

## Baltimore Washington International Airport

Custom Helps Baltimore/Washington International Airport Use Tile and Stone to Upgrade Appearance and Integrate New Concourse.

One of three major airports serving the nation's capital, Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) is home to 27 commercial airlines and served over 20 million passengers in 2004. BWI is operated by the Maryland Department of Transportation, which has embarked on a major, \$1.8 billion renovation and expansion program called Blueprint for the Future. Started in 2002 and scheduled for completion in 2006, this massive effort includes three phases that will total more than 300,000 square feet of tile and stone installation to update the appearance of the facility, create a clean, consistent look and stand up to the growing traffic that BWI welcomes each day.

These three phases include reconfiguring the two-level curbside area, renovation of the interior ticketing areas in three existing concourses, and construction of Concourse A, a new concourse that will add 11 gates. Each features an open, bright, modern aesthetic—with extensive use of granite, white polished porcelain and glass—to upgrade spaces that date back to the 1970s and integrates seamlessly with the new terminal construction. During the design and specification process, David deBear, an architectural consultant with Custom Building Products, worked closely with URS Architects, the firm that was awarded the contract by the Maryland Department of Transportation, to analyze the project and help draft the necessary specification documents for all tile and stone installations.

“By partnering with the architects and engineers during the planning and design phase, Custom was able to provide technical installation information for all tile and granite, as well as ‘systems integration’ with the other divisions. This helps ensure an efficient and effective use of time and resources,” says deBear. “These efforts paid off once construction began. We did our homework to build a good spec, and by making sure things are technically correct, we are helping



ensure that the project proceeds smoothly and accurately.”

#### Curbside and Existing Concourse Renovations

Though technically separate phases, these two areas are adjacent on the upper level where curbside leads directly into the ticketing areas of Concourses B, C and D, sharing an overall visual impression and requiring a seamless look. The lower curbside level is directly outside BWI’s baggage claim areas for all three existing concourses. ProFast Commercial Flooring, Inc. was selected as the tile contractor for the renovation phase of the BWI expansion project, and used a complete system of products from Custom Building Products to install tile and stone throughout. The upper curbside level was previously covered with antiquated ceramic tile; the lower area was plain concrete. Expansion plans called for both upper and lower areas to be widened and re-configured, then finished with granite and porcelain tile pavers in neutral shades of white, gray and black. ProFast used a traditional mud bed gauged with Acrylic Mortar Admix for installing the granite pavers and CreteMix™ Mortar System to set the porcelain pavers, finishing the job with Polyblend® Grout.



“We’ve had an ongoing, highly successful relationship with Custom for many years, and would not have been comfortable using any other installation system on a project of this magnitude,” said Kevin Killian, owner of ProFast. “Their products outperform the competition by far, and combined with Custom’s expertise and support, this was exactly what we needed for the BWI project.”

For the interior ticket counter areas in the existing concourses, which are being widened by 10 feet, dated carpet tiles and the glue that secured them had to be removed to make way for the new floor installation. This left behind rough concrete substrates that had to be leveled using LevelQuik® RS Rapid Setting Self-Leveling Underlayment. RapidSetting Mortar System and Polyblend Grout were used to set and grout 18” x 18” polished porcelain tile with Italian granite accents to create the open, elegant appearance that greets passengers.

#### BWI’s New Concourse A

This facility will increase BWI’s capacity by 11 gates, and will incorporate nearly 100,000 square feet of tile and stone. David Allen Company was named tile contractor for this phase, and is also using Custom’s complete installation system for this massive project. Vince

McCoy, project superintendent for David Allen Co., believes strongly in both the performance of Custom's products and also the company's support of its customers in the field. "I've worked with the other top brands in the country, and Custom is the best in terms of response for technical questions and on-site help. They're the best company I've ever worked with, and their product performance is second to none," said McCoy.

The new concourse features 18" x 18" polished porcelain tile throughout, complementing renovations in other areas of the airport.

David Allen Co. used SoundGard<sup>®</sup> Sound Reduction Mat Underlayment throughout the space to provide crack isolation and reduce the impact sound transmission to the baggage area below. RedGard<sup>®</sup> Waterproofing and Crack Prevention Membrane was applied in each of the 14 bathrooms to protect against cracks and provide waterproofing. All porcelain tile was set over a concrete substrate using Custom's CreteMix Mortar System and grouted with Polyblend Grout. BWI's Blueprint for the Future is an ambitious effort to upgrade both the appearance and function of a busy international gateway serving the nation's capital. Through the collaboration of industry experts and the use of dependable, high quality products, the curbside and ticketing area renovations and new concourse are on schedule to serve the traveling public in 2006.