

Building Products Revue

The Resort At Summerlin

West of Las Vegas, Mt. Charleston rises 12,000 feet above the valley. The alluvial pan that fans out below this lofty peak also encompasses “Red Rocks”, pre-historic, red sand dunes now frozen in time, sculpted by time, wind and rain to form this fascinating jumble of rock walls, towers, and spires.

Perched at the foot of these stunning vistas lies “The Resort at Summerlin”, a

5-star hotel where guests can enjoy destination resort solitude or indulge in the sort of sophisticated gaming unique to this location far removed from the hustle and bustle of the Las Vegas Strip.

Guests can take in the sweeping vistas while enjoying a breakfast buffet on the 30,000-square-foot open air deck, which is adorned with rugged 16- x 16-inch slate, imported from India.



Use of NobleSealant 150 ensured quick, easy seaming for all overlaps.



Noble Deck, a sheet membrane engineered for heavy duty exterior applications, was selected for its compatibility with the installation of slate pavers.



UV inhibitors and anti-oxidants are added to Noble Deck to guard against damage the sun could inflict on the membrane while exposed during installation.

While guests enjoy the views and dining on the deck above, ten million dollars worth of casino lies directly below. Protection from the occasional monsoon rains that sweep this valley is critical to the occupied space below this sweeping expanse of deck.

J.A. Jones, the general contractor charged with building this one-of-a-kind project, had some significant challenges to overcome if they were going to keep the owner happy (the 30,000 square feet of slate was owner supplied and already on the jobsite).

The general contractor was faced with having to tell the owner the stone could not be used. Why? Every waterproofing/crack isolation system suggested for use on this deck was not compatible with the installation of slate pavers. Various roofing contractors and waterproofing contractors had been consulted, and while they could recommend a variety of “stand alone” coatings and finishes, for various reasons they were rejected. In some cases the owner deemed the system too expensive. Many of the proposed systems were deemed to “soft” to meet the compressive strength required to install slate in a commercial application.

To add to the challenge, the tile contractor had excluded the waterproofing from his scope of work, yet had the right to refuse any system they felt not up to their standards. Whatever system put into place would have to be simple enough for someone outside the tile industry to use, yet satisfy the re

quirements of the tile contractor, and meet the budget criteria of the owner, and also protect the casino beneath the exposed deck.

In search of a solution, the tile contractor, Carrara Marble & Tile, Las Vegas contacted The Noble Company, which specializes in sheet membrane systems for waterproofing, crack isolation, and sound isolation under tile, stone, and hard surfaces. After several on site consultations with the project manager for J.A. Jones, representatives from The Noble Company recommended Noble Deck, a sheet membrane engineered for heavy duty exterior applications much like the "Resort at Summerlin". This proprietary sheet membrane is comprised of a CPE core with a non-woven polyester fiber encapsulated on each side of the extruded sheet product. UV inhibitors and antioxidants are added to Noble Deck to guard against the damage the sun could inflict on the membrane while exposed

during installation. This was a big concern since this 30,000-square-foot deck membrane would be exposed to the searing sun and high altitude UV while being installed in the desert foothills outside of Las Vegas.

The primary concern was successful installation of the Noble Deck. J.A. Jones selected Las Vegas based waterproofing contractor Meide Construction for the installation of the membrane. The Noble Company was able to work in concert with the general contractor, tile contractors, the waterproofing contractor, the thinset manufacturer, and even the electrical contractor to insure this system was a success. By addressing such diverse issues as saw-cut locations, drain locations, additional drain requirements, "in-floor" light cannister waterproofing, and stair tread details, all of the above parties were able to work together to ensure a watertight installation.

Because of tight scheduling, the

crews installing the Noble Deck used a high strength "rapid set" thinset. Use of NobleSealant 150 ensured quick, easy seaming for all overlaps. Any concerns that the tile contractor had about the membrane's ability to withstand the compressive forces of slate pavers were alleviated by Noble's "extra heavy" duty rating.

As the installation progressed, Noble representatives visited the jobsite and stayed in constant contact with all concerned parties, and monitored the quality of the work, and where needed addressed points of concern. Points of penetration and termination being of particular concern. In every instance, complete cooperation between all concerned parties resulted in quick remediation of any job site anomaly.

Throughout the project, at several points during the installation, flood tests were conducted before additional work could commence.



During several points of installation, flood tests were conducted before additional work could commence.



Noble Deck provided thin-set waterproofing for a complex, exterior installation.



Imported slate from India adorns the 30,000-square-foot open air deck of The Resort At Summerlin.

However, in Las Vegas, everything is done in a big way. Just after the slate was installed over the Noble Deck membrane, a "100 year flood event" roared through the Las Vegas Valley. Las Vegas made national headlines as roads and bridges were destroyed, homes were swept into swollen flash flood channels, along with cars and trucks. Ultimately Las Vegas was declared a federal disaster site and FEMA agents swarmed the valley attempting to bring aid as losses climbed into the millions.

Would the 30,000-square-foot deck be able to handle this tremendous torrent?

Three days after the skies opened, the call came through from the tile contractor's project superintendent — the deck and membrane performed as expected, and held fast despite the torrential pounding.