Fixing Details - Balustrades

Balusters are manufactured from 25 Mpa reinforced concrete. The reinforcing extends from the bottom of the baluster by approx. 100mm.

Between 4 and 5 balusters are required per metre, depending on the height and thickness of the baluster and the overall visual symmetry of the end result. In all cases the relevant municipal requirements should be consulted with particular reference to safety.

When a purpose made balustrade plinth is utilised, the position of each balusteri is predetermined by holes cast into the plinth. Where no plinth is used the positions of the baluster holes must be set out and drilled manually.

Clear out the holes of most dust. Fill the hole with a powder tile adhesive prepared to a "wet" consistency. Work this mixture into the hole to combine any dust remaining.

Use a stiff mortar for bedding balusters into place (1 part cement, 2 parts river sand, and bonding liquid.)

Begin with the balusters at opposite ends of a run. Register each baluster to two lines, one at the base and a fish line strung between the first and last balusters of a particular run. Plumb each baluster individually, using a spirit level and wood wedges where necessary.

Allow to strengthen before installing the coping.

Fix the coping using the same adhesive as for the balusters. Apply sufficient adhesive to cover the tops of the balusters. Allow a joint of 5mm to 10mm. Use a fishline to ensure a neat result. Where applicable, set up two corners and then the fishline, working towards one end. One coping will require cutting and should be positioned one full length away from the end of a run. In some cases a very short cut length will be necessary. If this length is not fully supported by two balusters then it is to be discarded and two lengths must be cut, sharing out the short length between them. When installing long straight runs, alternate lengths of coping should be drilled and fixed with a single steel pin and epoxy, end to end. Caulk the joint between copings with a stiff tile adhesive. Do not attempt to make the joints invisible. Rather point the joints so that, should a crack occur, it will be within the joint.

DISCLAIMER

The above information is intended as a guide to the correct installation of precast concrete balustrading, and Old World Concretes (Pty) Ltd can in no way be held responsible for any installation not actually undertaken by it's official representatives.