



Innovative Tile and Stone  
Installation Systems

## Cahn Pool, Beverly Hills Project Spotlight: April 2010



**LOCATION:**  
The Cahn Residence  
Beverly Hills, CA

**TILE CONTRACTOR:**  
Rock Solid Tile, Calabasas, CA

**LATICRETE DISTRIBUTOR:**  
Bonanza Trade Supply in North Hollywood, CA  
Bedrosians Tile & Marble, Sylmar, CA

**LATICRETE SPECTRALOCK PRO GROUT  
DISTRIBUTOR:**  
Bedrosians Tile & Marble, Sylmar, CA

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

## Spectacular Beverly Hills Pool Fortified by LATICRETE

By Eric Carson

The high-performance team of Rock Solid Tile, Inc. and LATICRETE has added another stunning victory in Southern California, this time flawlessly completing an infinity edge mosaic glass tile pool suspended on a private homeowner's back terrace with panoramic views of Beverly Hills.

Fueled by the superior quality, speed of application and finished presentation provided by LATICRETE® products, Rock Solid Tile owner Jimmy Reed and his highly-skilled team of installers have gained a top reputation in Los Angeles County and beyond for expertise when it comes to the delicate task of surfacing pools with glass tiles.

Reed loves the challenge, the process and the finished look of glass tile pools, and the full renovation of the Cahn Pool in Beverly Hills had plenty of tests along the way to ultimately fulfill each desire. It was first noted that the existing pool had been poorly constructed during a prior renovation, creating serious problems with water intrusion relative to the perimeter overflow system. This major issue only complicated the need to alter a design scheme that simply didn't flow with the architecture of the property. The previous design had circular, wedding cake-like steps and radius coves that failed to complement the rectangular, hard-angle geometry of the house. The step design was modified to represent a stack of cubes and the pattern was repeated with rectangular pool deck tile and brick-patterned mosaic glass tiles to match the property.

When the back terrace had been taken apart and was ready to take on its new look, Rock Solid Tile utilized a collection of innovative products from LATICRETE to install 3,000 square feet (278 m<sup>2</sup>) of porcelain tile for the pool deck and another

1,900 square feet (176 m<sup>2</sup>) of glass mosaics for the pool's interior and four rectangular support columns. Reed has been a dedicated LATICRETE installer since he discovered the brand in the early 1990s, but in recent years has unlocked even more value using LATICRETE products. For a professional tile and stone contractor that keeps earning more and more pool installation projects, LATICRETE Hydro Ban™ very quickly found a home in each specification Reed puts together requiring waterproofing and anti-fracture performance.

LATICRETE Hydro Ban is the first product of its kind to not require the use of fabric\* in the field, coves or corners, offering dramatic time and labor-saving benefits for tile and stone contractors. This feature alone was an incredible breakthrough for the industry, but LATICRETE Hydro Ban also bonds directly to PVC and metal plumbing fixtures\*, eliminating the time-consuming task of tying out traditional waterproofing membranes to each drain and pipe penetration on the project. In addition, LATICRETE Hydro Ban can be flood tested in just two hours\*\* at 70°F (20°C) and higher, an incredibly quick timeframe that can literally shave days off the project schedule. With this list of attributes, LATICRETE Hydro Ban allows contractors to submit far more competitive bids on any building project, mosaic glass tile pools or otherwise.

"LATICRETE Hydro Ban is just a great product," said Reed. "We exclusively specify this product for every installation of tile and stone we do that requires a waterproofing membrane. The owner wanted only the best products to be used. That was the answer we got every time we asked. That means LATICRETE to us, and that means LATICRETE Hydro Ban for this crucial step in the process."



For the Cahn Pool, Rock Solid Tile pressure washed the pool's shell to remove any debris. Next, in order to provide a bond coat on the pool shell, Reed's crew applied a slurry coat of LATICRETE® 254 Platinum thin-set adhesive. At that point, Rock Solid Tile roller applied — brush applied in certain areas — two coats of LATICRETE Hydro Ban for waterproofing and anti-fracture protection over the entire pool shell. Reed also packed each drain and pipe penetration with hydraulic cement, brushed on two coats of LATICRETE Hydro Ban and moved on to the next step.

