

November's meeting focus was on "The Art of Polished Concrete" with an excellent presentation by Len Anastasi, a representative of W.R. Meadows Company. In the presentation he provided; an overview of polished concrete; the process of polishing concrete; and the features and benefits of the finished product.

Polished concrete was first achieved in Tunisia, and after being brought to the US in the 1990's it is now one of the fastest growing products. Its advantages include; it can be used in almost any building type; polishing helps protect against wear; it resists oils and stains; process can be used in occupied buildings (no V.O.C's); it is slip resistant meeting both the requirements of OSHA and ADA; it can be colored and even multi-colored and colored aggregate can be used. Other advantages include reduction in maintenance necessary to preserve finish; it is also a breathable surface that will not trap moisture; it can be used on old or deteriorated concrete floors. It will support LEED points in Materials and Resources and Indoor Air Quality.

The process starts with removal of the surface of the floor with a grinder running between 350 to 1500 RPM using diamonds set in metal bonds. This is 70 to 75% of the work. Polishing with diamonds set in resin bonds follows this. A separator is attached to the grinding machine to remove the dust.

The concrete must be at least 3500 PSI, clean, and a minimum of 28 days old. Firms certified by the product manufacturers should only be used.

Application Steps:

1. Grind floor with 80 grit metal bond grinding segment. Follow manufacturer's grinding pattern.
2. Grind floor with 150 grit metal bond grinding segment. Follow manufacturer's grinding pattern.
3. Apply concrete densifier (Sodium Silicate). Pour on only and rinse off. Drying takes a minimum of 24 hours Densifier has a chemical reaction with the concrete and as a result stain resistance is not immediate. . Do not use floor for 5 to 7 days.
4. Polish floor with 200, 400 and then 800 grit for the basic satin finish floor, vacuuming between changes in grit. Use 1500 grit for semi-gloss and 3000 grit for high gloss (caution: can cause glare) finishes.
5. Apply enhancer to floor.

This is intended as an overview of the product. Please contact Len via e-mail at lanastasi@wrmeadows.com for specification and product information.

Those attending the meeting received one AIA CEU.

Respectfully submitted, Ken Best CSI. CDT