

Emergency access roads can be attractive; porous pavement is cost-effective solution

The \$80 million Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Laguna Niguel, Calif., and the Trammel Crow Company's 14.6-acre business park (Clauset Centre in Costa Mesa, Calif.) needed something more aesthetically pleasing than concrete when it came to installing emergency access roads. So Sullivan Concrete Textures of Costa Mesa was selected to install Grasscrete for the resort's poolside and the business park's subterranean parking structure rooftop.

Grasscrete, a Bomanite process product of structurally sound porous pavement, has recently become dramatically more cost-effective.

In the past, the cast-in-place monolithic continuously reinforced grass and concrete pavement had been installed using plastic forms which were melted away during the construction process. A new installation technique developed by Bomanite Corp. uses special forms which can be withdrawn and used again. The result is a large reduction of material and labor costs which allows Grasscrete to

be priced competitively with pre-cast grass and concrete products.

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel installed Grasscrete in two courtyards. The hotel frequently uses the area for barbecues which poses a fire threat.

"Because of an Orange County

stipulation, we had to have fire truck access," explains Kevin O'Keefe, the Ritz-Carlton's director of landscaping. "Grasscrete was the only option we had in lieu of concrete or asphalt."

O'Keefe says the bluegrass/fescue *continued on page 58*



The Clauset Centre in Costa Mesa, Calif, where Sullivan Concrete Textures of Costa Mesa performed the installation.

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mix he uses covers the Grasscrete well. However, he suggests that turf varieties with stolons, such as bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass, may provide a more advantageous cover.

O'Keefe treats the turf in the Grasscrete area similar to other areas on the property. "Depending on the exposure, it may need a little more water," he says. "We use a broadleaf and it reacts the same as with other turf. It's worked out super for us."

The only drawback O'Keefe foresees is the possibility of having to remove the

Grasscrete in order to fix the irrigation system underneath. "The area is so big that we have to have heads in the middle," he says.

Applications for Grasscrete include emergency vehicle access roads where aesthetics is a consideration, parking lots where stormwater runoff and/or aesthetics are considerations, and erosion control applications.

Grasscrete is installed by a nationwide network of specially-trained and equipped contractors licensed by the Bomanite Corp. **WT&T**



Grasscrete, "the only option in lieu of concrete or asphalt," as it looks installed at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Laguna Niguel, Calif.

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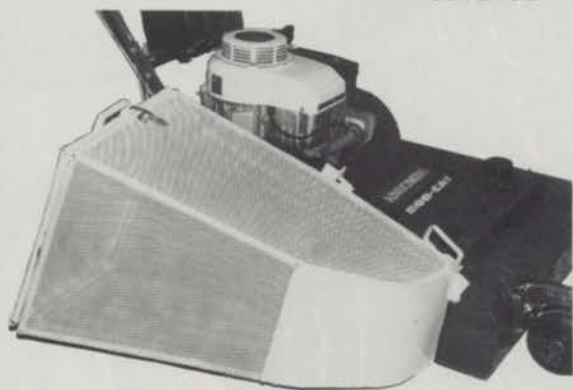
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