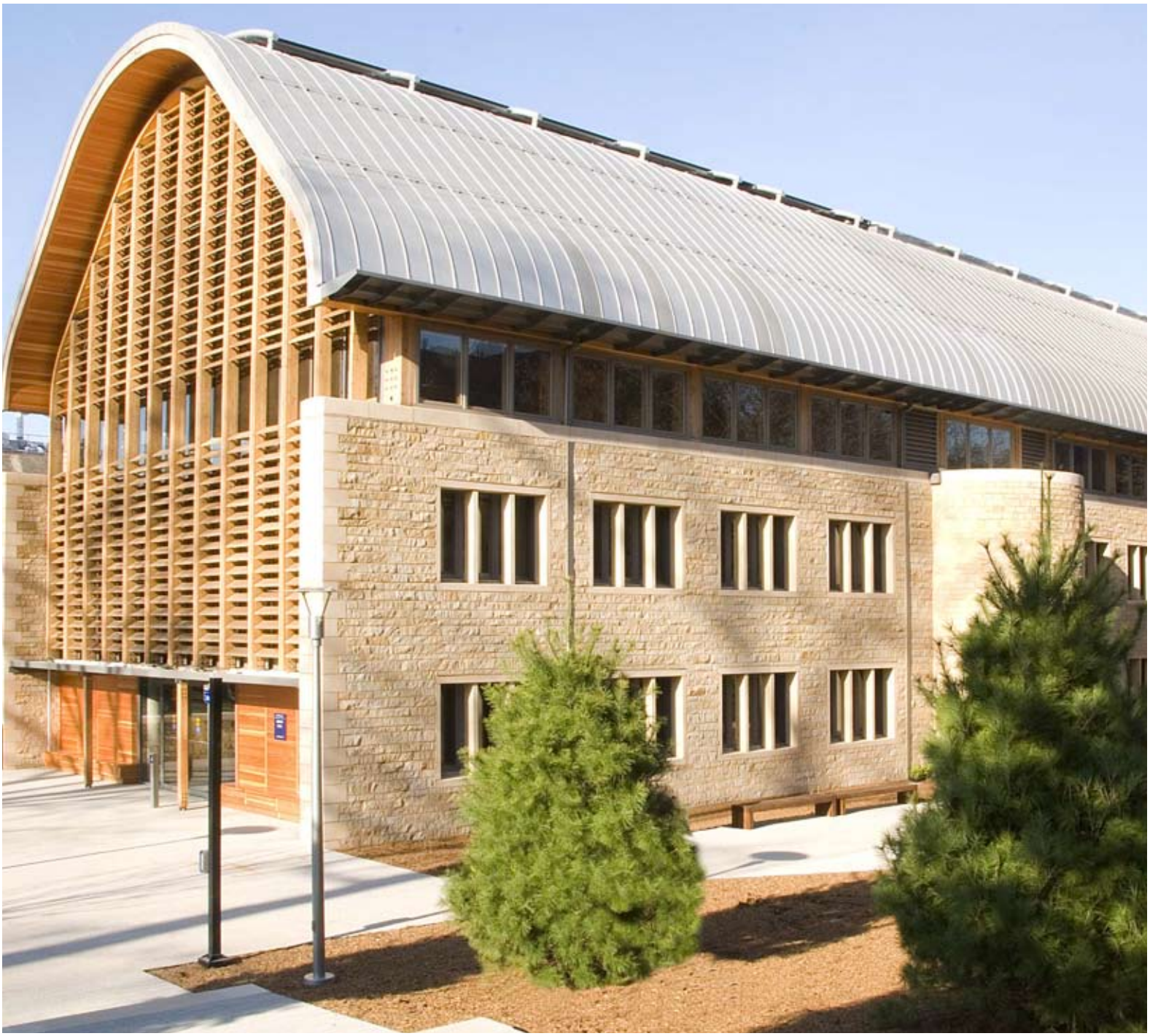
LATICRETE®

Innovative Tile and Stone Installation Systems

Kroon Hall, Yale University

Project Spotlight: March 2010



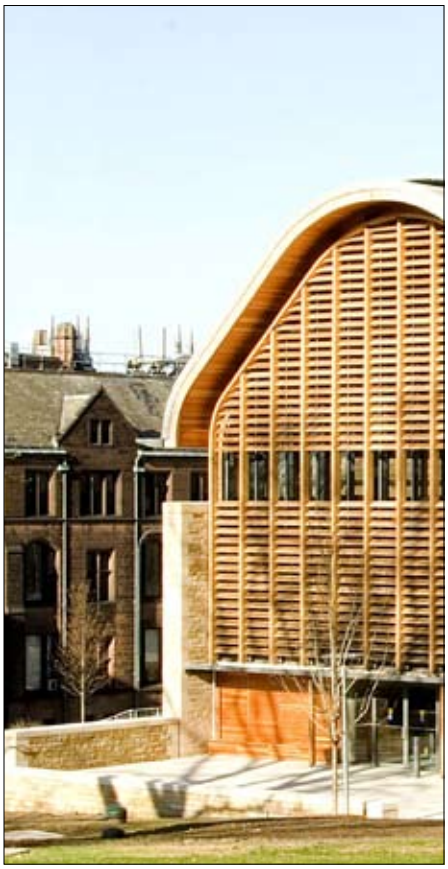
LOCATION:
Kroon Hall, Yale University, New Haven, CT

ARCHITECTS:
Centerbrook Architects and Planners, Centerbrook, CT
Hopkins Architects Ltd, London

TILE SUPPLIER/LATICRETE DISTRIBUTOR:
Daltile, North Haven, CT

TILE CONTRACTOR:
Joseph Cohn and Son, Inc., North Haven, CT

TILE INSTALLATION SYSTEM:
LATICRETE International Inc., Bethany, CT



LATICRETE Products Add Up for Kroon Hall Seeking LEED Platinum Rating

By Eric Carson

For more than five decades, the history of LATICRETE has been defined by innovation. With its steadfast focus on producing world-class products for the installation of tile and stone, LATICRETE has continued to meet the demands of an ever-evolving industry. This has certainly been the case in recent years as the overall building landscape has been dramatically altered. The word "green" has ushered in a new era of construction, quickly shifting LATICRETE and the industry's attention towards the goal of meeting the requirements set forth by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.

During this time of change LATICRETE has led the way, becoming the first in the industry to obtain independent GREENGUARD® Indoor Air Quality certification for its product line. In 2009, LATICRETE took another step forward when its products passed the most stringent emission standards testing criteria to-date and earned GREENGUARD for Children & Schools certification. Both of these distinctions are critical for architects and specifiers, and ultimately the building owner, as LATICRETE® products and regional manufacturing presence contribute points across various categories of the LEED rating system.

