



The Finishing Touch

Volume 6, Issue 1

January, 2004

Featured Project - The Kales Building

Kent Underlayment has recently been involved with the renovation of one of Detroit's landmark buildings, The Kales Building located on Grand Circus Park, downtown Detroit. The 18-story building was purchased by developers in 2000 and is being converted to Lofts by Mansur Construction Services, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Kent Underlayment has been contracted to refurbish most of the floors in the building, starting with the 18th floor and working down. The techniques used to pour the floors are as varied as the sub-floor materials which needed to be covered. Old hardwood and sleepers, concrete, tile and terrazzo surfaces were the floors of choice when this building was constructed in the early 1900's. The biggest challenge was getting Gyp-Crete 2000 up to and installed on the highest floor. To do this, Kent purchased 200 feet of Gyp-Crete pump hose and connected it in 50-ft sections in the buildings old stairwell, by attaching it to the handrailings. Floors were individually prepped for each pour and 50-ft sections of hose were used as required to obtain access to the proper floor to be poured. After the floors were poured, contractors began to build "condo like" lofts on the new Gyp-Crete 2000 surface. Kent Underlayment is scheduled to have its part of the renovation completed by late January 2004.

The Kales building was designed by industrial architect Albert Kahn and built for the S.S. Kresge Company to house its corporate offices. Kresge Company is the forerunner of today's Kmart. The building is approximately 2 city blocks from the new downtown Detroit development area, including The Fox Theatre, the Comerica Baseball Park, and the new Ford Field football stadium.

Kent Underlayment has worked in other downtown Detroit landmarks, (the Griswold Building, the GM Ren Center on the Detroit River, Trappers Alley in Greektown, and the Motor City Casino to name a few) and is currently pursuing more of this type of work as Detroit is being redeveloped. Kent Underlayment is currently doing the floor renovation at Southeastern High School, it being a 2500 bag Gyp-Crete 2000 pour with varying types of subfloors similar to the previously mentioned buildings.



The Kales Building



The Problem - Bad Floors



The Solution - Gyp-Crete 2000



The Finished Product