Better Exteriors Begin with Better Substrates

Although ancient Roman artists decorated vaults with stucco, the medium has taken a while to work out its kinks. Exterior applications, like stucco, have been time-consuming to apply and seemed to lack long-term resilience. The bottom line was a costly but aesthetically pleasing finish that might not weather well.

But that was before the discovery of cement board as a substrate.

In the 1960s, tile contractor Paul Dinkle was looking for a better way to reinforce tub and shower tile installations. He began developing something with the performance and durability of a scratch coat cement mortar minus the mess, time and difficulty. Eureka! He invented the first cement board, and since it worked so well for these installations, it was suggested to try it as a substrate for stucco exteriors. With this revolutionary solution, stucco, along with other veneer exteriors, took less time to install with the end result able to withstand wear and stand the test of time.

Yet the real story is the new generation of cement board.

National Gypsum’s premier solution is PermaBase® Cement Board, an engineered system that saves time, labor and takes variability out of assembly. Suitable for interiors as well as exteriors, PermaBase allows multiple finishes on one substrate. It is appropriate for all climates and compatible with continuous insulation. Moisture resistant, this specially fabricated cement board resists the growth of mold and mildew. Extremely durable, it even offers the industry’s best 15-year exterior warranty.

According to Tina Cannedy, National Gypsum construction design manager—Southwest region, “After many years in the stucco industry, it’s clear to me that cement board as the base for adhered veneer is the obvious answer to existing issues with scratch and brown, including application errors, labor shortages and project scheduling.”

And as Tony Fuller, National Gypsum product manager, cement board, adds, “PermaBase is an excellent substrate for a variety of exterior applications, including stucco, stone and thin brick, making it easy to mix finishes.”

For details, click on PermaBase or contact your construction design manager today.