An excellent example can be seen at the newly constructed Kroon Hall, located on Science Hill on the campus of the prestigious Ivy League school in New Haven, CT. LATICRETE products did more than just perform and add aesthetic value, they helped to contribute points for a building that's slated to meet the top LEED rating of Platinum. LATICRETE materials were used to install ceramic floor and wall tile in all eight public restrooms for the Kroon Hall, the newest building on this sprawling urban campus less than 10 miles away from LATICRETE world headquarters in Bethany, CT.

Kroon Hall was realized architecturally in collaboration between London-based Hopkins Architects Ltd and Centerbrook Architects and Planners. The LATICRETE tile and stone installation materials specification for the project was done locally by the Centerbrook team. In addition to other advantages of specifying LATICRETE, such as the recyclable plastic bag packaging program for its mortars, thin-sets, and grouts, Centerbrook was focused on LEED credit for Indoor Air Quality (EQ 4.1) for low-emitting flooring materials, as well as Materials and Resources credit MR 5.1 or MR 5.2 for regional materials manufactured within 500 miles of the Ivy League campus. For Kroon Hall, the new building for the ever-important School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the final tally for the percentage of materials supplied regionally will help determine which MR credit the project will fall under. LEED has set the percentages at 10 percent (MR 5.1) and 20 percent (MR 5.2), respectively.

