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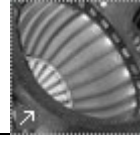
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PAST (AND PRESENT) MASTERS

Creating El Palacio de Bellas Artes raised architecture to the level of an art form. Restoring it to magnificence has an artistry all of its own.

Mexico City's El Palacio de Bellas Artes is one of the most uplifting symbols of Mexican culture. Envisioned at the height of the art nouveau movement, the Palacio's stunning architectural triumph was not revealed to the public until after 30 years of construction prolonged by the Mexican Revolution and the Italian architect, Adriano Buzi. Now, after a series of restoration projects started in 1999, El Palacio is as beautiful as ever.

The exterior of the central dome and two lateral semi-domes are covered in glazed ceramic tiles, reflecting sunlight in different shades of copper. Wire mesh domes filter and reflect the sunlight to create various shades of blue that resemble the celestial vault of the night sky. The sense of serenity it inspired left visitors speechless for eight decades – but the passage of time has taken its toll.

The renewal project was a monumental undertaking requiring the utmost care and dedication from a multi-disciplined team of restoration experts. Key to the restoration of the central interior dome was a special paint formula developed by Pinturas El Nervión, S.A. de C.V. Called *Polylite 160 DTM*, the paint features Eastman™ Cellulose Esters, used widely in architectural coatings as well as coatings for cars and electronics equipment.

Eastman™ Cellulose Esters are actually a pigment delivery system that allows for superior paint flow, free of imperfections. They protect against the ravages of ultraviolet light, and also allow paint to dry quickly, thus reducing dust and contamination, ensuring the paint spreads evenly for a finish that is uniformly glorious – just like the El Palacio central dome.

And that's only appropriate for a restoration project that inspired national pride for everybody involved. Hilario Ibarrola and Hilario Ibarrola Alvarez of Pinturas El Nervión say it best: "A project like El Palacio de Bellas Artes gives us the opportunity to transcend the mundane. So it's essential that we use people, talents and material quality come together."

The finished product, just like the original masterpiece, speaks for itself. The restoration team have achieved their transcendence by standing on the shoulders of giants and, to complete the epigram, together with everyone who will enjoy El Palacio de Bellas Artes, they are able to see further as a result.

Eastman Products

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Key Attributes

- Superior paint flow
- Reduces drying time by as much as 30 percent
- Excellent UV stability
- Easy to apply
- Provides smooth surface and high yield, resulting in lower material and labor costs

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