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## Carpet Court launches Love The Look e-book

Carpet Court has launched its Love the Look e-book, an online design publication dedicated to interior looks across Australia, created with the help of 20 individual contributors.

Showcasing the breadth of interior style by displaying 20 separate and contrasting Australian regions, the Love the Look e-book brings together inspiring looks from across the country as a reflection of our lifestyles, the local environment and history.

Last year, Carpet Court sent out a call for entries, asking participants to upload an original photo that showcases their region's interior design style. The Grand Prize winner is Vanessa Wood, who shared snaps from her beach house in true Gold

Coast style. Vanessa has won an exclusive style session with Carpet Court ambassadors and The Block superstars, Shelley Craft and Darren Palmer. She will also take home \$2,500 cash to fund her design dream.

Vanessa said she was proud of the region's unique style and seeing her photograph and styling recognised by Carpet Court was a great moment. "I am thrilled that my passion for design and creative eye has been acknowledged and included in the Carpet Court Love the Look e-book. I loved pinpointing the Gold Coast's style as a relaxed coast vibe, capturing the region's incredible scenery from open beaches to the lush hinterland," Vanessa said.

Carpet Court's National Marketing Manager, Natasha Gallardo, said the inspiring images presented in the inaugural e-book represent the changing design and visual characteristics of Australian culture beautifully.

"We were blown away by the high calibre of entries received as part of the Love

the Look design program. We were tasked with the hard decision to choose just one image for each region, but managed to edit the book to the required amount.

"We are ecstatic with the end result – a collection of design driven images which tap into the local community culture," Natasha said. ■



# flooring

Australia & New Zealand

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### Five Australian firms celebrated for design excellence

Shaw Contract Group has announced five Australian design firms, Jackson Clements Burrows, Gilmore Interior Design, Curtis + Whitfield, Graphite Architects and Roxby Architects as winners of a Design Is... Market Award.

In its tenth year, Shaw Contract Group's Design Is... Award program honours architecture and design firms that are changing the very idea of what design is around the globe.

According to Shaw Contract Group Australia General Manager, Paul McCosker, the winning entries from these five companies represented the highest calibre of work.

"A global panel of judges consisting of some of the most profound voices in global architecture and design selected 48 winners



out of more than 477 entries submitted from 30 countries," Paul said.

"There were 28 Australian and New Zealand entries and we are elated to see five of these entries advance to the Global Award program," he said.

Twenty distinguished members of the design community evaluated each project based on its design solutions beyond aesthetic quality. The jurors reviewed the challenges, processes and results of each project and how each design team defined design.

Market Award winners were selected for seven segments: large office, mid-size office, small office, education, healthcare, retail and hospitality and government and will now advance to the Global Award program.

Market Award winners will be recognised in



Shaw Contract Group's annual NeoCon magazine and featured on [www.shawcontractgroup.com](http://www.shawcontractgroup.com).

Global winners will be announced in September. Two representatives from each winning firm will also receive a trip to NeoCon, the largest commercial interiors show in North America, taking place in Chicago in 2016. In addition, winning firms receive \$2,000 to donate to the school or organisation of their choice.

Since 2006, Shaw Contract Group has donated over \$98,000 through the Design Is...Award to support design education and social responsibility, all in the name of the winning firms. ■

### RFMS expands regional support team

With the rapid growth of RFMS users in the region over recent months, Nicky Kenny has been appointed to the position of support consultant for the company.

Nicky's role is to provide users with first level support and ensure that support requests are dealt with in a timely and efficient manner.

"Nicky has come to the RFMS team with a background both in training and support and with experience as an RFMS user in a flooring business," said MD Chris Ogden. "She has quickly come up to speed on the latest RFMS innovations and is particularly excited by Measure Mobile, the benefits of which she can appreciate given her background as a flooring salesperson."

