



Innovative Tile and Stone  
Installation Systems

# Hagadone's Dream House

Project Spotlight: January 2008



**LOCATION:**  
Palm Desert, CA

**OWNER:**  
Duane Hagadone

**ARCHITECT:**  
Guy Dreier, Guy Dreier Designs, Palm Desert, CA

**TILE CONTRACTOR:**  
Jimmy Reed, Rock Solid, Calabasas, CA

**TILE SUPPLIER:**  
Vita Nova Mosaics, Los Angeles, CA

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

**LATICRETE DISTRIBUTOR:**  
Bonanza Trade & Supply, North Hollywood, CA

**TILE CONSULTANT AND QUALITY  
CONTROL SERVICES:**  
Donato Pompo, Ceramic Tile And Stone Consultants,  
San Diego, CA



## Publishing Tycoon's Dream House Calls on LATICRETE Innovations

By Eric Carson

Resting high on an elysian ridgeline in the Santa Rosa Mountains, overlooking the 18th hole of the exclusive Big Horn Country Club in Palm Desert, California, sits the decadent new home of publishing tycoon Duane Hagadone.

Hagadone, now 74, made his fortune as the publisher of 18 daily and weekly newspapers in his native Idaho and later Montana, and over the years he's had a certain flair for spending it. After selling his custom built, 205-foot yacht, Hagadone invested an estimated \$30 million into the 64,000 square foot retirement home of his dreams.

Palm Desert, a golfing oasis some 130 miles east of Los Angeles, is ringed on three sides by magnificent mountains, sheltered from coastal air pollution and inclement weather, and blessed with a remarkable 350 days of sunshine each year. For all of those reasons, plus the over 100 prestigious private and semi-private golf courses, Palm Desert has become the playground of some of America's most affluent citizens.

But even with the influx of wealthy Southern California business people and snowbirds from all over the world, there is no residence in Palm Desert quite like Hagadone's extravagant new digs. Designed to blend in with the surrounding mountains, the residence features five different wings linked by French Beaumaniere limestone bridges that arch over a series of infinity edged streams, cascading waterfalls and spectacular reflection pools, protected from the blazing desert sun by 57 different curved and angled copper roof segments. The exterior of the house, clad with exotic Panther Sandstone imported from India, lights up at night with 110 glass windows, and is complete with 19 glass walls that open and close at the touch of a button.

Still with all of these attributes, the water features installed with the LATICRETE® System at the Hagadone residence could be the most impressive aspect of this masterpiece designed by architect Guy Dreier of Guy Dreier Designs. The five pool vessels, waterfalls and the koi pond are a complex series of overflowing infinity edge systems recycling separately at strategic transitions.

Given the complex nature of the Hagadone residence, both in design and execution, Donato Pompo of Ceramic Tile and Stone Consultants, Inc., was contracted to oversee all aspects of quality control for the installation of tile and stone. Pompo, with knowledge gained as an installer early in his career, wrote the specifications and guidelines for the delicate installation of the Hagadone pools with the LATICRETE System in mind and then assembled a team of licensed tile installers as inspectors to provide daily on-site quality control services. Pompo's experienced CTaSC team included: Steve Raish, Jack Langan, Martin Grey and Kevin Klaser.

"An important part of the quality control services included training the installers on the job to ensure the tile and stone was installed according to the specifications, industry standards and the manufacturers' instructions," said Pompo. "Since there are limited opportunities for installers to get formalized training in the industry, the quality control process is a great method for educating."

With over 50 years dedicated to the research and development of innovative systems for the installation of ceramic tile and stone, LATICRETE had the full complement of high quality products to realize the pool and water feature installation, and the faith that comes with experience to offer the warranty that Pompo wanted to move forward with the project.

"From our view, quality is number 1," said Pompo (CTC, CSI, CDT, MBA). "We believe in single source responsibility. With the warranty there are usually better products included and more specific guidelines, which usually will translate into a better outcome. When we wrote the specification we said, 'LATICRETE or equal,' but it had to be a system approach. LATICRETE was the only one who stepped up and delivered the whole package. They have more experience and were more responsive than other suppliers."

