqvarna Hiperfloor™ is a flooring concept for the grinding and polishing of old and new concrete floors. Through market leading R&D strategies, Husqvarna has combined advancements in planetary floor grinders, floor treatment products and the latest resin diamond technologies to create a system whereby new and old concrete floors can be transformed into highly abrasion-resistant, incredibly dense, smooth and visually appealing surfaces.

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Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓									
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓						
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓		✓						✓
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Super-Krete International						✓		✓		
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

JOB SITE SAFETY										
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

MARKETING/PROMOTIONS										
Concrete Countertop Institute, The	✓	✓								
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

PROJECT MANAGEMENT										
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓						
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓		✓						✓
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

MICROTOPPINGS										
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

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Cementitious Overlays (Horizontal)

MICROTOPPINGS (Cont.)	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Elite Crete Products	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
SkimStone, a Rudd Company brand	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓									
Surfacing Technology LLC			✓	✓		✓				
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

SELF-LEVELING SYSTEMS										
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓								✓

SPRAY/KNOCKDOWN										
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓								✓
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓

STAMPED/TEXTURED										
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

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Cementitious Overlays (Horizontal) (Cont.)

STAMPED/TEXTURED (Cont.)	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Elite Crete Products	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓								✓
RubberDek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

TROWEL-APPLIED										
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓								✓
SkimStone, a Rudd Company brand	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

STAMPABLE / CARVABLE TOPPING										
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓								✓

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Cementitious Overlays (Vertical)

STAMPABLE / CARVABLE TOPPING (Cont.)	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Surfacing Technology LLC			✓	✓		✓				

THIN-SET TOPPING										
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Increte Systems, Inc.										✓
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓

FIREPLACES/FURNITURE/TILES										
Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products		✓	✓				✓	✓		
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
SkimStone, a Rudd Company brand	✓									

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Concrete Accessories

SCULPTURES/COLUMNS	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					

WATER FEATURES/FOUNTAINS	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Super-Krete International				✓		✓				✓

Concrete Coatings

COLOR QUARTZ	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓									
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

COVING COATINGS	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓								✓
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

EPOXY	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				

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Concrete Coatings (Cont.)

EPOXY (Cont.)	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

EPOXY AGGREGATES	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			

METALLICS	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Elite Crete Products	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

POLYASPARTIC	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
HP Spartacote, LLC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

POLYMERS	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							

POLYUREA	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Increte Systems, Inc.										✓
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

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Concrete Coatings (Cont.)

POLYURETHANE	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓									
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓									
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
SkimStone, a Rudd Company brand	✓	✓								

RUBBERIZED SURFACES										
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓								
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓								
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
RubberDek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓						

SEALERS										
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products	✓									
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Countertop Institute, The	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
HP Spartacote, LLC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓	✓							✓
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

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Concrete Coatings (Cont.)

VINYL FLAKE SYSTEMS	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓								✓
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

Concrete Coloring

COLOR RESTORATION											
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓					
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓			✓							✓
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓								
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓		✓		✓					
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			

COLOR THEORY											
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓			✓							✓
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓		✓		✓					

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Concrete Coloring (Cont.)

FAUX FINISHES	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
SkimStone, a Rudd Company brand	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓			✓						✓
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

INTEGRAL COLORING										
Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products	✓	✓	✓							
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Davis Colors						✓	✓	✓		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓		✓						✓
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓					✓		
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓

POWDER HARDENERS & RELEASES										
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
Proline Concrete Tools, Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓					✓		

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Concrete Countertops

CAST-IN-PLACE	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓						✓			
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

GFRC										
Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Concrete Countertop Institute, The			✓	✓		✓				
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			

PRECAST										
Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Concrete Countertop Institute, The	✓	✓		✓		✓				
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

RECYCLED GLASS/PORCELAIN										
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Concrete Countertop Institute, The	✓	✓		✓		✓				
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

RESURFACING OVERLAYS										
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓								
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓								
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			

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Concrete Countertops (Cont.)

