THE CHALLENGE: The “Museum of Glass” is located in Tacoma, Washington. This impressive facility is situated high above a scenic waterway and is approached by a series of massive stone stairs with a total length of 5,600 lineal feet. In rainy weather the nosing of these steps was too slippery for safety and measures had to be taken to improve their slip resistance.

THE SOLUTION: Consultants for the museum specified an attractive very dark brown color for the remedial nosing which was both aesthetically pleasing and effective in accenting the step edges.

A special batch of BIO-FLOR 182 was made to the specified color and shipped to the contractor, JMF Enterprises, Inc. in Seattle, Washington. This product is a pure epoxy resin based coating that is completely free from solvents. BIO-FLOR 182 has been used to coat and encapsulate over two million square feet of flooring in the most demanding exposure conditions and was ideal for this application.

The contractor noted that the concrete on the steps was “open” and porous, not heavily troweled. Examination showed there to be no weak surface laitance layer which would be cause for concern. Initial applications of the BIO-FLOR 182 showed that it tended to creep under masking tape edges to make an unsightly line. To avoid this the BIO-FLOR 182 nosing stripes were taped using duct tape that was sealed at its edge using a latex paint tinted to match the surrounding concrete color.

The BIO-FLOR 182 was applied directly to the dry concrete surface after vigorous sweeping to remove loose dirt. Immediately after this application white, 36 mesh aluminum oxide was broadcast into the wet BIO-FLOR and back rolled to properly incorporate it. Once cured the aluminum oxide was tightly bound into the epoxy film and sufficiently exposed to create an aggressive slip resistant surface.

RESULT: The appearance and slip resistance of these large step surfaces has been greatly improved through the use of BIO-FLOR 182. The quick cure time and complete water tolerance during curing of this material ensured predictable, excellent results and maintenance of a tight production schedule throughout the project.

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