



# A Total Flooring Solution For The New BAPS Mandir And Community Centre

**Ten years in the making, the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and Community Centre in Canberra represents an epic labour of love by the local Hindu community.**

The Canberra BAPS community has diligently donated money and fundraised to acquire land in Taylor and have their Temple designed and built. Within its intricate stone facade, the centre provides a wide variety of spaces, including a central shrine, hall, activity rooms, offices, commercial kitchen, dining halls and lounge areas.

## **The importance of colour**

As a home for prayer, learning and outreach, the temple serves a large community, with 12,000 people attending the opening. The architects provided suggestions for flooring colour and type, and then the team at Tarkett consulted closely with the client group to provide flooring for the entire complex – selections to suit the need for colour, comfort, durability and cost.

‘Colour was incredibly important,’ says Tarkett’s Mark Lynch. ‘Red is both religiously and culturally significant, and the client had a good idea of how they wanted the shrine to look, based on a combination of deep red and sunflower yellow.’

With visitors to the shrine required to remove their shoes before entering, and often then sitting on the floor, flooring comfort and softness was key. The client selected our DESSO Essence carpet tile collection, which has 31 different colours to choose from.

Covering over 1,000 sqm, the Essence carpet tiles bring the different spaces to life with vibrant colour. They also offer good value for money, which was important for a community-funded project like the Mandir.

While the main prayer rooms have single-colour tiles in large expanses with contrasting colour borders, the learning and activity areas feature the Essence Stripe Carpet Tile to hide any marks created by craft and other children’s activities.

‘The client wanted something that would offer durability and comfort, so we added our SoundMaster Comfort Cushion backing to the Carpet Tiles, which also increases the acoustic performance within each space and between each space.’



### **A subtle look for event and catering areas**

Colour choices also extended to the hard floorings in the communal spaces and the commercial-grade kitchen.

'We proposed iD Inspiration Loose Lay Elegant Oak Beige Vinyl planks for the dining area, lounge and open spaces upstairs that look out to the domes,' says Mark. 'They loved the soft, subtle oak colour, and the protection offered by the wear layer.'

iD Inspiration Loose Lay gives these spaces a warm and inviting feel, whilst holding up to heavy use, especially in areas commonly used for the type of large events the Mandir holds. This LVT collection is rated for heavy duty commercial use and therefore withstands the effects of rolling traffic such as wheeled tables and screens, and it is easy to maintain and keep clean.

### **Flooring for a hard working kitchen**

The opening weekend saw the temple cater to around 12,000 visitors, with all meals prepared and served out of the large commercial kitchen. The product most suited for this space was Tarkett's Safetred Universal Plus R12 flooring.

'Safetred Universal is as heavy-duty flooring as you can get for a kitchen,' says Mark. 'It has the R12 slip rating, which is important in allowing people to work in safety, and ensures the floor will deal with heavy use.'

'Again, the colour choice was functional as well as aesthetic. We helped the community choose the Mercury colour to contend with wear over the long term. Mercury is a practical shade that's not too dark – it's a mid-grey that will retain as much light as possible, continuing to look good over years of service.'

### **Helping the community help others**

The new centre is a platform for the BAPS community to support people in need through their charity work and to create a home away from home for their Canberra community.

'The interior had to look homely and inviting – the Temple building is a combination of a religious and a hospitality space that has been a collaborative effort from many suppliers, and we were able to put forward the most suitable products to fulfil the vision of the BAPS community.'

With a total of 2,200 sqm of flooring, good warranties and in-service track records, the flooring selection process was straightforward and reliable. The combination of DESSO Essence Carpet Tiles with Soundmaster backing, iD Inspiration Loose Lay Vinyl, and Safetred Universal Plus R12 means the centre is well protected for a future of high-intensity use.