Nicky brings the number on the RFMS Australasia team to nine including project managers, IT and support. ■

### New appointment at Shaw Contract Group

Shaw Contract Group has appointed Dave Moolman as Commercial Manager, Southern Regions, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. Filling the new position, Dave brings to Shaw over 27 years experience in the flooring industry.

"With experience across all facets of flooring from installation through to product development both in Australia and internationally, we are very pleased to have Dave on board," said National Sales Director, Aaron Martin.

"Dave also brings to the team specialist experience in the carpet category and the health

and aged care segments. Based in Melbourne, he will be servicing customers throughout Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania and joins our Victorian and South Australian commercial specification consultants Allison Trebilcock, Lauren Bonthorne and Boris Stefanovic," Aaron said.

According to Dave, Shaw Contract Group's global reputation attracted him to the role. "The culture and ethical, honest business philosophy of Shaw attracted me to the role as well as the opportunity to join a global leader in the flooring industry," he said. ■

### Ecologic Group acquired

The Ecologic Group has been acquired in a private sale.

The sale will see the ongoing Australasian distribution of Ecologic's natural flooring brands including Wicanders Cork Flooring, Hydrocork, Amorim Cork Underlay and Artisan Oak Flooring, transferred into a new business entity trading as Preference Floors.

With the planned integration of existing and experienced personnel along with extensive product and supply channel knowledge the new business will enable Preference Floors to build a broader Australian and New Zealand flooring distribution footprint and will see a faster roll out for a range of new

products, distribution and sales initiatives.

Preference Floors, with its head office in Smithfield, Sydney, has established representation and warehouses in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and will provide a natural fit for Ecologic's existing product range and distribution channels.

The Ecologic products will be complemented by Preference Floors growing list of popular brands that include Krono Swiss Floor Solutions, Oak Leaf wide plank laminates, Prestige oak flooring, Verdura and Stonewood bamboo ranges, Timbertate and Legacy vinyl planks. ■

## Entegro adds to commercial range

Entegro Group has announced its appointment as the exclusive Australian distributor for Graboplast Commercial Flooring.

This appointment enhances Entegro's strategy of developing a specialised portfolio of commercial flooring and surfacing products for the Australian market.

Phil Withington, Entegro's Sales Director said: "The Graboplast brand expands our portfolio, which already includes Flexitec surfaces and our locally manufactured Comcork Flooring. We can now offer architects, builders, designers and flooring contractors/installers



a total flooring and surfacing solution.

"Further new brands from Europe will continue to be added over the next six months so that by the end of the year we will have one of Australia's wider range of specialised resilient commercial flooring."

Graboplast is one of Europe's leading innovators and manufacturers of

heterogeneous vinyl floorcoverings for education, aged care, medical, hospitals, retails, transport, office sectors.

"Graboplast's Acoustic and SilverKnight (anti-bacterial) options will offer superior benefits and performance that have not been available in the Australian market before," said Phil. ■

## Protect Crete NZ agreement signed

Gary Curwood, Managing Director of Protect Crete and Otxek Australia, with Bill Irvine and Jennifer Irvine of Protect Crete NZ signing a new agreement effectively for 15 years in Rotorua, NZ.

Protect Crete NZ has the rights to distribute and supply support to New Zealand and Pacific Island customers of the Protect Crete and Otxek range of products through all Gilt Edge branches. ■



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## Kennards Hire Concrete Care partners with EpiMax in Adelaide

EpiMax, a supplier of industrial and commercial coating and protection systems, has partnered with Kennards Hire Concrete Care to distribute its coating solutions throughout Adelaide.

Kennards Hire Concrete Care and EpiMax have had a long association stemming back over 10 years, working together to simplify a range of products for customer requirements. EpiMax's products and services complement Kennards Hire Concrete Care customers, who range from commercial and industrial DIY, coating contractors and specialised flooring contractors.

Rob Machin, General Manager at Kennards Hire

Concrete Care, says the partnership benefits customers seeking superior products for their coating solutions.

