



Mer-Krete's complete tile system helps maintain elegance and environment at 4 Waterway

Texans will tell you that things are “bigger” and “bolder” in their Lone Star State, where their unabashed sense of pride is reflected in the architecture. The affluent Houston area master-planned development of The Woodlands is no exception. This extraordinary “community within a community” continues to evolve with residential villages, leafy corporate campuses and meandering waterways.

One of the latest additions to the landscape is 4 Waterway, a stylish nine-story commercial and retail tower that overlooks the gentle canals of the Town Center. As this community attracts more companies, it's imperative for commercial structures such as 4 Waterway to exude the kind of “corporate elegance” that appeals to progressive, sophisti-

cated firms. So when project developer Woodlands Development Company selected Houston-based National Terrazzo Tile and Marble to install the extensive tile and stone floors and walls in the building's lobby areas and restrooms, the tile installer chose the services of Mer-Krete Systems, known for its reliable products, resourceful solutions and environmentally-responsive methodologies.

“We had done a very successful tile installation the previous winter in which we utilized various products from Mer-Krete Systems, and we were extremely pleased with their performance and the responsive service we received,” said James Langley, spokesman for National. “We wanted that same kind of consistency and confi-

dence on 4 Waterway, so we chose a variety of Mer-Krete solutions through the local Daltille distributor. The excellent warranty was another big plus for us, and the attractive price made it an obvious choice.”

National selected Mer-Krete’s Mer-Stik, a revolutionary adhesive hybrid dry polymer mastic, which has been one of the most requested new innovations on the market. A combination of other highly regarded Mer-Krete products were chosen as well: 705 ProSet Plus thin-set, various grouts and HydroGuard One, a load-bearing waterproofing membrane also being used for fracture prevention.

Mer-Krete’s quick-setting Mer-Stik product is ideal for working in high-rise buildings where the multi-story designs demand easy mobility. Supplied in powder form, Mer-Stik is lightweight and easy to transport, saving time and hassle carrying the product up and down floors. Because it mixes easily and sets up rapidly, installers can grout tiles in as little as four hours after its application. Mer-Stik maintains its consistency: workers can cover the mastic bucket at the end of a shift and use the same product the following morning without re-mixing. Versatile Mer-Stik works equally well on different tile types and sizes, on walls and edges.

“We’ve been pleased with the outstanding performance offered by Mer-Stik,” said Langley. “Our installers at 4 Waterway have been impressed with the product’s quick-setting capability. This has allowed us to work at a consis-



Work moves forward on the main lobby floor.

tent speed, without losing time waiting for the drying process to cycle.”

Though Mer-Krete’s HydroGuard One is highly touted for its waterproofing abilities, National was equally impressed by its crack isolation properties, choosing to apply it under the lobby tile to protect against the transfer of sub-floor cracks.

“Mer-Krete products provide the user with a complete system,” noted Tim McDonald, vice president of ParexLahabra, Mer-Krete brands. “They



Mer-Krete thin-sets and grouts ensure a coordinated quality effort.

not only offer excellent stand-alone performance, but they also enhance other Mer-Krete products and include multiple characteristics for a comprehensive line of protection. HydroGuard One typifies that philosophy, making it a popular choice among installers.”

Green building ideals

Mer-Krete actively adheres to the ideals of “green building.” Applications such as Mer-Stik, designated as a zero VOC product, are just part of the story. Mer-Krete also uses its green mentality for shipping and distribution. For 4 Waterway, Mer-Krete’s San Antonio, Texas plant supplies the Houston-based Dal-Tile distributor, reducing mileage, gasoline and the carbon footprint required to deliver



An installer strives for precision.

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...is what counts**



- EASY TO APPLY
- GUARDS AGAINST CRACKS UP TO 1/8"
- EXCEEDS ANSI A118.12



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product to National at The Woodlands building site.

“We’re not simply a product manufacturer,” said Clint Anna, Mer-Krete sales manager. “Mer-Krete is a solutions provider that has earned significant LEED credits for our green technology and ecologically sound principles. We’re proud of that record.”

Tile work at 4 Waterway should be completed by the end of August. The building is designed to attract commercial tenants in various fields, from oil and gas, to medical instruments, computer and I.T. Retail merchants such as restaurants and food marts, are expected to fill some of the ground floor space in the structure, which features a contemporary motif with generous amounts of glass.

A respected name in the industry for more than 60 years, National Terrazzo Tile and Marble has amassed a phenomenal resume of successful projects. The company’s work places particular emphasis on commercial high-rise office buildings, major medical facilities and airports. Notable projects include Bush Intercontinental Airport, Hobby Airport, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, Texas Children’s Hospital and M.D. Anderson Medical Institute.

It’s no coincidence that quality companies work together to achieve the best possible results. Likewise, Mer-Krete’s blend of quality products functions as a unified team to create a complete tile performance system. At 4 Waterway, it’s enough to give even the proudest Texan an added sense of confidence.



Mer-Krete 705 ProSet Plus keeps tile-setting efficient and worry-free.



Mer-Krete products make it easy to work quickly



Setting tile with quality Mer-Krete solutions.