

STONHARD *Solutions*

Gateway Convention Center Exhibits an Attractive, Durable Floor

Gateway Convention Center is a 70,000 square foot facility located in Collinsville, Illinois. Since its opening in February 1990, it has been host to approximately 260 events annually.

The appearance of the exhibit halls was a major concern for Gateway. As with most convention centers, the facility had a urethane coated concrete floor. Says Michael Ross, Director of Operations for Gateway, "The coated concrete was slick and ugly, besides being a maintenance problem." Gateway wanted a more durable floor but also wanted it to be a decorative part of the interior.

Gateway, along with their architectural firm, Huurford Architects, initially looked into two polymer flooring systems. The first was Stonblend GSI, a 3/16" (5 mm) thick polymer flooring system from Stonhard that features multi-colored quartz aggregates set in a clear epoxy matrix. The second was a 2-3 mm thick textured epoxy flooring system.

After some comparison, Stonblend GSI was selected for its unique decorative tweed, low gloss finish which offered the appropriate aesthetics as well as ease of maintenance and durability. An added benefit was the availability of an integral cove base, which provided a finished and unique look where the floor met the wall.

Turnaround time was also an important issue for Gateway. The 20,000 square foot exhibit hall slated for the new flooring system needed to be operable within three weeks. Stonhard installed the system in ten days and the area was put into operation the very next day.

The installation began with scraping off the old urethane coating. The crew then mechanically prepared the new concrete substrate with dustless shot blasting equipment. This critical preparation step ensures a strong bond with the new flooring system by removing any wax, grease, oils, fats, soil, loose or foreign materials and laitance from the surface of the concrete. Any one of these could inhibit proper adhesion of the new floor.

After the concrete substrate was meticulously prepared, a penetrating, two-component epoxy primer was squeegeed and backrolled over the entire substrate. Then,



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*- Michael Ross, Director of Operations
Gateway Convention Center*

with the primer still tacky, the Stonblend GSI base, a three-component mortar of clear epoxy resin, curing agent and colored quartz silica aggregate, was power troweled over the substrate, using blades specially designed by Stonhard for the Stonblend GSI flooring system.

Next, a two-component groutcoat was applied to completely seal the porosity of the troweled mortar base. Expansion joints were cut and filled with Stonhard's Stonflex MP7 sealant, allowing for high movement without affecting the seamless floor surface. The final step included two coats of an aliphatic, non-reflective polyurethane sealer, Stonseal GS6, to provide additional protection against staining and marring.

Since the floor was installed, several events have been held in this hall. One of these is the Illinois Mining Institute's regional show. This particular show provided a keen test for Stonblend GSI's strength and abrasion resistance, as one of the exhibitors rolled in a 40,000 pound piece of mining equipment. The floor remained unscathed. It has also been standing up well through the heavy foot traffic associated with industrial conventions, boat and auto shows and even ballroom dances, all the while still looking beautiful.

Michael Ross explains, "It looks good. It wears well. We've gotten a ton of compliments on our floor. It really is well suited to our type of facility."

Stonhard floors can be found on display in several convention centers around the country including the Los Angeles Convention Center, the New Orleans Convention Center, the Nashville Convention Center, and the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center, among others.

The Stonhard Difference

Stonhard is a world-leading manufacturer and installer of high-performance polymer floor, wall and lining systems designed for tough commercial and industrial environments requiring protection against corrosion, impact, abrasion and continuous daily wear. We deliver long-lasting, high-performance systems for tough environments. We offer customized solutions to satisfy the most demanding design specifications and work with you directly from start to finish. You are protected with a single source warranty on both products and workmanship. Known around the world for excellence, the Stonhard name means quality products and unmatched service.



Stonblend GSI floor in action for an auction recently held at Gateway.

STONHARD
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FORMULATING

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For more information on Stonhard's high-performance polymer floor, wall and lining systems, visit us at www.stonhard.com or call toll free at 800/257-7953.