"The most important step in any topical coating application is correct surface preparation – that's where Kennards Hire Concrete Care plays an important role," he said. "We have the full range of concrete grinders through to shotblasters to ensure the ultimate adhesion is achieved."

The new distribution partnership means coating contractors no longer need to order EpiMax products from Sydney, pay additional freight and wait three to five days for its arrival. Now products can be sourced locally,



Mischa Carnell, Branch Manager Kennards Hire Concrete Care Adelaide, Max Simmons, Director at EpiMax and Rob Machin, GM Kennards Hire Concrete Care.

reducing the waiting time and cost, making the project more economical overall. Customers will also benefit

from the ability to customise a coating to suit their individual needs and environmental conditions. ■

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## Laticrete Australia continues to grow

Laticrete has announced that Emma Tschannen has been appointed to the position of General Manager of Laticrete Australia.

Emma will report to CEO, Henry B. Rothberg who will continue to drive the business forward.

According to Rothberg, since Emma joined the Laticrete Australian team six years ago, she has ably addressed her responsibilities as the business manager and demonstrated business leadership qualities that has made her a great fit for her new position.

In another new appointment, Kathleen Jenkinson has been named as the Laticrete Australia Queensland, architectural representative.

Kathleen has been in the building industry as an architectural Specifier for 15 years, predominantly in the



Kathleen Jenkinson

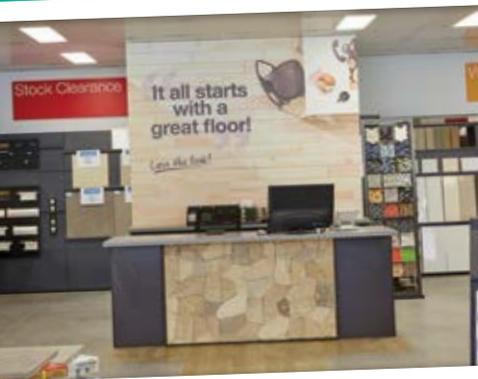


Emma Tschannen

paint and specialist coatings industry. Kathleen said that her specialist coatings background, where substrate preparation is key to a successful installation, sparked her interest to join the Laticrete team.

Kathleen immigrated to Brisbane in April 2011 from the east coast of South Africa and stems from a large South African family. ■

# Carpet Court unveils new *Tile Concept store*



**Rosebud Carpet Court** held an **exclusive event** for suppliers & store owners to **unveil the future of tiles** at Carpet Court.

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Greg Zeegers

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## Professional polished concrete course

International Building Supplies (IBS) will be running its 35th professional polished concretecourse on 22, 23, 24 July 2015

Already over 60% booked, the course is designed for professionals who want to get into the polished concrete industry, do quality work and make money. It is a hands on course plus notes and is limited to 10 people fper group.

Under the experienced tutelage of Ivan Imerman of IBS, students work with the Vexcon Starseal PS densification system and Fusion grout as well as their unique food stain resistance without sealing. All the work is done dry – no water added.

“We teach you diamond selection, how to cut floors flat, grouting floors with Fusion, floor hardening (densification), polishing to a high gloss as well as food stain resistance,” explained Ivan.

“Integral to the IBS product portfolio is the Terrco twin head single phase floor grinder and our single phase Italian dry vacuum with catchment bin at the bottom.

“Terrco have been making the best floor grinders for nearly 80 years and they are regarded as the safest, most robust, fastest floor grinders that can cut granite, marble, terrazzo and concrete as well as do floor preparation under extreme conditions. ■

## Sika sponsors Master Builder NSW waterproofing courses

Sika has partnered with Master Builders Association New South Wales (MBA NSW) as the official sponsor of its suite of waterproofing courses. Under the agreement, Sika will supply waterproofing products for more than 30 courses a year and provide expert insights with presentations from the Sika team.

Brett Finucane, State Sales Manager at Sika said: “The waterproofing courses from MBA NSW are ideal for busy building, construction and waterproofing practitioners looking to upskill in a hands-on learning environment with high quality teaching. We are proud to partner with MBA NSW to advance the skills and knowledge of the internal and exterior waterproofing sector”.

