

A NATIONAL GYPSUM CASE STUDY

**PermaBase® BRAND
Cement Board**

THE RATCLIFFE'S DESIGNER BATHROOMS BACKED BY NATIONAL GYPSUM'S PER- MABASE® BRAND CEMENT BOARD.

PROJECT: The Ratcliffe, Charlotte, NC

OWNER: Wachovia/Childress Klein

CO-DEVELOPERS: Grubb Properties/
Richter & Associates

ARCHITECT/PROJECT MANAGER:
Wagner Murray Architects, Charlotte, NC

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECT: FMK
Architects, Charlotte, NC

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Batson-
Cook Company, Atlanta, GA

DRYWALL CONTRACTOR: B&B
Contracting, Charlotte, NC

PROJECT HISTORY: The Ratcliffe Florist Shop, built in 1917, represents one of the best examples of the Mediterranean revival style of early 20th century commercial architecture in Charlotte. With its Mediterranean character, bay windows and iron balcony, the building has long occupied an honored place in Charlotte



National Gypsum's PermaBase BRAND Cement Board was used extensively with the garden tubs and shower surrounds in the professionally designed residential bathrooms.

architectural history. As such, tremendous effort was made to preserve The Ratcliffe building and make it a focal point in uptown Charlotte. Today, The Ratcliffe, a mixed-use development completed in the summer of 2002, sits next to Three Wachovia Center, the bank's newest office tower, and adjacent to The Green, a new 1.5-acre urban park in uptown Charlotte.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: National Gypsum Company, headquartered in Charlotte, manufactured the gypsum wallboard, cement board and joint treatment products used during the construction of this mixed-use development. PermaBase was installed on all eight levels of The Ratcliffe condominiums, including the two penthouse level condos, which were featured as the 2002 Charlotte Symphony Guild/American Society of Interior Design (ASID) Showhouse.

PERMABASE SOLUTION: PermaBase is a rigid substrate made of Portland cement, aggregate and glass mesh that provides an exceptionally hard, durable surface that is able to withstand prolonged exposure to moisture. PermaBase Cement Board offers a competitive advantage over similar products on the market with its patented EdgeTech® technology. The tapered, double-wrapped edge design allows for closer nail or screw application to the edge. PermaBase is an ideal underlayment for interior and exterior applications such as shower enclosures, tub surrounds, garden tubs, countertops, swimming pool and whirlpool decks, exterior soffit panels, floor underlayment and exterior sheathing panels.



The Ratcliffe is a mixed-use development that combines offices, retail shops, residential units and underground parking in a 10-story complex in uptown Charlotte.

ARCHITECT'S PERSPECTIVE:
“We specified PermaBase as the cement backerboard for the garden tubs and shower surrounds in the condominium bathrooms,” said Russell Devita, project architect for FMK Architects in Charlotte. “The bathrooms required high-end finishes and PermaBase provided an ideal backerboard underneath the tile.”

CONTRACTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:
“The Ratcliffe was not a typical job and was, in fact, a complicated project,” said Donald Cochran, vice president for B&B Contracting Company. “We installed National Gypsum's 5/8" Fire-Shield® BRAND Wallboard in most of the drywall areas and finished the walls with ProForm® BRAND Joint Compounds. The PermaBase cement board was well suited for use under the tile in the designer bathrooms.”