

SURFACES

SUNGLOSS
MARBLE CO.

Natural restoration method prevents pollution and saves energy and money

MIKE PAVILON ESTIMATES THAT THROUGHOUT the years, his natural-stone restoration-and-repair business has saved millions of gallons of waste materials from running into lakes, rivers, and streams in the Chicago area and across the Midwest, continuing on down the Mississippi past the reviving New Orleans. He founded Sungloss Marble Company when he discovered a need for such a service in the local marketplace. After careful research and training with specialists flown in from Germany, Pavilon and his associates came across something extraordinary. "What we wound up doing was eliminating the need to use topcoats and waxes," Pavilon says. "We use diamonds, 'wet sanding' processes, and water-based natural materials that allow one to polish and prepare the marble without harmful chemicals, dust, toxic debris, and waste. That, in and of itself, is very environmentally friendly." Restoring rather than replacing floors also has the added benefits of saving the client money, energy, and aggravation. The energy expended by replacing stone—the process to quarry, cut, transport, re-cut, fabricate, transport, install, and seal it—is incredible. Sungloss saves that energy, and its customers save that money.

Sungloss' commitment to the environment can be seen in other aspects of the company as well. It is a member of the USGBC, and does its part to stay on top of the latest information on LEED standards. In addition to its work with clients, Sungloss leads by example by adhering to company policies designed with the environment in mind:

- Rather than driving a fleet of fuel-hogging vans, Sungloss employees drive to sites in more eco-friendly station wagons, averaging no less than 26 mpg.
- The company's office uses natural light and CFL bulbs.
- Plans are underway to build a Trombe wall for



Left to right: Alex Rocha, George David, and Lisa Park. Photo: Sheri Berliner.

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—Mike Pavilon, Founder

its Jefferson Park office. The addition will attach to a south-facing wall and provide natural heat and insulation for a particular part of the building.

An example of the Sungloss work can be seen in the Administration and Public Safety Complex in Elk Grove Village, the state of Illinois' first town hall designated to receive LEED Gold certification. "The unique aspect of that job is that we were not included in the original scope project," says Sungloss vice president of business development Lisa Park. "This was an addition...to the old building to expand it. The stone for the new floor came from Minnesota. The old building had granite flooring which had been waxed over and over again. They had nothing in common. We spent about a month removing all of the old wax with a biodegradable stripping agent and water. Once we come in, it's the last time you have to do the waxing and stripping cycle, and on a maintenance level, with water-based products, few chemicals

are needed to take care of the floor." In recent years, additional high-visibility projects that utilized Sungloss' techniques included work on several severely damaged condominium lobbies that were originally going to be replaced.

Pavilon points to some of the world's oldest man-made structures in Turkey as proof that materials such as marble and granite can last for thousands of years. Companies like Sungloss serve to ensure these structures' longevity. "Even if someone has broken the marble, there is a way to repair it," Pavilon says. "If a floor or counter is broken, we can come in and fix it. That is something a lot of people don't know. We have colorizing polyester mixes that harden with the marble. We can repair most pieces, rather than throw them away. Smooth it out, polish it up, and it will almost look brand new. There are a lot of 'tricks of the trade.'"

—by Jamie Ludwig

A MESSAGE FROM THE BLUE BOOK BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

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