Article

Return to News & Community Home

Mexico Singing Praises Of Eastman's CAB Resin

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Kingsport, TN - Historical structures add beauty and ambiance to cities and towns across the world. In Mexico City, the revitalization of the opera house, El Palacio de Bellas Artes, one of the most important landmarks in Mexican culture, has long been anticipated. Today, the interior dome of the newly renovated opera house illuminates with magnificent brilliance thanks to Eastman Chemical Company's CAB resin.

The application required that the paint used offer specific attributes such as outstanding adherence, dust repellency and UV resistance. Polylite 160-DMT, the paint chosen in the restoration project and manufactured by Pinturas El Nervión S.A. de C.V., a manufacturer of specialty paints and coatings in Mexico, uses Eastman's CAB 381-0.5 resin, as the key ingredient in the paint's formulation. Polylite 160-DMT was chosen because of its ease of application, smooth surface and exceptional high yield, resulting in lower material and labor costs. "Eastman's CAB 381-0.5 is an exceptional additive that allows for better paint flow and leveling, reducing drying time by as much as 30 percent," said Marina Estévez, market development representative, coatings business in Latin America for Eastman and co-developer of Polylite 160-DMT. "A reduction in drying time results in the avoidance of encapsulation and the adherence of polluting agents to the surface. Eastman's CAB 381-0.5 also offers great UV stability, making the paint more resistant to harsh environmental conditions."

Designed by Italian architect Adriano Boari, Palacio de Bellas Artes was built in the European Art Nouveau Era, a trend during the late 19th century that focused on a decorative, eclectic style. Construction began in November 1904; however, only the structure of the building and the exterior design were finished when Boari left Mexico in 1916 and returned to Italy to escape the Mexican Revolution. Construction efforts were resumed in the late 1920s by the Mexican government. Mexican architect Federico E. Mariscal was assigned to complete the project after Boari's death in 1928. In 1934, the project was completed, with changes being made to the original structure and interior design. By dividing the interior into two sections, the area originally planned as the ballroom would become the Museo de Artes Plásticas, a museum dedicated to the plastic arts, and the theater would comprise the second half. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of El Palacio de Bellas Artes de la Ciudad de Mexico's inauguration, Instituto Nacional Bellas Artes began a series of restoration efforts in 1999 that included the two semi-domes. During 2003 and 2004, restoration began on the exterior and interior of the central dome that resulted in the exterior of the central dome and the two semi-domes being covered with glazed ceramic tiles in varying shades of copper, reflecting rays of sunlight. Father and son team Hilario Ibarrola Barrera, president, and Hilario Ibarrola Alvarez, general manager, of Pinturas El Nervión, S.A. de C.V said that these types of projects make them passionate about the products they manufacture and the services they provide. "We are proud to be a part of this project," said Barrera. "We have a history of success that proves our flexibility in offering technological developments within our industry. Customers come to us for specifically designed products that provide the highest quality."

Eastman cellulose esters solve a variety of problems as binders, additives, film formers or modifiers in a wide range of coatings applications. Eastman's CAB esters are used as binders in protective and decorative coatings for metal, wood, textiles, cloth, paper, plastic and leather. They provide excellent color and color retention, toughness, flexibility, flow control and good weather resistance. Frequently described as versatile problem solvers, cellulose esters provide qualities such as good flow and leveling, faster drying, sag resistance, viscosity control, intercoat adhesion and metal flake orientation.

SOURCE: Eastman Chemical Company

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