



THE NATIONAL
TERRAZZO
— & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION —

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Letter from the Executive Director

WHY IS THE NTMA IMPORTANT?

Having been employed by other trade associations and sitting on various ASTM committees for 30 years, including working on standards and promotion, no one compares to the NTMA. There are three prime reasons.

The first factor is the product itself. Who can beat the look and life span of a poured-in-place terrazzo floor? Our product is special, even to outsiders, terrazzo is just

cool. Consider how many try to imitate terrazzo and capitalize on the desire for that terrazzo look. Terrazzo is unlimited and a blank canvas designers are allowed to design their dreams. No other trade has a bank of images to use that cannot only capture the imagination of the designer, but inspire them as well. Terrazzo has that in spades.

Another reason for the success of the NTMA is the people, its membership. It is an exclusive group of well-connected people that all care about terrazzo. This tight-knit family will accept you if you try and get to know them. Approach them, share a story, seek advice and in time they appreciate persistence as the passion for terrazzo comes through. To be a real part of this group, I encourage you to engage with other members. Be respectful, cherish the history of terrazzo, so a commitment to quality, education, new ideas and you will be accepted. Remember, they built this industry, and it has been good to them. It may take more time than you want; it starts with a positive attitude. It is a big family and there is room for others.

Finally, the NTMA sets the standard for terrazzo. While all associations say this, it is more relevant for the NTMA. A standard is defined as the industry accepted practice for doing a specific task or installation. In the USA, it is ASTM, ACI or ANSI that typically sets a standard for construction work. Drywall, steel framing, tile, concrete and acoustical ceilings all have a nationally recognized standards by either ASTM, ACI or ANSI. The standard for installing terrazzo is the NTMA. Even overseas the European and Middle East use what is called DIN (Deutsche Industry Normung) and is essentially a counterpart to ASTM. Even overseas, they know it is the NTMA that sets the standard for terrazzo installations.

While other associations say they set the standard as a slogan, the NTMA quite literally does set the standard. This holds great power, and with power comes great responsibility. We must protect the industry, we must be fair to all, and we must ensure the NTMA remains that established and recognized standard for installing terrazzo flooring.