RESURFACING OVERLAYS (Cont.)	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Surfacing Technology LLC			✓	✓		✓				

Concrete Curbing

EXTRUDING METHODS										
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
RubberDek	✓	✓	✓			✓				

Concrete Engraving

ETCHING										
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

SANDBLASTING										
CHENG Concrete	✓									

SCORING										
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Super-Krete International				✓		✓				✓

Concrete Fundamentals (Slab-On-Grade)

CONTROL JOINTS										
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓

FINISHING TECHNIQUES										
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓									✓
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

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Concrete Fundamentals (Slab-On-Grade) (Cont.)

FINISHING TECHNIQUES (Cont.)	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓

MIXTURES/ADDITIVES	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓

MOISTURE MEASUREMENT	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Wagner Electronics				✓	✓					

REINFORCEMENTS	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓				✓	✓			
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓									✓
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							

SUB-GRADE PREPARATION	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓									✓
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							

Concrete Lighting

FIBER OPTICS	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Concrete Countertop Institute, The				✓		✓				

PHOTO LUMINESCENT MATERIALS	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					

RECESSED	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		

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Concrete Polishing

COLORING POLISHED CONCRETE	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
PROSOCO	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Superabrasive Inc.	✓	✓		✓						
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

DENSIFIERS										
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
PROSOCO	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Superabrasive Inc.	✓	✓		✓				✓		
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

DRY GRINDING										
Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Kretus Group	✓	✓								
Superabrasive Inc.	✓	✓		✓				✓		

SEALERS										
Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				

Visit the online Training Calendar
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Concrete Polishing (Cont.)

SEALERS (Cont.)	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
PROSOCO	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Superabrasive Inc.	✓	✓		✓				✓		
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

WET GRINDING										
Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Countertop Specialties	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Superabrasive Inc.	✓	✓		✓						

Concrete Rock Features

STONE VENEER										
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

SYNTHETIC ROCK CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS										
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

Concrete Stains

ACRYLIC STAINS										
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓	✓							✓
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
Proline Concrete Tools, Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
PROSOCO	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

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Concrete Stains (Cont.)

DYES	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
CHENG Concrete	✓	✓								
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓								
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓								
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
PROSOCO	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Superabrasive Inc.	✓	✓		✓						
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

REACTIVE STAINS										
Arizona Polymer Flooring	✓	✓	✓							
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓	✓							✓
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

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Concrete Stains (Cont.)

SOY-BASED STAINS	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

Concrete Stamping/Texturing

BORDERS										
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							

SEAMLESS TEXTURING										
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓								
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓								
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

STAMPS										
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓								
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓								
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Proline Concrete Tools, Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							

TEXTURE MATS										
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓								
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓								
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		

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Concrete Stamping/Texturing (Cont.)

TEXTURE MATS (Cont.)	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Decorative Concrete Supply, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							

TEXTURE ROLLERS										
Something Better Co.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

Concrete Stenciling

EXISTING SURFACES										
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓			✓						
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
SkimStone, a Rudd Company brand	✓	✓								
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

NEW SURFACES										
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓							
Elite Crete Systems	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓			✓						
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
SkimStone, a Rudd Company brand	✓	✓								
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

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Concrete Surface Preparation/Repair

CLEANING/MAINTENANCE	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓								
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓								
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
PROSOCO	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Surface Gel Tek	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

COATING REMOVAL										
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
PROSOCO	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	

CRACK REPAIR										
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓	✓							
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		

CONCRETE MOISTURE MEASUREMENT										
Wagner Electronics				✓	✓					

DIAMOND GRINDING										
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							

Visit the online Training Calendar
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Concrete Surface Preparation/Repair (Cont.)

