

Case History – California Academy of Sciences

The California Academy of Sciences was building a brand new \$500 million dollar building. The new building was designed by the world renowned architect Renzo Piano, and is the world's greenest museum. The Academy earned the platinum rating (highest rating possible) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and is now the largest public Platinum-rated building in the world.



The Academy rainforest is contained within a spectacular 90-foot diameter glass dome. It's the largest spherical rainforest exhibit in the world. There is a spiraling path up through the exhibit to experience what it's like to actually walk in a real rainforest. The popular exhibit can see up to 14,000 people a day. Temperatures are maintained at 82-85 degrees Fahrenheit, and humidity is maintained at 75% or above using a unique misting system.

Because of the constant moisture and heavy foot traffic a tough, seamless coating system was needed for the walking ramps. Mark McCarter with MC Construction services was brought in to address the issue. It was decided that ICO Floor Coating broadcast with silica sand for anti-slip would be the best system. ICO Floor Coating has excellent adhesion and is impervious to moisture. It's extremely tough and durable system to withstand the constant foot traffic. The ICO Floor Coating system also contains zero VOCs which is important in keeping it the greenest museum in the world.



It was a challenging project with temps and humidity in the high 80's. They spray misters that provide a realistic rainforest experience had to be contained to keep water off the ramp. A shotblaster was used to remove the failed coating and MC Construction had to move quickly to coat the exposed metal.

The ramp coatings have been down for more than a year now and the California Academy of Sciences have been very pleased with the performance of the coating and the workmanship of MC Construction Services.