

Project Materials

1205

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Procuratie Vecchie, Venice

Terrazzo or Seminato

A Paving or type of Flooring for interiors that is typical of the Venetian and Triveneto area and is more commonly known as Venetian Terrazzo or Seminato Flooring (wrought in so-called Venetian Style). Terrazzo or Seminato generally refers to a monolithic Flooring realized with many small fragments.

The Flooring contains small grit/granules of stone, marble, clay and glass held together by a cementitious binder of Lime, fine grit and fine clay (which is then pressed and polished). It is a type of Flooring that necessitates meticulous and expert work carried out by craftsmen (Terrazzieri) using the same techniques that have remained unchanged from the Sixteenth Century to this day.

The First Layer is the substrate composed of a mixture of materials comprising earthenware fragments and chippings (which are spread and smoothed); the Second Layer is composed of the same materials (which are pressed and leveled); the Third Layer contains pit lime (also enhanced with pigments); the Fourth Layer is composed of a special paste that is spread over the surface to hold together the Granules, and is necessary for Decorated Seminato but not for Simple Seminato. The gaps of the last Layer are grouted (with rollers and other tools) to form a smooth and compact surface (Smoothing) and this Layer is then first polished (with boiled linseed oil) and then polished again (with wax).

Pastellone or Sommassa

A Paving or type of Flooring for interiors of ancient origin, a forerunner of Venetian Terrazzo, that was already used in Roman times and which became particularly popular in the Sixteenth Century in Venice (as well as in the Nineteenth Century). Pastellone or Sommassa generally means a smooth Lime Flooring, similar to marble, and is particularly suitable for making a monobloc (monolithic and monochromatic) of walkable surfaces.

The Flooring is made of very simple materials and is a mixture of various aggregates including gravel, crushed bricks, scraps and Slaked Lime (which is then beaten and rolled until completely bedded down). It is a type of Flooring carried out by hand by craftsmen and results in a compact surface that is particularly durable (as well as smooth and shiny) and slaked since the Lime, a natural material mixed with pigments and powders, allows a wide range of colors to be obtained and is called Lime Flooring.

The First Layer is the Foundation and is composed of a mixture of Slaked Lime and a variety of large, recycled aggregates (which are leveled, beaten and compacted down), while the Second Layer, the Amalgam, is a mixture of neutral colour composed of powdered marble and Slaked Lime or Hydrated Lime (applied in several coats and smoothed with a trowel).

Cocciopesto or Coccio-pesto

It is a type of wall Cladding or a type of Flooring devised for the purpose of protecting against moisture or for decoration, which was already in use in Roman times (as a mixture of lime, sand, pozzolan and brick).

This Cladding or Flooring is made of a mixture of fragments of crushed bricks and tiles that is mixed as an

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aggregate with Aerial Lime. The Cocciopesto is laid in several compact Layers characterized by different grain sizes that are however homogeneous and which are beaten and moistened several times.

The Cocciopesto Cladding or Flooring cannot be considered a simple plaster because, if used in significant Layers, it has mechanical characteristics similar to a Conglomerate. It is composed by craftsmen to obtain a very compact surface that is particularly solid.

The Cocciopesto Flooring has similarities with Seminato or Venetian Terrazzo with the difference that the material consists for the most part of fragments of crushed earthenware from recycled materials or waste. Artificial Pozzolans composed of baked clay (Incoherent Tuff) unlike Natural Pozzolans composed of volcanic tuff (Coherent Tuff), are held together by a mortar binder (without additives) composed of Slaked Lime or Hydrated Lime, cocciopesto, sand and water.

The First Layer is composed of a mix of materials (which is leveled and beaten); the Second Layer is composed of a sand-free mixture to obtain a flat surface (which is smoothed with trowel and then grouted, polished and waxed).