



EXCELSIOR HOTEL GALLIA

Milan, Italy

STUDIO MARCO PIVA

The Excelsior Hotel Gallia is one of Milan's famed hotels and now, revamped and enlarged, it is truly back. Studio Marco Piva's design sought to make this art déco building more functional and then to extend it by adding a new glazed and steel volume that will house a conference centre, a large spa and a bar with a panoramic terrace. The refurbishment of the 235 rooms, including 53 suites, in the historical section merged sophisticated interior design with cutting-edge products and materials.

Mapei's products were selected to lay the stone cladding in over 200 bathrooms, the corridors and the lift landings. The floor and wall cladding in the bathrooms involved *ad hoc* shapes designed by the architects, using 2-cm thick Botticino marble slabs with a shiny finish. Keraflex Maxi S1 high performance cementitious adhesive with no vertical slip was selected. The grouting was then done with Ultracolor Plus, a high performance, anti-efflorescence, quick-setting and drying mortar that is water repellent and mould resistant. The joints were sealed with Mapesil LM silicon sealant. The same selection of products was used for the solid marble shower bases (3-cm thick) and the Botticino marble slabs to clad the tubs and benches. The same materials and laying system were adopted in the corridors and lift landing area, covering a total surface area of about 500 sq m.

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Via Cafiero, 22 - I - 20158 Milano

Tel. +39 02 376731- Fax + 39 02 37673214

E-mail: mapei@mapei.it - www.mapei.com



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