

MARWRAP CASE STUDY DIPLOMAT RESORT & SPA CHOOSES TURNKEY SOLUTION

The Challenge

The Diplomat Resort & Spa Hollywood recently became a part of Hilton Worldwide's new luxury Curio collection of four- and five-star hotels. Located on a barrier island between Miami and Fort Lauderdale, this prestigious property features 998 guest rooms and suites, and 209,000 square feet of function space, making it South Florida's largest meeting resort.

The Diplomat's massive chiller plant, which is comprised of four 1,500-ton chillers with an average capacity of 2,500-to-2,800 tons, is located in an inconspicuous spot across the street. But while it may not be visible to guests and staff on a day-to-day basis, the engineering team had become increasingly concerned about a progressing corrosion issue with the plant's condenser piping. As the resort's Director of Engineering, David Twitchell had been keeping a watchful eye on the situation.

"We're just a couple hundred yards from the ocean and we had seen this pipe continue to corrode and get worse," said Twitchell. "We had scraped and painted about seven years ago, but that had begun to fail after just a few years."

Finally, it was decided that remediation of the condenser piping was necessary and ESI Consulting Engineers of Doral, Fla., was called in as part of a larger, long-term contract to analyze the situation and recommend the best solution. According to ESI's principal director, Igor Gonzalez, the chiller plant's demanding environment called for an innovative solution that he was familiar with through similar, albeit smaller, projects.

"The Diplomat's cooling tower enclosure features four towers, with three of the chillers running most of the time," said Gonzalez. "So, you can imagine the humid, corrosive environment that we were dealing with."

It is not surprising, then, that a significant amount of corrosion and pitting was visible on the piping throughout the plant by the time Gonzalez' team conducted its inspection. The first order of business was to determine if the piping was in good enough shape to remediate, so ESI requested ultrasonic testing to measure the corrosion rate and actual pipe loss.

The piping was found to be in good shape for the most part, with only a few sections needing to be replaced. Once that was done, the entire system would require a new coating or jacketing system. As a result of that testing, and with guidance from ESI, the project was approved.



PROJECT SPECS

Project: Remediation of condenser piping

Location: Hollywood, FL

Product: Marwrap Jacketing System

Sales Engineer: Insulation Design,
Orlando, FL

Consulting Engineer: ESI Consulting
Engineers, Doral, FL

Installer: Certified Insulation Contractors
of South Florida, Miami, FL

Completed: January 2015



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The Solution – Hyload Marwrap with Mold Control

While the customer asked for quotes to compare alternative approaches, ESI recommended the Hyload Marwrap jacketing system from the beginning. Gonzalez was familiar with the unmatched benefits of Marwrap through his work 10 years earlier on the Fidelity Federal Bank & Trust building in Fort Lauderdale, which also involved remediation of salt water corrosion on condenser piping.

His first call was to the same person who provided the Marwrap system for that highly successful project: Richard Gallo, President of Insulation Design, based in Orlando.

“We were thrilled to hear from Igor regarding the Diplomat chiller project,” recalled Gallo. “We both knew that the product was absolutely ideal for this application, with a stellar track record on previous installations that we could share with the project managers and owners.”

In fact, the bank’s building engineer attested to years of trouble-free service with no degradation of the piping and absolutely no mold with their Marwrap installation. He was very satisfied with the product’s performance, appearance and ease of installation, and was pleased to recommend Marwrap to others. And as an immediate bottom-line benefit, these long lasting advantages had been delivered at a significantly lower cost than the coating alternative.

The innovative jacketing system is a great solution as an insulation cover that provides mold and water vapor protection with chilled water piping, as well as outdoor and underground piping. Marwrap also delivers effective protection for bare pipes that are vulnerable to corrosion. The system is highly flexible, is not affected by temperature variations, offers excellent resistance to UV radiation, and is considered a vapor retarder due to its extremely low perm rate. Marwrap is a LEED® compliant product and contains no volatile organic chemicals (VOCs).

Marwrap has also been used successfully on commercial buildings in the Cayman Islands for mold control, at a major Miami airport for direct burial piping, and a 37-story Miami multipurpose building for mold control — to cite just a few projects.

Implementation

According to Gallo, good installation is key to the Marwrap system’s top performance, and the firm that performed the Diplomat chiller plant installation “did as fine a job as I’ve ever seen.”

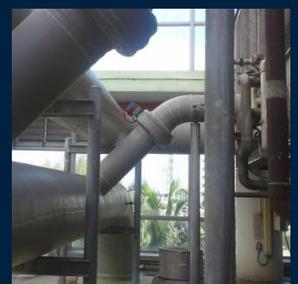
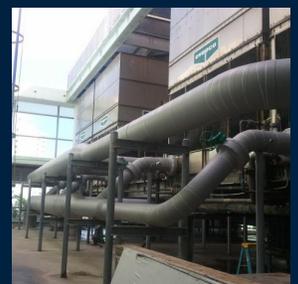
David Cleveland, Jr. of Certified Insulation Contractors of South Florida was equally complimentary regarding the ease of working with the Marwrap system.

“The product was very easy to apply, involving a three-step process where we first used a 3,000 psi pressure washer to clean off the surface rust and get down to the pits,” said Cleveland. “Then we used the Marwrap primer, applying a double coat, which dried to a tacky surface. The jacketing itself also has a tacky side, so that helped the system adhere very well to the pipes. Finally, everything was sealed with an all-weather, UV protective caulking that was provided.”

Results

“The Diplomat was a picture-perfect job,” said Gallo. “They were raving about it back in Ohio at the Hyload factory when they saw the pictures, and I’m proud to say the owners were really delighted. In addition, Mr. Twitchell’s decision to install Marwrap has created a micro environment that should prove to be much healthier for his staff by eliminating algae and mold growth.”

Twitchell pointed to the immediate and long-term advantages of Marwrap: “We don’t have time to spend on re-doing painted pipes ... we have plenty to keep up with apart from that sort of thing. We wanted something that was turnkey, low maintenance and long lasting, and Marwrap was just the solution we needed.”



For more information, call Insulation Design at (407) 240-6303, or visit www.InsulationDesign.net.



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