



Queensland public school the first to receive landscape-inspired DESSO Granite carpet flooring

Project: Bray Park State School, QLD

Product: DESSO Granite

A public school has become the first in Queensland to receive Tarkett Australia's recently released DESSO Human Fascination collection of carpet tiles, a range inspired by natural terrain, creating a 3D-like effect through its surface.

Bray Park State High School in the Moreton Bay Region has installed around 600 square metres of Desso Granite, one of DESSO's Human Fascination range of carpet tiles for its new dual-winged Innovation Centre building. With the choice of Arable, Breccia, Flores and Granite options within the Human Fascination range, principal architect Tanya Mathers of Tanya Mathers Architecture + Design (TMAD) immediately gravitated to the highly textured appearance and dynamic, earthy colours of DESSO Granite ("Gran-e-tay").

Ms Mathers said the natural vibrant colours and tactile appearance of DESSO Granite were highly suitable for the new building's location. "We specialise in education projects and what we do is tie into existing cues from the environment," said Ms Mathers.

"Bray Park High School's Innovation Centre building is designed with two wings and central core in a V-formation to allow the existing heart of the school to be formalised.

"This space nestles to create a central gathering space which was already naturally occurring on site with Bray Parks students. Given its level of use, limited grass grew in this location and therefore students continually exposed the rich, red soil synonymous with the area.

"When Tarkett presented us the DESSO Granite range it caught our eye. It only took a few seconds to realise it had the properties we were seeking; from its durability to the aesthetic we were looking to achieve for the school. It had that organic feel that mimics the school's soil; it had that bold ochre colour and the earthy, rugged look in the non-uniform weave pattern."

Inspired by the uneven surface of volcanic earth, the DESSO Granite range has 18 colourways to choose from, including fiery reds, fierce orange, subtle greys and soft yellows. The architects also added light and dark blue colours to represent the school colours, and that of the older school buildings' exteriors.

The specific DESSO Granite colours chosen are 2608 ('red'), 8801 (dark blue) and 8222 (light blue).

Tarkett was able to provide samples of each DESSO Granite colour for the school to see, in person. "Tarkett were helpful during that specification process," said Ms Mathers. "When presenting to the school, we were able to take large-sized samples and lay out the pattern to create a lifelike affect. This helped the school visualise the extent and format to be used within the building.



“Selections were undertaken between Victorian COVID-19 lockdown events, so it was also extremely helpful that Tarkett were able to expedite delivery to multiple members of the executive team and allow them to truly experience the product in person.

It’s fitting that a product designed to reflect natural terrains is made by Desso with sustainability-first principles, as Tarkett Queensland state manager, Vlastimil Renet, explained.

“DESSO’s Human Fascination carpet tiles are highly sustainable,” said Mr Renet. “Circular economy is part of our design philosophy to create flooring with healthy materials that can be recovered, recycled, and transformed into new products – thus ensuring an eco-friendly interior.

“Everything in the Human Fascination range, including Desso Granite, are Cradle to Cradle® Silver Level certified. Our EcoBase backing is 100 percent recyclable and contains 75 percent chalk, which is recycled from the drinking water industry.

“In addition, all Human Fascination products are made with DESSO’s ECONYL, a nylon yarn which is made from 100 percent recovered waste materials such as discarded fishing nets and carpet yarn recovered from our own regeneration facilities,” Mr Renet said.

Such environmentally-responsible manufacturing practices resonated with TMAD’s Tanya Mathers, who said the Desso Human Fascination credentials made it easier to tick

government regulatory boxes but also present a carbon-neutral outcome the firm is looking to create in their design delivery. “We were presenting a product that hadn’t been seen before, so we had to ensure it met the school’s requirements in terms of sustainability, health and safety – we are ever-so cognisant of sustainability principles in what we specify, including being extremely interested in recycled content, VOC emissions and presenting a carbon-neutral outcome,” she said.

“Demonstrating that the Desso Granite specifications complied with these outcomes streamlined the whole process of specification.