DIAMOND GRINDING (Cont.)	Seminars			Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online		Media		AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced		Webinars	Technical Support	Books	DVD/CD		
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Superabrasive Inc.	✓	✓		✓		✓				

JOINT REPAIR										
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
One Day Floors	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Super-Krete International						✓				

PATCHING / EPOXY POLYMER										
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Coatings Inc.	✓	✓								
Concrete Coatings of Georgia	✓	✓								
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			

SHOTBLASTING/SCARIFYING										
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Kretus Group	✓	✓	✓							
Super Stone Inc	✓	✓	✓							
Super-Krete International						✓				
Westcoat		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		

Concrete Walls/Forms

FORMS/FORMLINERS										
Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products	✓	✓	✓							
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
enCOUNTER	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓

STEPS/STAIRS										
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

STONE VENEERS										
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓			✓				

TILT-UP CONSTRUCTION										
Super-Krete International	✓	✓								

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Pool Decks/Coping

POOL DECKS/COPING	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Buddy Rhodes Concrete Products	✓									
Butterfield Color	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Increte Systems, Inc.	✓	✓		✓						✓
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		

Terrazzo

CEMENTITIOUS TERRAZZO	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

Waterproofing Systems

WATERPROOFING SYSTEMS	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced	Job Site Training/ Consulting	Online Webinars	Technical Support	Media Books	DVD/CD	AIA Credit	Offered in Spanish
Chem-Coat Industries, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Concrete Solutions, Inc.	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Super-Krete International	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				

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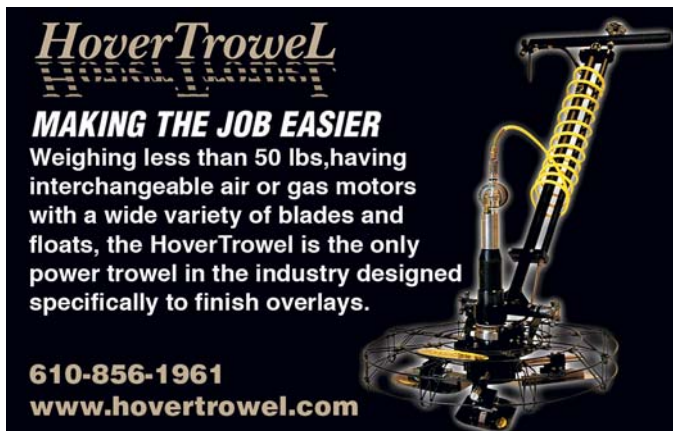
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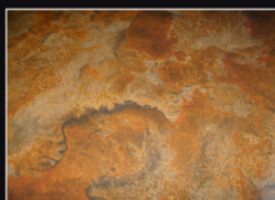
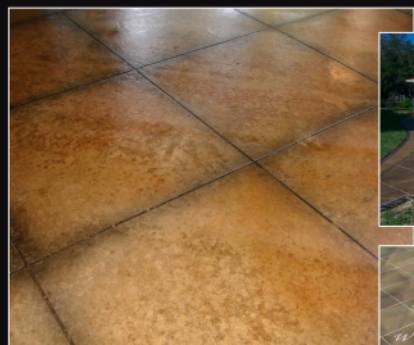
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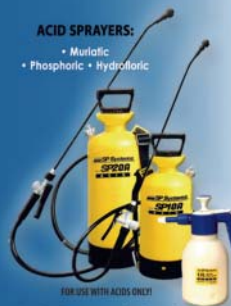
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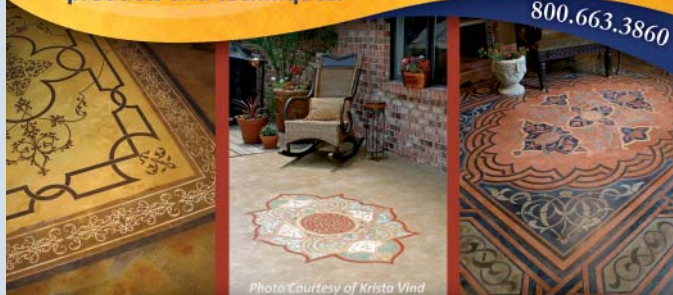


