

Setting The Stage

The scope of work in the bid seemed straightforward. American Restore was to rehab the orchestra pit the Greek Theater. The project was a part of a multimillion dollar upgrade to the historical icon located in Los Angeles' Griffith Park. The Greek Theater was constructed in 1928-1930. The scope had three key requirements: waterproof the deck, provide a smooth, trip-free, attractive surface, and complete the task during the venue's winter performance break.

But as the project progressed, the task became complicated. Fortunately for American Restore, a factory trained Dex-O-Tex applicator working in the Southern California area, their back was covered. With strong technical support and a wide array of single-sourced waterproofing products, American Restoration's crews staged a timely and well-executed project on the nation's "Best Small Outdoor Venue".

Benjamin Ball, American Restore's Vice President, had not previously worked on a similar styled concrete structure. The deck topped a cast-in-place, concrete, frame structure. As with many historic structures accurate design was lacking. "We had no accurate as-built drawings from which we could preplan our repair," said Ball.

The orchestra deck appeared to be a solid slab. But after removing the pre-existing coating, the deck was actually two slabs. The lower slab had been placed during original construction. The upper slab may have been added either during the seismic upgrade, or as part of a previous repair.

A second surprise was the byzantine array of control joint and cracks. The repair to the cracks seemed straightforward. But Ball quickly assessed that waterproofing the cold joints from the original 1930 concrete placement required an on-the-job created custom solution.

When waterproofing a structure so old, there are no factory ready gaskets for the control joints. American Restore developed a repair scheme utilizing Dex-O-Tex products. "Knowing we would be working products that were compatible at each step made our process easier," said Ball. "Dex-O-Tex technical staff were always available for consultation to helping streamline our decision process," added Ball.



After prepping all surfaces, technicians placed backer rods at the joints' bottoms. Joints were then filled with Dex-O-Tex Cheminert SC Membrane. To mitigate reflective cracking, technicians applied bond breaker tape to the transition area between the new membrane upper surface and structural concrete slab. The cold joint was then topped with a layer of Dex-O-Tex Cheminert SC Membrane inlaid with Dex-O-Tex RP fabric.

Crews next installed Dex-O-Tex Resistite, a cementitious protection coating, on the deck area, avoiding the control joints. A smooth surface was attained by placing a thin coat of Dex-O-Tex Cheminert SC membrane over the cold joints until they were flush with the protection coating's upper surface. Finally, the entire deck was top coated with two layers of AJ-44 Acrylic Topcoat.

American Restore delivered a perfect stage for the Greek Theater, despite working through Southern California hundred year rainfall events that hit the area just after the project was begun. "Dex-O-Tex's great products, strong dealer training support, and knowledgeable technical support, helped us deliver a world class performance," said Ball.

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About: Dex-O-Tex, by Crossfield Products Corp, specializes in advanced surfacing and coating for floor and waterproof systems.