“Design durability & aesthetic longevity is also particularly important in our work, and we always consider a products durability, lifecycle and the maintenance requirements for any client - especially those in school environments.

“We hadn’t used Desso Human Fascination before, but we have extensively used Tarkett branded products in the past and they have proven to be highly reliable and long-lasting.

“Obviously, in school applications flooring has to be hardwearing because extensive numbers of students are utilising each space. Products need to be durable and avoid creating issues from its day-to-day usage in high traffic areas.”

Another key consideration for the architects was warranty and support. “Tarkett’s extended warranty with the product was also a key consideration,” said Ms Mathers.



“Their reputation for durability gives you confidence in your specification – that should anything arise, the Tarkett team will be able to facilitate a quick rectification.

“It’s that piece-of-mind that allows you to be more at ease when specifying Tarkett.”

Tarkett’s Vlastimil Renet said Desso’s Human Fascination range with all its sustainable credentials is a premium product offering, and it’s fantastic to see projects such as this where the value realised in a product is more than purely a budget decision. Architect Tanya Mathers was a strong advocate for the credentials of the Human Fascinations range and was instrumental in securing this specification.

“The school was on a tight budget and they hadn’t spent much money on infrastructure for quite some time,” Ms Mathers said. “That somewhat helped to get a premium product approved.

“Tarkett helped us manage the ordering and delivery process, and assured us that the Desso Granite would be delivered and installed on time, and were there to help manage the process.

“It also helps if you put in the hard yards with the client so that they know and love the product that they have initially agreed to. That helps alleviate substitution pressure.

“It’s been a great result for the school. They loved the fact that it hadn’t been used anywhere else in Queensland, it was ‘icing’ on what was already a real a pinnacle for them.”

Bray Park State High School principal, Peter Turner, said there is a lot of pride amongst staff and students about the new school building and its Desso Granite flooring.

“It’s a really pretty, well-presented and modern building,” said Mr Turner. “The Desso floor colours are vibrant and rich. I personally enjoy the vibrancy of the carpet colours. It certainly is a nice space and, yes, it just makes it a very comfortable and enjoyable place for the kids to do their learning. This has lifted their self-esteem, as well. It’s also nice to have a bit of beauty and luxury for our kids when they’re here at school.

“So it has certainly had a really positive impact on students. They’re saying; ‘This is a really nice!’. When we first let them in after opening, they all went running around, checking it out. They were very excited and I think that sense of having something special, something they deserve, flows into their self-worth. That is already showing in the attitude and effort they put into their schoolwork. Their sense of pride encourages that.”

The installer for the Innovation Centre building’s Desso Granite flooring was similarly pleased with the job.



Contract Floor Coverings director, Paul Cross has been working in the flooring industry for 30 years and took over one of Brisbane's oldest commercial flooring companies around six years ago.

He has always worked with Tarkett products and rates them highly. "Tarkett has been the benchmark in the industry for as long as I've been in it," said Mr Cross.

"They have always been really supportive and their products are beautiful to work with. When you have good products like that, they virtually 'lay themselves'.

"You don't get problems down the track with Tarkett brands. It's like a relief when you find out a job is using Tarkett flooring."

Asked how the Bray Park Innovation Centre building's installation fared, Mr Cross said: "The Desso carpet tile at the new school building was a nice product to work with. It went like clockwork. There really was no problem at all, and it looked great."

Architect Tanya Mathers' opinion joins a chorus of parties pleased-with and proud of the job. "We think it's a pretty amazing building, one of those buildings that we and the school are going to be continually proud of. It's going to be a really fantastic addition for them for a long time.

"With the Desso Granite flooring, I like the fact that the pattern isn't just straight, pure lines. We really played with the edges of the carpet colours to make it slightly 'off' and quirky.

"I love the materiality of the carpet. Its texture is really earthy and natural, and that relates strongly to the site. The product is quite unique and we are already getting interest about it from other schools."