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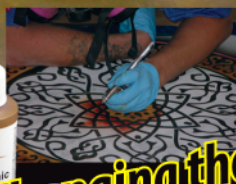
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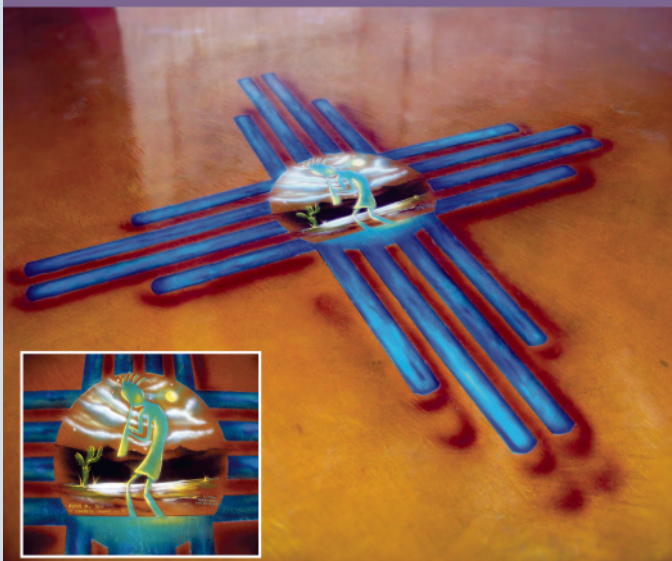
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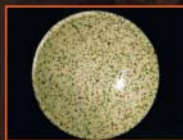
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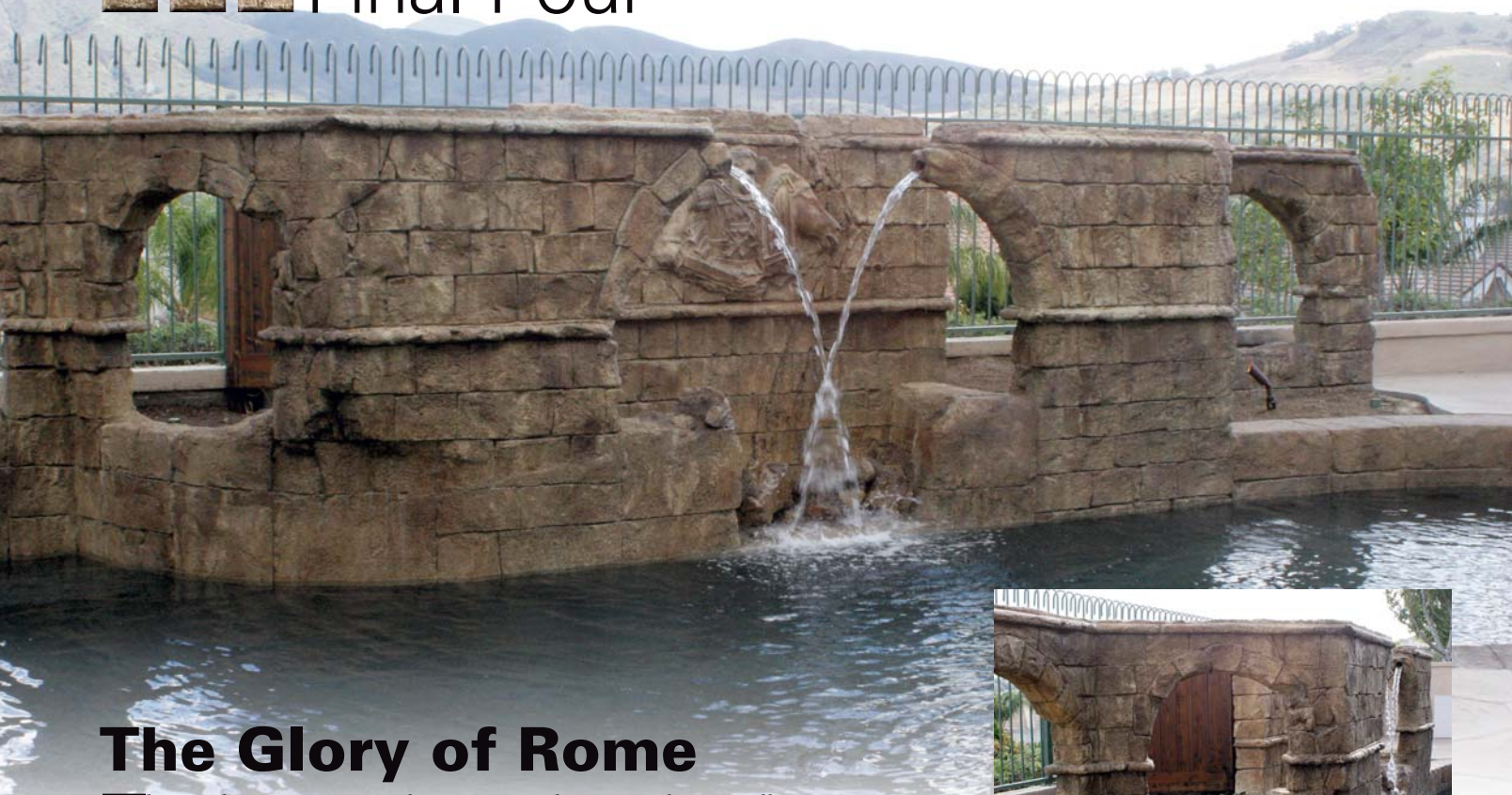
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Final Pour



