

## ST. AGNES CHURCH TERRAZZO FLOOR

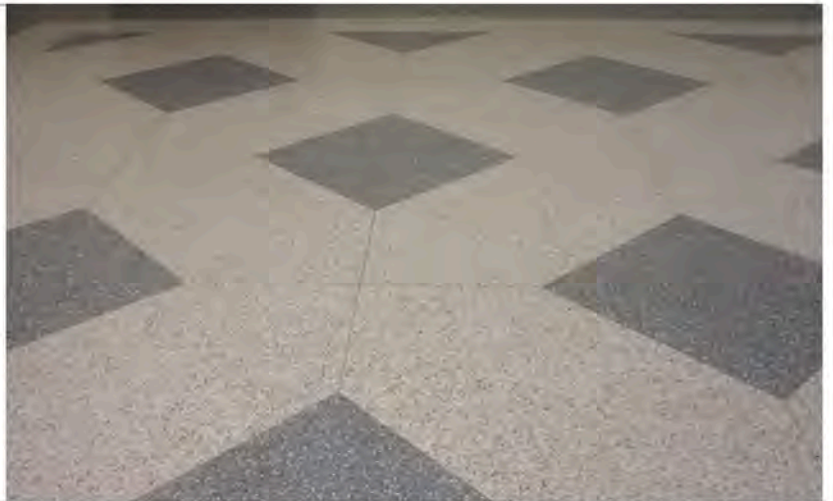
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### MASONRY SOLUTION:

#### New Product, Classic Training

A product is only as good as the people installing it.



AFTER SURVIVING a devastating fire in 1994, St Agnes Church didn't need any more setbacks. When it came time to rebuild, caretakers of the late 19th century church thought they were making the right decision by choosing terrazzo, for its longevity.

Yet like anything else, terrazzo is only as good as the people installing it. Inadequate floor preparation by a non-union contractor led to cracks and bubbles in the new epoxy terrazzo floor.

Fortunately, there is a happy ending, thanks to a seasoned contractor obsessed with preparation, and custom training available through IMI's New Products initiative.

When the church had the resources in 2008 to renovate the basement annex and fix the floor, they hired Port Morris Tile

### ST. AGNES CHURCH

#### NEW YORK, NY

Terrazzo Contractor: Port Morris Tile & Marble Corp.

Craftworkers: BAC Local 7 NY/NJ

New Construction: 3,100 square feet

& Marble Corp., which chose a new, cement-based terrazzo product, Pro Terrazzo RCT™, that would ensure a breathable and durable terrazzo finish. "We decided on using rapid curing terrazzo (RCT), a high-strength, cement-based polyacrylate terrazzo system that included extensive floor preparation, to ensure that the same problems that plagued the annex floor before would never occur again," says William Zonca Jr., Vice President of Port Morris' Terrazzo Division.



INTERNATIONAL MASONRY INSTITUTE

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT: 1-800-IMI-0988

TRAINING: 1-800-JOBS-IMI

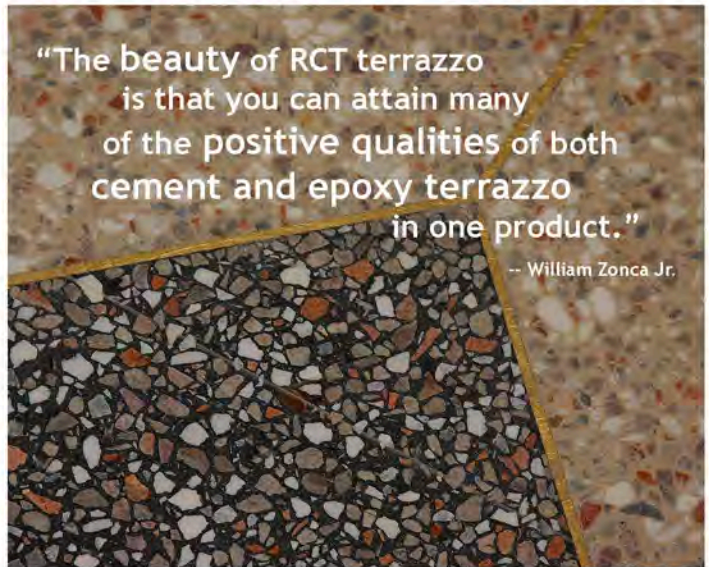
## THE IMI NEW PRODUCTS ADVANTAGE

Using a new product can be nerve-wracking, even with an experienced firm like Port Morris. Their secret weapon was access to the training and technical resources of IMI, which provided a custom training session in RCT for Port Morris mechanics. IMI's New Products Initiative works closely with manufacturers to test drive promising new applications, and develop quality training programs for installers.



RCT is a highly-engineered, thin profile (3/8"), poured-in-place polyacrylate terrazzo that is particularly well-suited as an overlay to an existing floor.

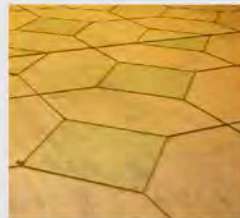
Its quick drying time (four hours) is good for construction schedules, while its high strength saves time and money by allowing for wider spacing of divider strips (up to twenty feet versus traditional cement terrazzo's five feet). Its higher slump allows for easy spreading, and eliminates time-consuming steps like rolling and over seeding. Since the aggregate is integral to the profile, the chance of surface inconsistencies is minimal. RCT terrazzo's sustainable attributes offer the potential for several LEED credits.



"The beauty of RCT terrazzo is that you can attain many of the positive qualities of both cement and epoxy terrazzo in one product."

-- William Zonca Jr.

## PREPARATION AND MORE PREPARATION



The first step was removing the damaged epoxy terrazzo floor and fixing the substrate with a self-leveling cement product, to ensure a relatively flat surface. Common cracks in the substrate received a self-adhered crack suppression membrane. Next came a moisture vapor retarder.

Once the floor prep was deemed ready to accept the RCT topping, brass divider strips were set in a striking diamond pattern. While most floors and hallways had bright white binder with black and grey chips, the worship hall floor featured diamond medallions cast in a black binder with a white and grey aggregate combination. Port Morris was able to adjust the terrazzo composition to allow for placement of 20-foot centers, and to modify the base color to enhance the aggregate and tinting potential. At the parish's request, Port Morris used a matte buff finish.