

## New tiled walls for subway station Südsterin in Berlin's trendy district

### **Star quality behind tiles**

The vibrant Berlin district of Kreuzberg is home to the subway station Südsterin, opened in 1924. After more than 80 years of subway operation it was time for an extensive renewal, which took place between 2010 and 2011; the objective was a fundamental repair and providing handicap accessibility. Focus of renovation of the area behind the track: the severely damaged walls. Here the aim was to remove the existing tiles and a large part of the concrete substructure to create a stable substrate layer for the new covering. The idea of the concept was, after a rough concrete repair of broken out areas, to attach the required surface compensation by anchoring a reinforcement to the substrate. For the respective pretreatment of the substrate, the injection resins PCI Apogel PU and PCI Apogel E were used; this allowed optimal grouting of cracks with limited elasticity. Next, reinforcement meshes made of stainless steel were applied, and the prepared concrete surfaces sprayed in wet spray process with the light repair mortar PCI Nanocret 70. To ensure absolute evenness, the areas were then reworked with the cladding reinforcing concrete compound PCI Nanocret 10 in wet spray process – the perfect basis for a new ceramic covering.

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## Object data

Object:	Berlin subway station Südsterne
Subtitle:	Star quality behind tiles
Location:	Berlin Kreuzberg
Completion year:	2011
Task:	Modernisation of area behind tracks: Renovation of concrete substructure of severely damaged walls, and application of new tile covering.
Object size:	978 m <sup>2</sup>
Products used:	Injection resins PCI Apogel PU and PCI Apogel E, light repair mortar PCI Nanocret 70, fibre reinforced concrete smoothing compound PCI Nanocret 10
Owner:	City of Berlin
Planner:	
Processing company:	HEWA Bauconceptgesellschaft mbH, RT Bautenschutz GmbH, Fliesen Michael, Berlin
PCI applications adviser:	Dipl.-Ing. Wolfgang Dehmel
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## Pictures:



The prepared concrete surfaces were levelled with the light repair mortar PCI Nanocret 70 applied in the wet-mix process by specialised applicators.



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PCI Nanocret 70 is ready for further application after about eight hours, has high non-sag properties and is waterproof, resistant to weathering and freeze / thaw cycles. Vehicular traffic cannot affect the repair mortar due to its high compressive strength.



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The daily subway traffic had to continue (at least restricted service) while the wall surface (978 m<sup>2</sup>) was refurbished. The applicators were only allowed to work maximum four days a week from 10 p.m. until 3 a.m. the following day.

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PCI Nanocret 10 was applied in wet-gun process to the surfaces prior to tiling the walls. This reinforced concrete smoothing compound cures with low shrinkage, is waterproof, resistant to weathering and frost and sets rapidly – thus allowing an open time for processing of about 45 minutes.

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The famous Swedish architect Alfred Grenander who designed almost every subway station in Berlin at the time also designed the “Südstern” station with remarkable characteristic features.

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## About PCI

*PCI Augsburg GmbH is part of the business unit Construction Chemicals of BASF and leader in the tile laying materials sector for specialist firms in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. In addition, the company supplies product systems for waterproofing, concrete protection and repair, as well as a complete product range for the soft flooring sector. PCI employs a staff of about 800 and generated sales of over €200 million net in 2012. Further information about PCI on the Internet under [www.pci-augsburg.de](http://www.pci-augsburg.de).*

## About BASF

*BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and crop protection products to oil and gas. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Through science and innovation, we enable our customers in nearly every industry to meet the current and future needs of society. Our products and solutions contribute to conserving resources, ensuring nutrition and improving quality of life. We have summed up this contribution in our corporate purpose: We create chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF had sales of about €74 billion in 2013 and over 112,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).*

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