Held at MBA NSW’s new training facility in Baulkham Hills, the courses cover practical and technical applications of the waterproofing discipline. The Certificate III in Construction Waterproofing for experienced practitioners is run over four days, more than 10 times a year. Upon successful completion, participants receive a nationally recognised qualification and are eligible to apply to NSW Fair Trading for a waterproofing licence. The course accounts for 23 CPD points for builders.

MBA NSW also regularly runs one day courses in Sydney and select regional centres. Upon completion, builders can receive 12 CPD points. ■



## Chatting about old times



A group of retired (and almost retired) TAFE floorcovering teachers recently staged a reunion in Ringwood, Victoria.

Charles Booth, trade instructor from Melbourne College of Textiles (MCT); John Doensen, trade instructor from MCT and TFIA apprentice assessor; Raymond Cook, trade instructor, MCT and Marleston TAFE, South Australia; Ian Valentine, trade instructor, MCT and TFIA assessor (the instigator

of apprentice on the job assessments) and Ron Dunston, trade instructor from MCT and senior instructor, Holmsglen TAFE have worked together since the 1970s.

The group were at the forefront of developing training in the field of floorcovering and finishing including setting up the curricula for the various teaching courses. Many of their past students include well established and respected industry identities. ■

## Gerflor delivers specialised training

Contractors and installers from across the country gathered for specialised training in Gerflor SPM products at the company's Victorian headquarters.

Visitors received advice and participated in hands on training in the installation of the rigid wall paneling, handrails and corner guards that make up the SPM range.

"It was exceptionally well received with everyone learning the technical properties of the range and how best to install it," said the NSW Manager for Gerflor, David Merriman.

Armando Areste Virgili from Applycover Spain was on hand to share his 20 years' experience installing the various SPM products.

"These are highly specialised products with

widespread application, particularly in the health care sector and it was really valuable to have Amando available to share his expertise and answer questions from the floor," David said.

Gerflor's Global Sales and Marketing Manager of SPM, Eric Deville was also on hand to deliver sales training and valuable insights into the market. Eric and Armando advised on presentations for architects and further training for the Gerflor network.

"Gerflor's entry into this exciting and rapidly growing segment means that here in Australia we can answer the needs of another specialised market segment and deliver a unique package for our clients," David said. ■



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## A new energy over the ditch

Kennards Hire has continued its growth across the ditch with the appointment of New Zealand General Manager, Hamish Kibblewhite. Mr Kibblewhite will be looking over the operations of the 15 New Zealand general and specialist branches over the North and South islands.

The former CEO of BlueCo Communications, Kibblewhite is a sixth generation Kiwi and has over 15 years of experience working in industries such as telecommunications, IT, logistics and forestry. His extensive history across trades places him well in his new position at Kennards Hire New Zealand, which often has to supply for projects that span across industries and constantly vary in size.

"Kennards has a unique and amazing culture," Kibblewhite said. "It's one of the very few organisations I've come across that really do 'walk the talk.' I've visited 31 branches across two countries and the consistency in the engagement, the quality of service and gear across all of them has been very impressive."



Kennards Hire has seen great growth in its New Zealand branches over recent years, becoming a larger priority for the 67 year old family operated business. Having expanded its offering and opened new branches across the country, Kennards Hire is fast becoming a dominant force in the NZ hiring industry, posing new challenges for Kibblewhite.

"New Zealand is a challenging market made up of many small catchments – so it has a number of idiosyncrasies to work around," he explained. "But I believe that Kennards has the potential to redefine the New Zealand hire industry and lift it to greater heights."