After using LATICRETE 254 Platinum to prepare the pool's shell, Reed selected the strength and easy workability of the “best thin-set out there for installing glass tile pools” in the color white to set the 2" x 4" (50.8 mm x 101.6 mm) glass tiles in the color Quartz from Mirage Spectra. Up until this point, Rock Solid Tile (based in nearby Calabasas, CA) had been supplied with all LATICRETE products from Bonanza Trade Supply in North Hollywood.

With the glass tiles set firmly in place with LATICRETE 254 Platinum, and since the owner wanted to use only the best products, Reed specified LATICRETE SpectraLOCK® PRO Grout\* to complete this beautiful glass tile pool on the back terrace of the Cahn residence. Providing unmatched color uniformity, durability and stain resistance in an epoxy grout with extraordinary ease of use, LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout in the color Latte was the ideal choice to match the smooth-colored Quartz mosaics for the Cahn Pool installation.

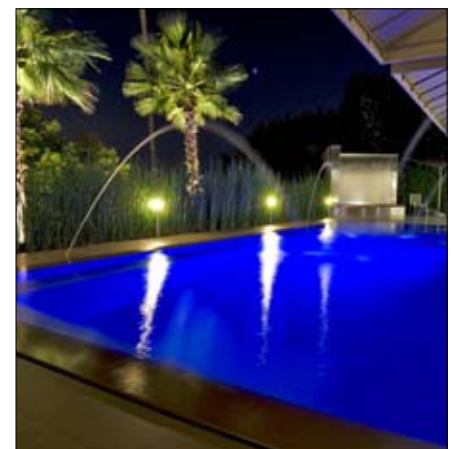
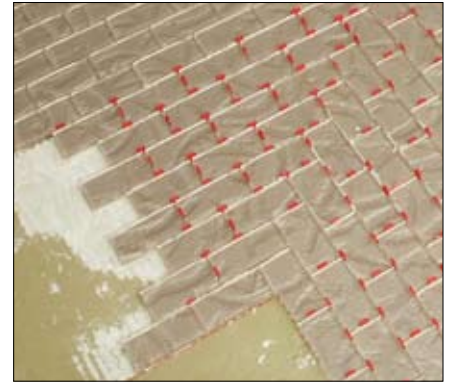
LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout is tough, durable, stain and crack resistant, and the products long open time, up to 80 minutes at 70°F (20°C), was an important factor for Reed when working on an intricate mosaic glass tile installation in Beverly Hills that had to be perfect. LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout was supplied to Reed for this project by Bedrosians Tile & Marble in Sylmar, CA.

With the actual pool successfully complete, Rock Solid Tile finished up the project by installing a rectangular staggered pattern more suited for the design of the property with 12" x 24" (304.8 mm x 609.6 mm) Tecno porcelain tiles for the pool deck. Using the same installation materials and methods from LATICRETE, two coats of LATICRETE Hydro Ban were roller applied for waterproofing and anti-fracture protection up to the industry standard of 1/8" (3 mm). The Italian-made porcelain tiles from Tecno in the color Torta (mocha-like) were set with LATICRETE 254 Platinum thin-set, which far exceeds ANSI A118.4 and A118.11 requirements.

“LATICRETE 254 Platinum is the best thin-set out there,” said Reed. “For me it's like purchasing very inexpensive insurance. It's top-shelf, and that's what this client expected.”

With 40 colors of LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout to choose from, Reed matched the porcelain tiles color and selected the patented grout formula in the color Mocha for the Cahn Pool deck surround. LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout will inhibit the growth of stain-causing mold and mildew in the grout joints at the Cahn Pool with Microban® antimicrobial product protection. This epoxy-based grout outperforms similar cement-based products and is quicker and easier to clean up, particularly when exposed to direct sunlight on exterior glass tile installations.

“This pool and the whole back terrace came out looking gorgeous,” said Reed. “LATICRETE products had a lot to do with that. The owner is a private person that enjoys her home. She was very concerned with aesthetics and wanted her surroundings to be the ultimate. She's very happy with the outcome.”



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 \* United States Patent No.: 6,881,768 (and other Patents).  
 \*\* See Data Sheets 663.0 and 685.0 for complete product information  
 \*\* LATICRETE® Hydro Ban™ can be flood tested in just two hours when cured at 70°F (20°C) or above 50% R.H. It can be flood tested in 24 hours when cured at 50-69°F (10-20.6°C) and up to 70% R.H. The time for flood testing starts when the second coat has cured from a light sage green to a darker olive green color.