Case Study: Hardscaping

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Courtyard

A sand mix and veneer stone mortar project in Seattle

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Campus features a 70,000-square-foot stone-covered plaza, constructed with several Quikrete underlayment and grouting products. Quikrete Sand Topper Mix was used for the two-inch-thick sand underlayment over a cast-in-place concrete slab for all exterior installations.

Quikrete Polymer Modified Veneer Stone Mortar was mixed and pumped into the one-half-inch-thick stone. The veneer stone mortar was factory pre-blended with integral color to complement the natural stone colors. Additionally, a white polymer modified veneer stone mortar formulation was manufactured to match an imported German limestone.

Quikrete Multi-Purpose Thin Set, a polymer modified thin set, was used for the installation of all interior stone installation. Quikrete Polymer Modified Veneer Stone Mortar exceeded the ASTM C 270 requirements for Type S Mortar and exhibits compressive strength bond strength of standard Type S Mortar.

The general contractor on the project was Johnston Construction and commenced in March 2010, with completion in September 2010. Quikrete products used included 3,000-pound Sand Topping Mix (447 lb/gal), 50-pound Multi-Purpose Thin Set (5.329 bags), and 60-pound Polymer Modified Veneer Stone Mortar – Colored (316 bags green, 1,200 bags charcoal and 64 bags white).

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