Goldman Sachs World Headquarters is a 43 story tower located in the Ground Zero section of New York City and home to over 9,000 employees. An essential element for the new corporate kitchen, server, and dining hall was a floor that was elegant and easy to maintain. The architects chose Epoxy Terrazzo using marble, glass, and mother-of-pearl to cover the 10,000 square feet of floor and 2000 square feet of vertical counters. The divider walls, server, dining and cashier counters are clad with a stylish field and accent color of terrazzo and were troweled in-place. The cashier counters have recessed alcoves and shelves of fabricated terrazzo that store last-minute impulse items. The distinctive vertical wall surfaces shaped in geometric designs composed of isosceles and right angled triangles, trapezoids and parallelograms required the use of hand tools for grinding and polishing. The result of this multifaceted terrazzo installation is a striking dining environment for the employees of Goldman Sachs.
The design concept had to incorporate large spaces, functionality and distinction. At 218,000 square feet, this building was designed to combine the administration offices, multi-use conference areas and classrooms necessary for the operation of the business school. The color options for terrazzo allowed the designer to mirror a travertine look by using a creamy epoxy enriched with an array of chips. The design team was able to customize each terrazzo color by combining different tones of marble and mother-of-pearl to create a sense of depth in the floor. The installation of brass divider strips was one of the biggest undertakings in this project due to the large amount of strip required to create the intricate patterns. The design features a checkerboard pattern comprised of eighteen inch squares with borders running around and through these patterned areas. The project included six terrazzo precast staircases, terrazzo caps for the atrium openings and stair stringers. In addition to being a beautiful project, the terrazzo flooring contributed points toward the project’s Silver LEED Certificate.
The “France” Tower is a 10-story addition to the Halifax Health Medical Center campus in Daytona Beach, Florida. With over 180 new state-of-the-art private patient rooms, the France Tower boasts the state’s largest emergency department. Epoxy terrazzo was selected as the flooring material of choice for the elegant new main lobby on the ground floor, as well as the lobby and waiting spaces on all ten floors of the bed tower. Terrazzo was also featured in the monumental staircase. The floor design originated from the pressed ceiling pattern found in the hospital’s original lobby constructed in the Spanish-Moorish style in 1928. The four-color design was created by the interplay and overlap of squares and rotated squares of different scales. Each terrazzo color compliments some aspect of the overall interior color palette.
The terrazzo installation employed at the Setai Club was one requiring special attention. Many hours went into finding a match for a small piece of rock that was treasured by the design firm in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Critical sizes and colors were of the utmost importance; their final selection would prove to have no less than eight various aggregates from size #00, #0 and #1. It was necessary that the membrane be tinted to match the epoxy resin in the finished floor to ensure that the color was uniform, should one be able to see through the clear divider strips to the membrane below. The floor was poured within 1/32” higher than the mahogany wood to prevent too much grinding of the wood itself. Because a large percentage of the design mix was extremely hard quartz, special diamonds needed to be made to grind the material in a cost effective manner. Two types of water-based acrylic sealers were blended to give the designers the matte look they were seeking. The unique combination of aggregates along with mahogany wood provided the exotic elements the designers needed to create a one-of-a-kind New York restaurant.
Faced with replacing carpet every three years, owners at Children’s Mercy Hospital turned to in-house artist “Scribe” Ross to design a kid friendly, fantasy water-world in terrazzo. Three giant whales – the largest 45 feet long – swim in a mystical purple ocean greeting young patients. More than twenty fish also help guide the way to strategically placed lightning bolt, star, and moon elevators; areas designed specifically to help direct non-English speaking families to the area they need. Creating a peaceful and engaging environment was the goal. Hospital administrators say that comments such as, “Look Mommy, I’m riding a whale!” convince them daily their investment in terrazzo was well worth it. In-house artist “Scribe” says the new kaleidoscope and ocean-scape help put patients, as well as their parents at ease. “I have seen children go so far as lying down on the floor pretending to be a fish right alongside the whales. I don’t think you can get a better showing of honest approval.”
The Museum’s flagship building has 10,000 square feet of epoxy terrazzo using 40 colors, 190 water-jet cut strip-less pieces, 90 solid zinc stars, a 13 foot ellipse with several smaller circles and ellipses, a 250 foot ramp, and two precast terrazzo staircases. Each tread of the grand staircase included nine 3” diameter glass roundels. The landing was made up of three pieces and had 95 roundels. The floors were bead blasted followed by the installation of a high-grade vapor barrier as well as a full coverage crack suppression membrane. The strips and water-jet cut pieces were installed; everything was then tied together with the poured-in-place terrazzo. Several pieces of precast terrazzo were installed in hard-to-reach areas and were hand chipped along their edges so that they appeared to have been poured-in-place with the rest of the floor. This complex terrazzo installation gives additional sparkle to an unforgettable museum experience.

