# National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association LEED<sup>®</sup> Case Study

### Albany Park Middle School Chicago, Illinois



Terrazzo flooring has a long and rich history that dates back over 1500 years. Terrazzo, from the Italian word for terrace, is one of the original recycled products — created centuries ago by Venetian workers utilizing the waste chips from slab marble processing. Today terrazzo flooring continues to provide the ultimate in durability and low maintenance, typically lasting the life of the building. The combination of beauty, durability, and low maintenance has led to a renaissance in the use of terrazzo over the past decade.



PHOTOS © Joe Gig









## How is terrazzo helping to contribute to today's green movement in construction?

Albany Park Middle School in Chicago, IL illustrates one method. A few years ago, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) set forth an initiative that required all new schools to be certified based upon LEED<sup>®</sup> for New Construction rating system version 2.1. Some of the environmental features stressed in the design included recycled building components, a motion activated lighting control system to save energy and vegetative roof surfaces that capture rainwater, return a portion to the atmosphere and lower the roof temperature to conserve energy. Why was terrazzo chosen as a flooring option for the project?

The design team at Cannon Design, no stranger to LEED<sup>®</sup> design, was attracted to terrazzo because of the recycled content from its post-consumer glass composition, low emissions from the epoxy matrix and regional manufacturing characteristic of the epoxy matrix. So potentially, terrazzo as a flooring option could help contribute toward as many as 5 LEED<sup>®</sup>

points depending on how other materials used on the project contributed toward



Second Floor

as many as 5 LEED<sup>®</sup> points depending on how other materials used on the project contributed toward these credits.

When the Albany Park Middle School project's points were accumulated, the use of terrazzo had the largest impact on the recycled content helping contribute 2 LEED<sup>®</sup> points toward the project. Not only did the recycled composition help to offer a more



environmentally friendly flooring option, but aesthetically terrazzo helped to achieve the targeted design scheme. Each floor of the school was designed in a unique primary color – the first floor was blue, the second floor was green and the third floor was red. The design coordinated the lockers, casework and paints with the terrazzo serving as the anchor of the design. The colors served as address markers for students to identify their home floor.

Environmentally friendly, aesthetically unlimited and offering the building owner a highly durable and easy to maintain floor for the lifetime of the building. Terrazzo offered Cannon Design and CPS a *PERFORMING ART* for their project's flooring.



Additional details of the Albany Park Middle School project along with the building team members are listed below.

#### **Overview**

Project:	Albany Park Middle School
Location:	Chicago, IL
Building type:	Education
Construction Type:	New construction
Building size:	104,000 sq. ft.
Terrazzo flooring area:	15,000 sf/ Main Corridors 1, 2 and 3
Completion date:	May 2006
Rating:	LEED <sup>®</sup> NC 2.1, Certified Level, 30 points



### **Owner & Occupancy**

Building Owner:	Chicago School Board
Occupancy:	1100 students and teachers. 40 hours per week
	36 weeks per year

To learn more about how Terrazzo can help contribute toward LEED<sup>®</sup> credits on your next project, contact the National Terrazzo & Mosaic Association (NTMA) at 800-323-9376 or visit the NTMA website at www.ntma.com.

 $\mathsf{LEED}^{\otimes}\mathsf{is}$  a registered trademark of the U.S. Green Building Council.



The National Terrazzo & Mosaic Association

201 N. Maple Avenue, Suite 208 Purcellville, VA 20132 800.323.9736 toll free 540.751.0930 in VA 540.751.0935 fax www.ntma.com email: info@ntma.com

