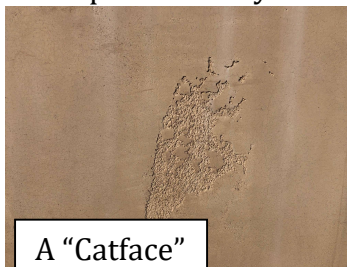


GENERAL: Smooth or semi-smooth stucco finish is a two-coat application and has been used for decades. Smooth finish stucco can create old world finishes reminiscent of missions or can equally work on modern/contemporary buildings; as a result this stucco texture is in high demand. Cement finish can produce very smooth finishes or have



Color Variation due to Troweling



A "Catface"

imperfections known as "catfaces". Acrylic

finishes can also produce smooth finishes, but generally lack what is called "fat" that is created when troweling cement finish plaster. As the plasterer water trowels the final coat, the aggregate is pressed down and the cream of the cement/lime finish is brought to the surface. This is the fat the plasterer can use to fill minor

imperfections to make the surface smoother.

Smooth cement stucco will achieve a natural hand applied appearance. This can result in a natural variation of color and texture. Other issues include highlighting even very minor hairline cracking or "burn" marks from hard troweling the plaster. It is advisable for designers and building owners to discuss expectations with the plastering contractor ahead of time. Perfection should never be expected.

To help minimize cracking issues, use control joints, insure the structure is loaded to over 90% of its dead weight, drywall is nailed off, and the brown coat is allowed to cure for a minimum of 14 days before applying finish coat. If painting the finish, use a paint made for stucco and follow all paint manufacturers directions.

PRODUCTS/PROCEDURES: SMA manufacturers make "crack suppression" systems and special finishes specially designed for smooth trowel work that can greatly help with many of the above issues. These products/systems are generally a slight up charge from traditional stucco and may have significant labor costs as well.

Crack Reduction: (refer to the SMA technical bulletin "Base and Mesh Systems"). Use of this system can eliminate the need for control joints.

Smoothness: To achieve the smoothest finish possible, use a finish designed for this smooth, mission or Santa Barbara textures. Manufacturers put in additives to help plasterers achieve a smoother finish.

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