"Because Kroon Hall is a building for environmental scientists, certainly we were concerned about indoor air quality," said James Coan, AIA, LEED AP, Director, Architectural Practice and Building Science at Centerbrook. "There were LEED points available with the LATICRETE® products which have a track record of being used successfully in sustainable building projects. We went for the regional materials credit, as well. The installation came out great. Everyone seems to love the building and how well it is performing."

The LATICRETE products were efficiently supplied for the Kroon Hall project by Daltile in neighboring North Haven, CT, and installed by family-owned Joseph Cohn & Son, Inc., also of North Haven. Joseph Cohn & Son are experts in commercial flooring and have now successfully installed tile and stone with LATICRETE materials and methods for several projects on the New Haven campus. George Desrosiers, project manager for Joseph Cohn & Sons on the Kroon Hall project, has years of experience

working with LATICRETE® products on high-level buildings throughout the region and is currently using LATICRETE products in the Yale Cancer Building.

The Kroon Hall specification for the eight bathrooms included LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane, widely regarded as the industry standard for wet areas or continuous submersion applications. LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane meets the LEED requirements for low VOC content, while protecting the finished tile work from the threat of water damage. It also doubles as an anti-fracture membrane capable of suppressing cracks in the concrete substrate up to 1/8" (3 mm). The product is easy to install with a paint roller or brush with no special tools, and contains antimicrobial product protection from Microban® to inhibit the growth of mold and mildew.

The flooring tiles were set by Desrosiers and his crew with one of the top multipurpose adhesives on the market, LATICRETE 254 Platinum, a premium one-step, polymer fortified thin-set that provides unmatched strength for virtually any job over any suitable substrate. LATICRETE 254 Platinum has a longer than usual open time for a multipurpose adhesive that allows for more flexibility on the jobsite and results in fast, accurate tiling. GREENGUARD® Children & Schools certified, LATICRETE 254 Platinum inhibits the growth of mold and mildew with Microban antimicrobial product protection and its performance is backed by the LATICRETE family of warranties.

For the flooring tiles, Centerbrook Architects and Planners specified LATICRETE 1500 Sanded Grout for the 1/8" (3 mm) width grout joints and chose to mix it with LATICRETE 1776 Grout Enhancer for added strength and stain-resistant properties. LATICRETE 1500 Sanded Grout is a cement-based product that when mixed with LATICRETE 1776 Grout Enhancer eliminates the threat of shading and blotching that could occur from minerals and organic particles commonly found in our domestic water supply. Both products are GREENGUARD for Children & Schools certified as low-emitting flooring materials.

The tiles on the walls were set with a versatile, lightweight mortar specifically formulated for unmatched non-sag performance. LATICRETE 255 MultiMax™ is reinforced with Kevlar® and can be built up on the wall substrate up to ¾" (18 mm) without any slump, sag or lippage. LATICRETE 255 MultiMax replaces mastic, multipurpose and medium bed mortars, and with its lightweight consistency is easily troweled onto the substrate with minimal effort for the installer. LATICRETE 255 MultiMax enables the installer to make adjustments as necessary for accurate installations, even with large-format tile or stone products. With low VOC content and antimicrobial Microban product protection, LATICRETE 255 MultiMax is also GREENGUARD Children & Schools certified.

After adhering the wall tiles to the cement backer board at Kroon Hall, LATICRETE 1600 Unsanded Grout was mixed with LATICRETE 1776 Grout Enhancer as the final step for Joseph Cohn & Sons in Kroon Hall's eight bathroom installations. This product has been designed for use when grout joints are planned out to be 1/8" (3 mm) or less.

With Kroon Hall now complete and fully operational, the Ivy League-elite students and future scientists of the world study and learn in an environment with a wide range of sustainable initiatives including geothermal and solar energy, natural light, ground source heat pumps, displacement air systems, a rainwater harvesting system and cleansing pond. And yes, LATICRETE products and innovation will forever be linked with this landmark building at the base of Science Hill, serving as a highly visible catalyst for environmental studies on this beautiful campus in the heart of New Haven.