

# CustomTech Flooring Prep System Performs at Glamorous Art Deco Casino



The Hollywood Casino Jamul, near San Diego, Calif., brings the classic style and glamour of 1930s art deco to life. With 40 different kinds of natural stone, porcelain and glass tiles setting the stage, visitors are instantly immersed in the Golden Age of Hollywood. High performance flooring preparation products from CustomTech were carefully selected to ensure lasting performance of the extensive tile throughout the venue.

Contractors FA International Stone Company (FAI) and Rouse Company recommended the use of a full CustomTech flooring installation system for moisture mitigation, priming and leveling the concrete subfloors.

“We only use what works, so we’ve been using CUSTOM for over 20 years. We requested a full system to ensure quality and a system warranty,” offered Shawn Smedley, project manager with FAI.

“CUSTOM offers the perfect products for any condition.”

## Subfloor Preparation

Before any of the large format tile and stone was installed, FAI had to ensure an extremely flat subfloor. When unexpectedly high levels of moisture were discovered in the concrete slab, the project also required moisture mitigation prior to installing any leveler. Fortunately, FAI had already chosen to use a CustomTech flooring preparation system. CustomTech is the most advanced line of concrete and subfloor prep products, designed for all types of floor coverings. Because of their superior strength, durability and ease of use, CustomTech products are particularly well suited to large commercial installations.

The Rouse Company was engaged to bead-blast the surface and apply the initial CustomTech preparation products. The first step was using TechMVC™ Moisture Vapor and Alkalinity Barrier to control moisture vapor transmission from the slab. TechMVC is a solvent-free, 100% solids epoxy that can be applied on slabs measuring up to 100% RH. It creates an alkaline barrier between the substrate and adhered flooring materials. TechMVC treated the concrete in a single coat and dried within 4 hours. The deep red color made it easy to accurately gauge full coverage.



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**PRODUCTS USED:**

TechMVC™ Moisture Vapor and Alkalinity Barrier; TechPrime™ A Advanced Acrylic Primer; TechLevel™ 150 Premium Calcium Aluminate Self-Leveling Underlayment

**LOCATION:** Jamul, CA

**YEAR COMPLETED:** 2016

**ARCHITECT:** Marnell Companies, Las Vegas, NV

**INTERIOR DESIGNER:** Genesis Interior Design, Santa Ana, CA

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** C. W. Driver, Pasadena, CA

**TILE CONTRACTOR:** FA International Stone Company, Santa Ana, CA

**CUSTOM BUILDING PRODUCTS**

**TEAM:** Dale Roberts, CTC, CSI, CCPR, LEED AP, commercial architectural services representative; Brian Swann, territory manager; Chris Vombaur, regional technical sales representative; Jamie Karabela, Sr. CustomTech specialist

Following moisture mitigation, the surface was primed with another CustomTech product. Versatile TechPrime™A Advanced Acrylic Multi-Surface Primer was chosen to prepare the surface prior to pouring self-leveling underlayment. TechPrimeA seals both porous and non-porous surfaces, including TechMVC, and improves the bond of the underlayment to the subsurface. The primer was roller-applied over the cured moisture vapor barrier and dried in about an hour to allow same-day application of leveler.

TechLevel™ 150 Premium Calcium Aluminate-Based Self-Leveling Underlayment was selected for this project. TechLevel 150 delivers strength, durability and superior surface qualities, which were all important to the contractors. This quick setting underlayment can be applied up to 1.5" (3.8 cm) thick in one pour and seeks its own level in minutes. Formulated to have excellent compressive strength, TechLevel 150 achieves greater than 4,300 psi for high traffic commercial applications such as a busy casino. TechLevel 150 was barrel-mixed, poured and spread by teams of three installers using gauge rakes followed by smoothing tools.

"The system worked great. We are very happy with the TechMVC moisture control," said Smedley. "CUSTOM's team is super helpful and makes it easy to achieve project necessities," he added.

Following subfloor preparation with CustomTech products, tile was installed throughout the property with a full system of CUSTOM tile installation products. As you might expect in these elegant surroundings, designers chose luxurious looking large format porcelain and natural stone tile. As casino guests enter the valet lobby, they will encounter the craftsmanship of intricately patterned, inlaid marble and granite slab medallions that evoke a more sophisticated era. Apart from the extensive inlay work, the majority of the natural stone and porcelain tile was installed in 18" x 18" and 24" x 24" formats.

Use of a full system of CustomTech and CUSTOM products will help to ensure long-lasting protection and performance, in addition to the best possible installation warranty.

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