Artisan Turns A Mall Into A Tile Spectacular

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When Chris Ramos of the Ramos Group, a Kansas City architectural firm, joined forces with the Artisan Tile and Marble Company of N. J., they created a mall in suburban Rockaway Township, N. J. that can be termed no less than spectacular.

Ceramic tile was used in the first phase through 120,000 square feet of the mall. Approximately 45 percent is in heavy duty Orsan in cork tan and oak colors in brick-like shapes and 55 percent is in 6-inch x 6-inch Romany flashed red pavers. The two styles of tile are blended in so perfect a marriage, that the design and craftsmanship is receiving praise throughout the industry.

The tile was used in such unconventional ways as for planters, fountains, seating and waterfalls. Stair treads were alternated with Romany pavers and the heavy duty Orsan.

The beauty of the job is evident in the pictures supplied by the United States Ceramic Tile Company. In mid-1978, during phase two, an additional 50,000 square feet of surface will be covered with tile.

A job of this magnitude is nothing new to Artisan Tile.

The company was founded in 1964 by Arnold M. Hess and has since grown into one of the most active contracting firms in the east. Over the past few years, Artisan has been involved in mall projects throughout New Jersey, Florida, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania. It also works on federally financed housing projects and is currently involved in the Richard B. Russell Federal Office Building in Atlanta, Ga.

Artisan stresses the importance of working with the architect in getting the feel of what he is trying to accomplish. It notes that architects like the "warm" look accomplished with tile and the versatility offered in design.

Additionally, as in the case of the Rockaway Townsquare Mall, there is the great satisfaction of the owners and the managers who have little to worry about in the way of maintenance. All these factors help ceramic tile sell itself as the best choice in building materials.