



TABLE MOUNTAIN CREATIVE CONCRETE

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Table Mountain Creative Concrete; Golden, Colo. www.tablemountaincreativeconcrete.com

Every decorative concrete contractor knows that your surrounding environment is going to have an impact on your staining projects. Owner of Table Mountain Creative Concrete, Stan Squires, had to deal with environmental challenges on one of his recent jobs.

Squires, whose company does mostly overlays, has a passion for staining. "It's a fun business for me because I get to be creative. I get to take something that many people would consider ruined and make it sound again," he says. "And then at the same time, given what the customer wants, we get to make it beautiful as well. And that's the part I like."

In August 2007, Squires took a job in Breckenridge, Colo., where he had to deal with elevation — 13,000 feet above sea level — as well as rain. "Every day we got rain sometime between one and three o'clock so you just had to run to get your work done early and try to have everything fairly dry before that water starts coming out of the sky. That was our main challenge, weather," he says.

The project was a leaking parking pad over a workshop at the homeowners' vacation home. Before Squires could even think about staining the pad, the concrete needed to be repaired. After repairing the leaking joint, Squires applied Miracote Repair Mortar II and then covered it with three coats of Miracote Membrane A. The concrete, which had been colored 50 percent with a beige color, was then stamped. Once all of the prep and repair work was complete, it was time to stain.

For the staining portion of the job



Squires used Mirastain II, a water-based stain. The 800-square-foot parking pad required 1½ to 2 gallons of stain. Since Mirastain II comes in an uncolored state, Squires says he also used between 2 and 3 ounces of pigment to color the stain. "With Mirastain you have a lot of control over what happens to the concrete because you can step up your stain, you can mix it a little deeper, you can do a number of different things to control that. Plus the fact, when the pigment goes down it is what it is. It doesn't have to react with the concrete to get the color," he says.

The entire project took about five days to complete, and the staining took about three hours, Squires says. Applying the stain was a three person job, he says. One person used a sprayer to spray the first color, which was a light Bronco Brown. Following behind him were Squires and another employee who were applying with rags a Spanish Tile Red over the brown. Sprayers, sponges and

rags were used to apply the stain to achieve vibrant color that still had an Old World rock look, he says. The final step was to go over the dry concrete with a charcoal stain. Squires says most of this was ragged off, but it gave the project another dimension of color.

After the stain had been applied, the parking pad was sealed with HD2, a solvent-based, high-gloss sealer. The sealer was rolled on to prevent any from blowing into the woods. And because of the amount of rain and snow the area gets, Squires says they used three coats of sealer.

Squires loves to be creative with his staining. "What I just love to do is to get color down into those impressions and then rag off the top surface so I leave some material down in those deeper impressions and then go back over the top of that and mix another color into it," he says. And what is his advice to other staining contractors? Don't always do it by the book. ◀◀