

TOTAL FLOORING CONTRACTORS

A National Flooring Contractor

by Bart A. Bettiga, NTCA Executive Director
Editor, *TileLetter*

When Hurricane Wilma was threatening to hit the Florida Coast recently, both Bob Scavone Sr. & Jr. of Total Flooring Contractors had reason to worry. Their crews were putting the finishing touches on a beautiful installation of over 65,000 square feet of 18x18 and 12x12 porcelain tile on the exterior of the Downtown at the Gardens project in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

As the storm made landfall and caused significant damage throughout the area from high winds, the Scavones were proud to let *TileLetter* know that just a few tiles were damaged. "We had a few tiles chipped from flying debris, but nothing of any significance. This proved to us and our customer that our installation was going to endure future hurricane seasons," said Scavone, Jr. "We were really pleased with the performance of the installation, which was about ninety percent complete at the time Wilma came through."

Total Flooring Contractors hired Rich Goldberg of *Professional Consultants International LLC* to consult on the project. Goldberg specializes in providing a full range of services, including reviewing contract documents and assuring quality assurance. "The General Contractor usually embraces



concrete masonry block, but the majority of it was applied to the Durock.”

The porcelain tile, which was supplied by *Ceramic Matrix* of West Palm Beach, came in a bush hammered finish and was chosen from the Floor Gres, Gold Pietra Dorata series. The tile was installed with *Laticrete* products. “We applied Laticrete 24Hr HydroProofing Waterproofing Membrane to the substrate, prior to the installation. The tile was installed with Laticrete’s 254 Platinum Thinset, grouted with 1500 Series grout and caulked with the Latsil Tile and Stone Sealant,” said Scavone, Jr.

The project took just over six months to complete, beginning in May and concluding in November; occurring mainly during the summer months. In Florida, that means battling one hundred degree plus tem-



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our proactive approach to the project by hiring our own consultant, as it demonstrates our commitment to doing the job right and to specification," said Scavone, Jr.

An increasing trend in the United States is the use of tile and stone on exterior facades of buildings. When these installations perform under extreme conditions like Hurricane Wilma provided, it is a testament to our industry.

The developer of the project, *Menin Development Companies*, chose the firms of *JPRA Architects* of Farmington Hills, Michigan and general contractor *Hoar Construction LLC* of Birmingham, Alabama to spearhead the project. Over

90 percent of the porcelain installation, manufactured by industry leader *Floor Gres of Italy*, was applied over Durock Cement Backerboard from *USG Corporation*. "We had to tape the backerboards joints; over four miles of them!" said Scavone, Jr.

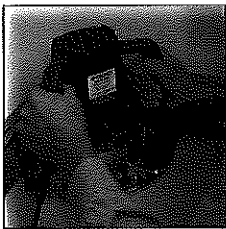
"Some of the tile was installed over



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