Architect
Page & Turnbull, Inc.
San Francisco, California

Designer
Rockwell Group
New York, New York

Terrazzo Contractor
Associated Terrazzo Co., Inc.
San Francisco, California

General Contractor
Plant Construction Company, LP
San Francisco, California

Owner
The Presidio Trust
San Francisco, California

Resin Supplier
Sherwin-Williams – General Polymers
Victorville, California

Chip Supplier
Continental Terrazzo Supply, Inc.
Houston, Texas

Chip Producer
EnviroGLAS Products, Inc.
Garland, Texas

Divider Strip Supplier
Manhattan American
Terrazzo Strip Company
Staley, North Carolina

Precast Terrazzo
Wausau Tile, Inc.
Wausau, Wisconsin

Resin Supplier
Sherwin-Williams – General Polymers
Victorville, California

Chip Supplier
Continental Terrazzo Supply, Inc.
Houston, Texas

Chip Producer
EnviroGLAS Products, Inc.
Garland, Texas

Divider Strip Supplier
Manhattan American
Terrazzo Strip Company
Staley, North Carolina

Precast Terrazzo
Wausau Tile, Inc.
Wausau, Wisconsin
This 87,000 square foot upscale retail center in Las Vegas was originally specified to receive a monochromatic marble tile floor. Through value engineering of a combined effort between the terrazzo contractor and the architect, the owners were able to achieve a decorative epoxy terrazzo floor of three earthy colors, separated by four accent bands of stone and marble that cut through the floor in arcs to draw customers through the mall. Even with the introduction of this multi-colored terrazzo design, the owner was still able to save a significant amount of money converting from the original marble tile.

To provide the terrazzo floor that “Las Vegas sparkling look” substantial mother-of-pearl was used to enhance the primary terrazzo colors. The stone and marble inlay curved bands were all individually set pieces, with the edges cut in place to form the arcs, grouted with epoxy matrix, and bordered by 1/4” zinc strips. Thousands of lineal feet of cast-in-place terrazzo curbs were used at the planters. The tree bases involved manual placement of individual pieces of river rock, grouted with terrazzo matrix, then ground and polished in place by skilled technicians via specialized hand tools. This required grinding off 1/2” of the stone and terrazzo to expose a cross section of the rocks.

