

# DelGrosso Design

Custom Concrete & Restoration

## Stenciling

*With color dyes*

One of the most captivating features of **polished concrete** is the option of using color dyes to create art work directly on the concrete surface. The floor is used as a canvas where simple or incredibly articulated art work can be imprinted. The process is per se simple, but the actual installation can be challenging and requires experience. What we call **stenciling** is an art involving both modern technology and artisan craftsmanship, once again creating a unique result on every project.

**The masking stencil** — Once the floor slab has been properly prepared (diamond grinded and honed), vinyl stencils are applied in layers to the floor. The stencils are made with especially manufactured vinyl sheeting which sticks to the polished floor and can be peeled without leaving glue residue. These stencils are manufactured from a high definition PDF file provided by the client. The wanted design then is broken down in “layers” by our designing techs and sent out for manufacturing. Unlike other type on the market, our stencils are masking only temporarily applied to the floor in order to allow the application of the color dye. Once the dye dries, the stencil is removed and a new layer is applied for a different color.



**Durability** — Once the color dyes are applied, the masking stencil layer is removed and the process repeats for each needed layer. Now the dye is permanently blocked into the concrete and can be removed only by grinding. The polishing process is then completed, including the application of sealer, buffing and burnishing. The stained areas will perform at top levels just as the rest of the polished floor. The stencils therefore will have an extreme durability, higher than any epoxy or other coloring product available on the market.

**Color dyes** — Our preferred coloring system for stenciling is **Ameripolish Surelock Dyes**. These concentrated dyes comes in classic and modern, vibrant tones. Surelock is engineered for diamond polished surfaces and will penetrate the densest, tightest surface, permanently bonding to the concrete. In most cases the dyes are mixed with acetone media, which has a higher flash point and will perform better with the stenciling process. Water and denatured alcohol are suitable too, in case restriction apply on use of acetone media.

