



## Tarkett flooring the natural choice for award-winning parents' room

Project: Blacktown Westpoint Amenities, NSW

Award: "Best Bathroom 2019" by Total Facilities

Product: iQ Granit

### **Tarkett iQ Granit flooring has played a prominent role in a colourful, nature-inspired design for new amenities at QIC Westpoint shopping centre at Blacktown, Sydney.**

The project, which was recently awarded as the country's "Best Bathroom 2019" by Total Facilities, typically features 100 square metres of hard-wearing Tarkett iQ Granit flooring in each of the parents' rooms in the four-level shopping centre.

Westpoint features major and specialty stores, supermarkets, and entertainment precincts – all of which experience heavy foot-traffic every day, until late.

Appointed architects and interior designers, i2C, specialise in work ranging from urban design to smaller bespoke interior design projects and it was the latter it applied for the new Westpoint amenities.

i2C project designer, Terri Anne Baisley, said the brief from client, QIC, was to create amenities to suit as wide a range of people as possible.

"QIC set out from the beginning to create customer-considerate amenity spaces which are inclusive of people's different needs – whether it be age, sex or able-bodiedness," said Ms Baisley .

"In addition to male and female amenity blocks we also have change facilities, which are for adults with special needs. We are quite proud to have included these.

"We also have a parents' room, which is wheelchair accessible for baby bathing and changing, and feeding pods. The parents' rooms feature dual full sized and child-sized bathroom amenities, and a kitchenette for baby meal-preparation. The kids' play areas have a little enclosed cubby fissure, interactive screens and about 25 square metres of soft floor."

Colour is central to i2C's design for the parents' rooms, which achieves a playful yet calm, inviting atmosphere.

"We wanted an inviting, open, natural-feeling space for the parents' rooms, which we wanted everyone to feel really comfortable in," said Ms Baisley. "Dads can sometimes feel uncomfortable in changing rooms so we wanted colours that everybody could relate to."

Ms Baisley turned to Tarkett's broad palette of 50 colours in the iQ Granit range before settling on Dark Green and Soft Kiwi as predominate flooring colours. "Greens are nice, neutral, natural colours that makes people feel comfortable because it's the colour of the outdoors," she said.



The nature-inspired colour scheme sweeps across the parents' room floors in a wide, arching pattern, abstracting a sense of forest, stream and sky.

"We found that the greens were evocative of a shielded forest floor and the iQ Granit Medium Teal colour, was derivative of river and the sky," she said. "The flooring colours also tie-in with the treelike structures that decorate the room with their trunks and canopies."

i2C had specified Tarkett iQ Granit flooring for other projects in the past and had positive experiences with it, so was already aware of its suitability for high-traffic areas.

"It's very durable, which is important for high-traffic areas that need to be hard-wearing and easy to clean, so it suits the parents' rooms very well," said Ms Baisley.

"Durability is also an important consideration for our client in terms of maintenance and life cycle. Maintenance is something we look at when we're in a specification phase. We need to consider the longevity of the floor in terms of asset protection, which is helped by Tarkett warranties, and also liability considerations in terms of slip-ratings."

Tarkett national marketing manager, Stacey-lee Smith, said iQ Granit was an ideal choice for the Westpoint amenities given its extreme durability. "iQ Granit uses high quality raw materials and advanced surface treatments to ensure the product performs and still looks great years after installation," said Ms Smith. "Thanks to iQ Granit's unique surface treatment, it has not only superior wear qualities, it has excellent surface-resistance properties in terms of stains and abrasions."

Ms Smith said there is no need to polish or wax iQ Granit – a simple dry-buffing being enough to restore this floor's original appearance. "Our Tarkett iQ Granit range has dry-buff restoration technology, which means no wax is required for the life of the product. This guarantees that your floor will retain its good looks throughout an extended service life, backed by our extensive warranties for total peace-of-mind."

Tarkett's Life Cycle Cost analysis shows that it is 10 times more expensive to clean and maintain flooring in a public place (assuming it lasts 20 years), than the original purchase and installation price. "Flooring treated with wax, polish or other surface treatments is labour intensive to maintain and ultimately less cost-effective over its lifetime than alternatives such as iQ Granit," said Ms Smith.



"Stripping and polishing also has negative environmental impacts due to higher water and chemical consumption.

"iQ Granit's durability and low-maintenance combine to give it the best life cycle cost on the market," Ms Smith concluded.

i2C's Terri Anne Baisley said she was pleasantly surprised that the project was judged Australia's Best Bathroom 2019. "We're really happy with the high level of consideration for all users and how well the design that we created with the variation of colours was realised, and translated to the intent – the feelings of fun, safety and calmness," said Ms Baisley. "We're really proud of the project, so it's great to be recognised for that."

Ms Baisley said the project was a highly collaborative effort between client, designer and builder. "The level of bespoke design required a real team effort between us, QIC, the builder and our suppliers. We came together to bring the design to life.

"We are fortunate that the same level of care was put into the construction and installation as we put into the design," she continued. "Our builder, Construction Control, really bought into our design and understood exactly what we were trying to achieve."

Construction Control's William Boughton said the Tarkett iQ Granit range contributed significantly to the award-winning project. "The supplied Tarkett iQ Granit range of colours met and exceeded the clients' and designers' expectations," said Mr Boughton. "The soft colours were specified as part of this award-winning project which was judged Best Bathroom 2019 – adding a vibrant and complementary feel to the new Parents' rooms.

"Since the centre's opening, the iQ Granit flooring has shown to be durable, with minimal wear from the high-traffic volumes and the product continues to be rolled out as part of QIC Westpoint's refresh project."