With a design of “sophisticated simplicity” the overall aesthetics and functionality of the terrazzo are truly impressive.
Terrazzo was the ideal choice for the West Tower of Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, offering rich colors and a broad palette in a material that is highly durable and easy to maintain. It provided the perfect medium for the artistic expression of a design concept that could speak to patients of all ages. Using 22 colors, 13 different types of aggregate, and several water-jet logos, the designers created a way to transport children from a hospital setting to the comforting surroundings of nature. Each floor of the hospital is a graphic rendition of the earth, ocean and sky, culminating in a collage of nature’s images in the main lobby. Embedded aluminum and marble inlays of dragonflies, butterflies, fish, shells, leaves and coral appear to float within the background. Since the hospital’s completion, the terrazzo floors have delighted young patients and their families, surrounding them with rich and vivid images of nature, offering an important counterpoint to the powerful medicine practiced there.
The designer chose terrazzo for this project with the expectation that the floors would endure the test of time. Along with being beautiful, durable and adaptive, the material process is extremely respectful to the environment, a priority for the architect. The Houston Community College System had used terrazzo on other projects and was impressed by its ease of maintenance and performance. Though seemingly simplistic at first sight, The Learning Hub floor pattern is a complex composition that utilizes geometric shapes of different scale and proportion. To create an additional dimension, the composition incorporates saturated accents that cue from surrounding jewel tones and introduces tincture to the cool neutral color palette. The 14,000 square feet of sand cushion terrazzo utilized nine colors. Terrazzo provided the flexibility to achieve the designer’s intent – to create a cohesive space offering elegant variety with seamless transition.
The Goucher College Athenaeum is the new sustainable flagship building on the Goucher campus, weaving together the various threads of life at the college in one signature building. The space will accommodate student meetings, guest speaker presentations, student performances and even a partnering relationship with the community capable of handling town hall style meetings. The design and detailing of the Athenaeum is inspired by the modernist crafted aesthetic for which the Goucher campus is increasingly well-known. The 14,800 square feet of the Forum space was created with a simple, yet elegant two-color terrazzo finish with a cast-in-place cove seating area and stairs flowing throughout the entire amphitheater. The mix design was driven by LEED requirements, incorporating 100% clear plate glass and single faceted mirror glass, creating a naturalistic cement gray floor with depth and sparkle.
Owners of the Springfield-Branson National Airport knew they wanted terrazzo in their new 11,744 square foot facility; they liked its versatility and unlimited design potential. It felt like a natural choice to feature their region in terrazzo. Using blue epoxy terrazzo, the four man-made lakes of the Ozarks’ White River Valley are laid out with map-like accuracy. Mother-of-pearl was used for shimmer in the water and elegance on the shore. The lakes are outlined in brass to distinguish waterways from land. Natural river rock was hand placed into the terrazzo by the designer to emphasize the glacial effect that created the original lakes. Mother-of-pearl was also personally sprinkled by the designer into the black terrazzo used on the base of 31 light trees. Kent Boyd states that he and others in the airport’s Public Information and Marketing office underestimated the impact the terrazzo would have on visitors. Boyd said, “Many stop and stare. Once they realize they’re seeing a map of the lakes, some try to locate their favorite fishing cove in the swirling detail.”
The architects for the new Tidewater Community College building initiated the design with a desire to integrate the 30,000 square feet of public spaces with the various building functions and to create a smooth transition between them. The distinction between colors, a mix of white terrazzo with bands of grey and black, works to emphasize seating areas, entry alcoves, and intersections within the space. Custom terrazzo logos are showcased at each of the entrances into the school. The focal point of the project is a sculptural element, which was designed at the base of the pre-cast epoxy terrazzo monumental staircase. The designer’s intent for the sculpture was to both project horizontal seating at multiple levels as well as act as an ADA barrier in lieu of using handrails underneath the stairs. The sculpture framework is an artistic installation of poured-in-place epoxy terrazzo which required the technicians to work with a full assortment of hand grinding tools to grind and polish edges in tight spaces. The sculpture serves as a public showcase of functional art in architecture.
Beneath the Leafy Crown is a unique sculpture by nationally acclaimed artist Michele Oka Doner. The sculpture, located at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, is composed of more than 1,600 bronze elements. The overall composition is guided by the progression of the existing concrete tree support elements which extend from the Main Entrance through to the far end of the Scenic Corridor at the entrance to the Conservatory of approximately 14,000 square feet. The embedded bronze elements form a golden contrast against the deep, mixed green terrazzo while the seeding of mother-of-pearl provided the sparkle of dew. The artist’s goal was “to create a magical space under the trees’ imagined leafy crown...a golden path.” The design leads visitors through the curves of the main building, uniting entrances, galleries, conservatories, educational spaces and gathering areas. Therefore, the title of the work: Beneath the Leafy Crown. Since completion, the entire floor has become a functional work of art.
The showroom for this exotic car and motorcycle collection required a floor that would be durable, dramatic and decorative, yet not overpower the beauty of the vehicles. The designer wanted to replicate an area rug laid over a red floor. The terrazzo rug is broken into bays for the individual cars and motorcycles. Each bay is bordered by a three foot wide black band that has tumbled white marble mosaic accent stripes. At the intersection of each border there are three different colored medallions, all with center circles of Palladiana Terrazzo from Statuary White Marble slabs. The gray bays for the cars and the black borders were cast with 100% marble aggregate, while the saturated colors of red, yellow, black, blue, and white were made with colored glass aggregate. All terrazzo within the arcs have the addition of crushed mirror aggregate, keeping the “sparkle” in the public viewing area while the terrazzo under and around the cars is more subdued, allowing the cars to be the center of focus.