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## Atelier(s) Alfonso Femia

# Dallara Academy Shapes, Materials and Advanced Technology Varano de' Melegari, Parma, Italy

The Motor Valley in Emilia-Romagna is a land of motor cars, of testing how to push the laws of physics in automotive design and of racing car history. It is also home to the Dallara Academy, named after the automotive house founded by Giampaolo Dallara and a visible investment in the future, in young people, in students and in the long-established motor sport tradition of these lands. The Academy was designed by Atelier(s) Alfonso Femia and is located in a small hamlet south of Parma. The complex is acutely aware of the landscape into which it integrates, as is expressed by the entirely glass exhibition ramp.

Here, materials play a characterizing role, from the local natural stone to the brass finishings and ceramic cladding. Such choices not only bridge the gap between the spirit of place and people, but also reiterate the interplay between material and light. Such aspects provide tangible evidence of the attention to detail and care inherent in this project, as highlighted by architect Femia in his words on working with Mapei: "Care in the project takes the form of the choice of materials and of the suppliers involved in its creation". Materials are specifically chosen to accompany the different zones, helping to distinguish them

and thus highlighting the result of using differing, intersecting geometric forms for the structure. The bulk of the complex is formed by a semi-circular volume and a trapezoidal one that meet, forming a central section out of which rise three audaciously designed cone shapes clad in a 3D mosaic made using ceramic tiles.

"The end result owes much to invisible technologies that are fundamental both for the construction process and the final result", added Femia. "Invisible technologies are part of the process of building and producing architecture. They are at the heart of information exchange about how to do things and what materials to use. They are organized according to rules that determine the sequence of building and the methods adopted. In such a context, working with Mapei at the Dallara Motorsport Academy made the whole process flow easily, helping to achieve an ambitious and innovative goal".

### MATERIALS USED

#### Laying and grouting tiles:

Kerabond, Isolastic, Mapesil LM, Ultrabond  
Eco PU 2 K, Ultracolor Plus

#### Substrate preparation and waterproofing:

Primer SN, Purtop 1000, Quarzo 0,5

#### Substrates and coverings:

Dynamon Floor 10, Mapecoat I 600 W,  
Mapefloor System 33, Mapefloor System 51

### MAPEI

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