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Ready to Brew



New brewing company chooses homegrown floor solution



20,000 kegs were bounced, dropped, and scraped on the test patch over the course of a year; Flowfresh HF held up beautifully to the chemical, mechanical, and thermal punishment.



The system is positively textured underfoot to minimize the risk of slip-fall accidents, particularly in damp or moist conditions like those found in the brewhouse.

THE PROJECT

Having faced difficulties finding a suitable flooring material geared up to withstand the daily operations of its old brewhouse, Texan craft brewer, Live Oak Brewing Company, turned to Flowcrete Americas and STAR applicator partner, DLS Flooring Systems, to provide a homegrown solution that would be up to the challenge in its new facility.

Based just outside of downtown Austin, Texas, Live Oak is lauded as the county's original craft brewer, having been producing old-school lagers and ales in the region since 1997.

Nestled among majestic groves of live oaks on a patch of prime Texas landscape along the Colorado River, Live Oak Brewing Company's new brewery features a purpose-built taproom and biergarten, which is open to patrons looking to sample an authentic, old-style European brew.

“THE NEW FLOOR PASSED CONSTRUCTION, RIGGING, AND COMMISSIONING WITH FLYING COLORS, AND I DON'T THINK ABOUT IT UNTIL IT'S TIME TO WASH IT BACK TO LOOKING BRAND NEW.”

Having experienced several problems with flooring materials in his original facility, Live Oak founder and proprietor, Chip McElroy, challenged general contractor, Structura, who was charged with overseeing the new construction, to find a material that would offer the necessary chemical, slip, and thermal shock resistance needed in the cellar.

THE SOLUTION

After an initial product review process, Live Oak Brewing Company appointed local installation specialist DLS Flooring Systems, led by John Guidry, to install a small test area to determine how Flowcrete Americas' cementitious urethane mortar, Flowfresh HF, would hold up in a live operating environment.

Flowfresh HF is a highly durable, trowel-applied cementitious mortar that is installed at thicknesses up to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. Designed for the most arduous of food manufacturing environments, the system offers clients an excellent chemical resistance profile combined with temperature resistance up to 250 degrees F intermittently—ideal for environments subject to high temperature processes and hot water washdowns.

The system is also positively textured underfoot to minimize the risk of slip-fall accidents, particularly in damp or

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Flowfresh cementitious urethane flooring solutions, or to read up on the breweries that have been transformed, visit www.flowcreteamericas.com.

moist conditions like those found in the brewhouse. Containing a silver-ion-based antimicrobial additive, the system is also able to act as a second line of defense between wash cycles when it comes to the clean barrier, protecting the surface from bacteria, mold, and fungi.

THE OUTCOME

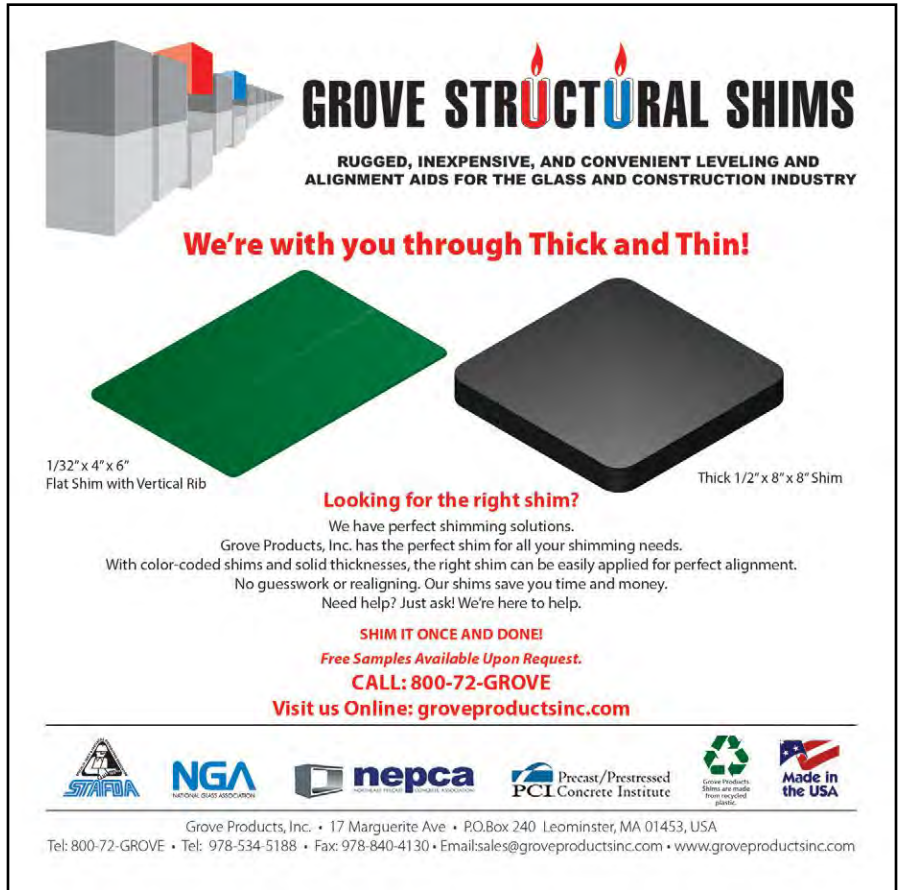
After a successful trial period, Live Oak selected Flowfresh HF for the production and bottling areas of its new construction, representing over 10,000 square feet in Dark Gray, with approximately 350 lineal feet of accompanying cove base to provide a safe and hygienic transition between the floor and wall.

John Luck of Live Oak Brewing comments on the installation, "After our concrete had turned to sand and old epoxy had peeled away, we put down Flowfresh HF and found a durable, chemical-resistant floor. DLS Flooring Systems did a fast and neat job putting Flowfresh HF on old, wet concrete in our keg pit, where we use (and spill) the highest concentrations of acid and caustic. We bounced, dropped, and scraped 20,000 kegs on the test patch over the course of a year, but Flowfresh HF held up beautifully to the chemical, mechanical, and thermal punishment. DLS did quick, professional work putting Flowfresh HF in our cellar and packaging hall. The new floor passed construction, rigging, and commissioning with flying colors, and I don't think about it until it's time to wash it back to looking brand new."

Certified by HACCP International and recommended as safe for use in food production, processing, and packaging facilities operating a HACCP-based Food Safety Plan; Flowfresh HF has been used extensively by food and beverage brands across the U.S., Canada, and Latin America.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Live Oak Brewing opened its new brewhouse and biergarten in time to head to Philadelphia for the annual Craft Brewers Conference & BrewExpo America hosted by the Brewer's Association. The event took place at the Philadelphia Convention Center in May and featured the latest innovations from the world of craft brew. ■



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