For the water features at the Hagadone residence, Pompo came up with a detailed specification that matched the complexity and integrity of the installation. Beginning at the front of the property looking out at the Big Horn golf course and the city of Palm Desert below, are three boat shaped infinity edge pools that act as one body of water. Each vessel measures 120 feet from tip to tip, with the



middle vessel sitting higher and overflowing into each infinity edge vessel on either side. The installer for this very important and visible aspect of the Hagadone residence was Jimmy Reed of Rock Solid in nearby Calabasas. He used a full range of LATICRETE system materials supplied by Daniel Abitboul at Bonanza Trade and Supply in North Hollywood.

When the gunite phase left the three pools out of tolerance, Rock Solid first applied a scratch coat consisting of LATICRETE® 254 Platinum, a low VOC, one-step, polymer fortified thin-set that provides unsurpassed strength, far exceeding all ANSI strength requirements.

The next step was to build a level mortar bed using LATICRETE 226 Thick Bed Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 8510 Bonding Admix, a concentrated acrylic admix that dramatically improves the workability and physical properties of portland cement-based mortars.

After applying the LATICRETE latex modified portland cement mortar, a smooth skim coat of LATICRETE 254 Platinum was applied for proper, uniform waterproof bonding, and then followed by a signature LATICRETE product: LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane. Long the industry standard, LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane is a thin, load bearing, liquid applied waterproofing and anti-fracture membrane that creates a permanent base for tile, glass mosaics and stone in pools and spas. GREENGUARD certified, LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane protects against mold and mildew with antimicrobial protection from Microban®.

Reed and Rock Solid then applied LATAPOXY® 24hr Hydroproofing™ on all of the steel light and PVC pipe penetrations in the pool as a flashing from the penetrations to LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane.

The next step was to set the mosaic glass tiles from the Bisazza series VetriColor, supplied by Rodger Gariano of Vitra Nova Mosaics. The paper-faced, ¾" x ¾" tiles were set with 1/16" grout joints in LATICRETE 254R Platinum Rapid, bonded with a slurry coat consisting of a custom made, Turquoise colored LATICRETE 1500 Sanded Grout mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Admix. The joints at each penetration were then filled with LATICRETE Latasil™, a 100

percent silicone sealant that protects against mold and mildew with antimicrobial protection from Microban.

The final result was three breathtaking infinity pools at the edge of the ridgeline with less than 1/16" variance in tolerance from one end to the other, and the same approach and system was used for all of the water features at the Hagadone residence.

"My experience with the LATICRETE System is that every product that we have tested or used at different job sites has performed better and easier than any other manufacture," said Reed. "At this point we almost exclusively use LATICRETE across the board. The products are available through a lot of dealers right now. And the technical support is always just a phone call away, which is important because LATICRETE is so up on technology and always introducing new products. For such a large company they are very easy to communicate with."

Utilizing the very same LATICRETE System, Rock Solid installed the Bisazza mosaic glass tiles in over 8,000 square feet of additional reflection pool areas that serve as the main entrance to the residence. With the garage below the property, the glass elevator rises and opens at the main entrance encircled by the eight-inch deep infinity edge reflection pool that is fed by a cascading waterfalls and a natural river bed. To access the rest of the property, including the private pool at the west end of the master suite, the guest suites, the pavilion area and Hagadone's private office, the Beaumaniere limestone covered bridges stretch out over each body of water in every direction.

LATICRETE, the leading privately-held, US-based company in the ceramic tile and stone installation industry, is the name known and trusted by architects, consultants and professional installers for every application using the direct adhered method. The complex installation of the water features at the Hagadone residence provides insight into the LATICRETE commitment to developing a complete range of high-quality products uniquely positioned to add value from the distributor, to the contractor, and eventually to the end user. With over 50 years dedicated to researching and manufacturing innovative systems for the installation of tile and stone, the LATICRETE System applied to the water features at the Hagadone residence is guaranteed to stand the test of time.





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