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**A**s Bellevue Hospital in New York City neared completion of its most recent addition, officials realized they needed to install an exceptional flooring system in the new building. In addition to housing Bellevue's Forensic Biology Laboratory, the facility would also be home to the Kips Bay Emergency Medical Service Station for Battalion 8 of the New York City Fire Department. The expectation for heavy foot traffic meant the flooring had to be durable. At the same time, the hospital wanted to utilize a material that was both cost-effective and attractive.

Port Morris Tile & Marble Corporation of Bronx, New York was given the challenge of delivering a flooring system that met the hospital's requirements. The chosen flooring also had to blend aesthetically with the walls of the corridors, which were bordered on one side by marble, and on the other side by floor to ceiling mullioned windows. Installation would encompass the main corridors of levels 3 through 14 of the facility – a total of 13,000 square feet - and would require that installers work within a very tight and technical layout.

MAPEI's *Terratop* terrazzo installation system offered the perfect solution. First, BAC craftworkers from Port Morris poured MAPEI's *Ultraplan*® M20 self-leveling underlayment to provide a smooth and level surface for their work. They then placed a combination of 1/4-inch and 1/8-inch zinc strips to align with the marble wall joints on one side and the window mullions on the other. The resulting panels

## BELLEVUE HOSPITAL FORENSIC BIOLOGY LAB BUILDING New York, NY



- OWNER:** State of New York
- ARCHITECT:** Perkins Eastman
- GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** T A Ahern  
Construction Corp.
- TERRAZZO CONTRACTOR:** Port Morris Tile  
& Marble Corporation
- LOCAL UNION:** International Union of Bricklayers  
and Allied Craftworkers, Local 7,  
New York/New Jersey
- TERRAZZO AREA:** 13,000 sq.ft.
- COMPLETION DATE:** November, 2006
- SPECIAL PROJECT FEATURES:** MAPEI *Terratop*  
terrazzo installation system



*Zinc strip panels prior to Terratop matrix/binder application*



*Completed Terratop Installation*

were very small, and installers found *Terratop's* easy flow to be quite an advantage when pouring the warm grey matrix/binder into the panels. They then broadcast a 50/20/30 blend of Georgia White/Canadian Grey/Turkish White marble. The 50/50 blend of 1 and 2 size aggregate produced a beautiful pattern when the polishing was completed.

By utilizing *Terratop*, the hospital was able to realize both significant cost savings and a faster completion time. According to Bill Zonca of Port Morris Tile & Marble, "By using MAPEI's *Terratop* terrazzo binder, we were able to give them everything they wanted—beauty, durability and cost-effectiveness."

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The International Masonry Institute is a labor/management cooperative serving the interests of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers and the contractors who employ its members.

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