

Jardin de Chine (Montréal Botanical Garden): Restoration of a Thematic Garden

MONTRÉAL, QUEBÉC, CANADA
SUBMITTED BY MAPEI, INC.

The Jardin Botanique de Montréal (Montréal Botanical Garden) is considered one of the most important botanical gardens in the world, thanks to its collection of more than 20,000 different types of plants and cultivars, 10 greenhouses and 30 thematic gardens open to the general public. The garden extends over an area of 185 acres (75 hectares) and, in 2008, was officially designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

plus the ability to withstand Québec's harsh winter weather conditions were key selection criteria. The project included reconstructing areas of the roofs and garden walls, repairing and setting terracotta tiles on the roofs and providing a protective coating.

Specifically, the roofs were rebuilt by applying a 1 in (25 mm) coat of a fiber-reinforced one-component repair mortar, resistant to tensile loads and abrasion, directly on the metal sheeting of the roofs. Terra-cotta tiles imported directly from China were then installed over the surface using a medium-build, two-component, polymer-modified and fast-setting mortar. The jutting gutters around the roofs, typical of Chinese architecture, were installed in some of the roof areas as well as the border tiles, using rapid and extremely-rapid setting and medium-build mortars. Finally, a high-yield acrylic finish coat was used to decorate and protect the surfaces.



More than 20 years after it was first created, the Jardin de Chine needed to be restored, starting with the roofs of the buildings in the garden. The same artisans who created the original garden in the 1990s returned from China to help with the restoration work. The schedule for the restoration work had to be strictly adhered to, so a great deal of importance was given to choosing the products used. Fast-setting properties, ease of application,



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MAPEI, Inc.

Laval, Québec, Canada

OWNER

Ville de Montréal-Space for Life-Montréal Botanical Garden

Montréal, Québec, Canada

PROJECT ENGINEER/DESIGNER

Beaupré Michaud et Associés

Montréal, Québec, Canada

REPAIR CONTRACTOR

Independent Installers from China

China

MATERIALS SUPPLIER/MANUFACTURER

MAPEI, Inc.

Laval, Québec, Canada