The Glory of Rome

This working Roman aqueduct, completed in the fall of 2005 for a home in Dove Canyon, Calif., wasn't built in a day.

General contractor Suncoast Landscape Construction, of Chino Hill, Calif., hired Richard L. Winget and his firm, Authentic Environments, to install pool coping and 44 feet of aqueduct in a client's backyard, following plans by Pomona, Calif., landscape design outfit KJK Enterprises.

The Authentic Environments team, who bill themselves as "artisans and relief sculptors of themed concepts" had to wrestle with the aqueduct concept a bit to get the structure off the ground. "During the design process, we discovered that a six-foot-tall aqueduct would be too overbearing in this small yard and the curvilinear shape of the pool would not blend well with a 45-

degree rectilinear wall," Winget says.

To tweak the design, Winget and his crew dropped the wall's height by about a foot and put deteriorated-looking ruins in crucial spots. "There is a particular area where the wall comes to a point on the curve of the pool. We could not have the wall cantilever over the pool, so it was decided to indicate a heavy deterioration in this area. This worked out perfectly for the ruin design and became one of the more interesting parts of the project."

Authentic Environments started work on the aqueduct after the pool was built up to the gunite stage. The walls were built out of 6-by-8-by-16 CMU blocks, grouted solid with concrete for structural integrity. Forms made from 2-by-4s and bender board set off the shapes of the arches.

A decorative frieze, a 2-inch band that goes around the wall, was poured in place. Workers pneumatically nailed 2-by-4s to the wall and screwed form liners onto them, then poured a mix of regular sand and cement spiked with Kel-Crete, a tree-sap derivative that made the mix stickier. As the frieze set, it was distressed, cracked, and broken to simulate the aging of centuries.



Photos courtesy of Authentic Environments

An Alexander the Great bas-relief was carved out of bead foam, then cast into concrete using the smash-mold method and placed. The rest of the wall was coated with a sand-cement mix built out 2 to 3 inches thick, so it could be carved and made to look real.

"The antiquing of the project was, again, based on research," Winget says. "It involved the layering on of colors and washing the wall at the proper moment. When the project was completed, we used an ultraviolet protector to keep the color from fading over time."

The aqueduct works. However, instead of transporting water over an open channel like traditional aqueducts do, this aqueduct uses PVC pipe embedded in the top of the wall. "We did not want the pipe visible on the ends, so for the last 14 inches on each side we used the PVC pipe as a spacer," Winget says. "When the time was right, we simply pulled it out." 🛠️

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