

# Desso and Tarkett flooring injects fun colours into primary school



Project: South Melbourne Park Public School, VIC

Awards: 2019 Education Facility Planning Award,  
*Association for Learning Environments*  
Best Project above \$10 million finalist,  
*2019 Victorian School Design Awards*

Product: DESSO Airmaster®, Fields, Neo,  
Grain, Stratos  
iQ Granit

**A vibrant colour scheme employing Desso carpet tiles and Tarkett vinyl has helped bring a sense of playfulness to the Award-winning South Melbourne Park Primary School.**

Set amongst generous natural grounds in Albert Park Reserve, South Melbourne Park Primary School in Victoria has repurposed two heritage buildings – the Albert Park Signal Depot and Drill Hall – and also built a new state-of-the-art learning block.

With the goal of achieving harmony between the new and old buildings, the client, Department of Education and Training – Victorian School Building Authority, engaged architecture and integrated design practice, Gray Puksand.

Tasked with respectfully placing their designs into unique heritage surrounds, Gray Puksand developed a colour scheme that is sympathetic to the existing red brick buildings and would also stimulate the young students.



Gray Puksand associate and lead interior designer, Kristine Piggford, said the colour choices were influenced by the existing heritage buildings and the school's natural surroundings.

"The lush green parkland setting provided us with the opportunity to work with a warmer interior colour palette to complement the red brick of the existing heritage buildings and create a playful, warm interior. We also used these colours on the exterior sunshade blades that reflect the vertical lines in the architecture of the existing heritage buildings and the surrounding trees," said Ms Piggford.

Gray Puksand liaised with Tarkett early in the project planning stages and Tarkett Victoria projects manager, David Smyth, said the company's broad colour palettes across its range of carpet tile and resilient flooring appealed to the architects, given their colour-driven intentions.

"Gray Puksand planned their interior designs around exciting and nurturing colours, and, pleasingly, our wide colour palettes accommodated that," said Mr Smyth.

When selecting colours for the school's flooring Gray Puksand favoured a range of Desso carpet tiles and Tarkett resilient flooring in oranges, pinks and purples, and explained the colour psychology behind the palette selections; with the colour orange radiating warmth and happiness, pink promoting compassion and nurturing, and purple stimulating imagination.

**"As the building is surrounded by greenery and parkland, the warmth of the interior is supporting and comforting to young learners whilst providing a sense of fun to offset the formality of the heritage buildings," Ms Piggford said .**

The school is warm and happy, vibrant and fun. The Desso and Tarkett colours were really helpful in achieving that "

Gray Puksand was impressed by Tarkett's service during the consultation process. Extensive samples and advice were provided during the consultation stage, which they found most-helpful.

Another primary role for the Desso and Tarkett flooring was to act as a device to delineate zones.

“South Melbourne Park Primary has several heritage buildings that were retained and sympathetically repurposed so a lot of importance was placed on using colour to define and differentiate zones,” she said.

Tarkett flooring products, comprised of 2300m<sup>2</sup> Desso carpet tiles and 1380m<sup>2</sup> Tarkett vinyl sheet flooring, were used throughout South Melbourne Park Primary School’s interiors in both the refurbishment of the existing heritage buildings and throughout the new learning building.

Tarkett resilient sheet flooring was specified for wet areas where considerations such as slip-rating, imperviousness, maintenance and durability came into consideration.

“Durability is especially important given the high foot-traffic in a school environment,” said Ms Piggford “The flooring needs to be able to stand up to wear and tear, be heavy-duty with maintenance and cleanability being important considerations over the flooring’s lifecycle.

Tarkett’s flooring products feature sustainability credentials such as GreenTag Level A certification and low-VOC emission.

Tarkett’s national marketing manager, Stacey-lee Smith, said the company has a long history of developing products that enhance people’s wellbeing and minimise impact on the environment.

“All our products have simple, clear information about the contents of our flooring and its sustainability,” said Ms Smith.

With the help of Desso carpet tiles and Tarkett vinyl flooring, South Melbourne Park Primary School is a progressive, practical, sympathetically colourful building that complements its parkland location and adds richly to its community. Such a contribution was recognised by the Association for Learning Environments (A4LE), Victoria Chapter Education in its 2019 Facility Planning Awards, in which it received a Commendation in the Entire New Educational Facility category. It was also a Finalist, Best Project above \$10 million, in the 2019 Victorian School Design Awards.

