Project
GE Building, Rockefeller Center, New York
Size
10,000 square feet
Product
Decothane Gamma 20
Waterproofing Consultants
Israel Berger and Associates
Architects
SLCE Architects

the background
The GE Building is a 70-story commercial skyscraper located in the heart of Rockefeller Center in New York City. The building houses such prestigious residents as NBC television studios and the renowned Rainbow Room restaurant.

the problem
First opened in 1933, the roofs on the 57th and 69th floors served as observation decks that were opened to the public and offered breathtaking views of the New York City skyline. However, due to their dilapidated condition they had been closed for some time. A restoration project began in 2004, which included the replacement of the original waterproofing system.

the solution
Substrate preparation required the complete removal of the existing trafficable surface down to the structural concrete deck. A Decothane Gamma 20 waterproofing system from Liquid Plastics was then applied. A drainage mat and extruded polystyrene insulation were then installed over the Decothane membrane followed by a poured concrete slab with an integral heat tracing system for snow melt. Finally, a new quarry tile was set in mortar to match the original historic finish and complete the inverted roof assembly.

The benefits
The Liquid Plastics' system was chosen over competing systems because of its completely cold application—transporting a hot bitumen kettle up 70 stories would have been highly impractical. Decothane was also chosen for its ability to be self-terminating and its unique, flexible reinforcement for complex detail areas. Decothane also cures to provide a completely seamless membrane, free from the risk of leaks and guaranteed for at least 20 years.

Sika Corporation
201 Polito Avenue
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
800-933-7452
www.sikaconstruction.com