



April 2007

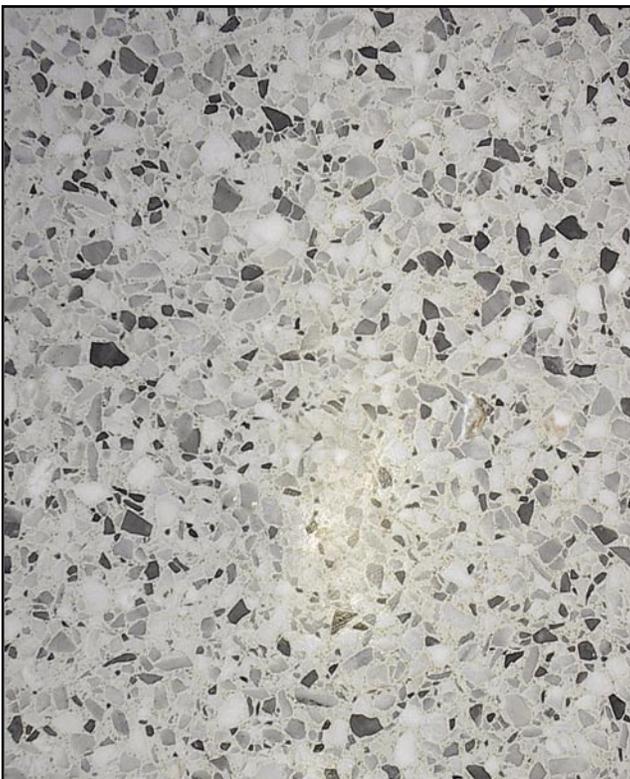
Number 25

New York City's Columbia University is committed to providing a safe, beautiful and functional campus environment, and its facilities department is responsible for overseeing a wide array of renovation and improvement projects for buildings both on and off campus. When university officials decided to install new terrazzo flooring in the six chemistry science labs at Columbia's Chandler Hall, they faced several challenges.

The lab floors were previously covered with vinyl tile over an Ardex self-leveling underlayment system. Replacing the flooring would be quite expensive since the existing under-

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LABORATORY CHANDLER HALL

New York, NY



- OWNER:** Columbia University
- ARCHITECT:** Mitchell Giurgola
- GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** Cauldwell & Walsh
Building Construction
- TERRAZZO CONTRACTOR:** Port Morris Tile
& Marble Corporation
- LOCAL UNION:** International Union of Bricklayers
and Allied Craftworkers, Local 7,
New York/New Jersey
- TERRAZZO AREA:** 4,000 sq.ft.
- COMPLETION DATE:** June 5, 2006
- SPECIAL PROJECT FEATURES:** MAPEI Terratop
terrazzo installation system

layment would need to be demolished. And, because the work would be done while school was in session, there was concern over potential hazards to students, teachers and staff.

MAPEI's Terratop terrazzo installation system offered the perfect solution. Because Terratop is cement-based, the binder could be poured directly over the existing self-leveling underlayment. The cementitious binder also eliminated concern over volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

BAC craftworkers from Port Morris Tile & Marble broadcast a 50/50 blend of Georgia White and Canadian Grey marble into a 3/8-inch-thick layer of Terratop white matrix/binder. One-eighth-inch zinc terrazzo strips were used at the center line to divide each installation into quadrants. The size 1 and 2 aggregate polished up nicely after grinding.

By utilizing the Terratop system, Columbia was able to save both time and money on the floor replacement, while maintaining environmentally healthy conditions for students, faculty and staff. The university is enjoying the beauty and durability of its terrazzo installation and plans to undertake similar projects with Port Morris in the near future.



Columbia University's Chandler Hall

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**International
Masonry Institute**

42 East Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

800-IMI-0988

Fax: 301-261-2855

www.imiweb.org

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