Kibblewhite will be working from Kennards Hire NZ's support office in Auckland. ■

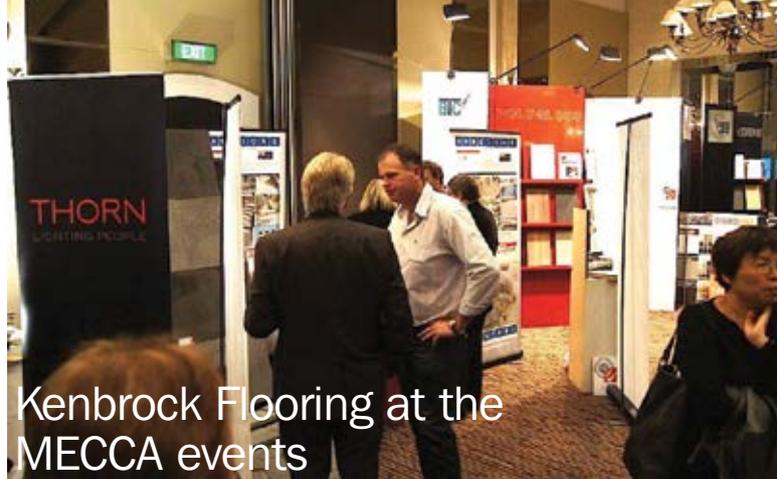
## Adelaide warehouse for MJS

Marshall Myles of Manufacturers' Agencies Pty Ltd ceased trading in the South Australian market as at 15 May 2015 leaving a in the MJS/ Manag model to market as a national supplier to the industry.

To ensure the continuation of its strategy, MJS Floorcoverings has announced that, together with the support and guidance from the Manag team, it has opened its own regional warehouse facility in Adelaide.

Alex Sturgess accepted the position of Territory Sales Manager-South Australia and relocated to Adelaide

in readiness for this launch. Together with Scott Maddocks and Mark Ames, MJS had a very successful opening and is looking forward to servicing its South Australian customers in the coming months. ■



## Kenbrock Flooring at the MECCA events

Since mid last year, the Kenbrock commercial team has been working with Mecca, a company that facilitates trade events that promote building suppliers to a network of thousands of architects, interior designers, building designers, developers, project managers and builders throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The first Mecca evening Kenbrock attended was in Perth, WA. Further events are now planned in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane, the Gold Coast as well as Hobart and Launceston. Kenbrock's next attendance will be at the show in Darwin in August 2015.

Paul Woods, commercial business manager for Kenbrock, said: "The Mecca evenings have proven to be an excellent way for companies

such as Kenbrock Flooring to gain direct exposure to and establish relationships with architects, builders, consultants and specifiers, who are prepared to share valuable insights into their current and future projects".

Elke Eyers, the new Marketing Co-ordinator for Kenbrock, reinforced this: "These events give us an opportunity to showcase our broad range of products such as Smartdrop LVTs, Bright – our light commercial vinyl flooring and Supreme – our commercial sheet vinyl flooring, rubber, homogenous and safety flooring. All of these are suitable for commercial use in various applications such as high-rise residential, community housing, educational and aged care facilities, boutique shops and retail fitouts, offices and medical facilities. ■

## EU gives higher status to product labels

The public procurement market in Europe seems set to adopt new EU directives that give a higher status to product labels, standards and certifications, including sustainability labels and ecolabels.

The new directives were adopted in February 2014 and EU members are now in a two year phase-in period as the New Procurement Directives are transposed into national legislation by early 2016.

These new directives make explicit reference to the role of labels, including sustainability labels, in technical specifications, award criteria or contract performance conditions in the tendering process. This is recognition of

the important role of labels in achieving sustainability aims.

Europe has always been the trendsetter on the sustainability front, and so apart from direct implications for public procurement in Europe, this is a good indication of the things to follow around the world.

With a dearth of regulations on the products front, the emergence of these initiatives is most welcome for triggering a much needed change in this area. With growing concerns over the hordes of non-compliant products entering into Australia, labels and certifications offer a level of assurance on the quality of the product, including its sustainability credentials. ■

# Choices Flooring

new store in  
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Luxury Vinyl Tiles

## Another welcome addition to the Choices Flooring Family



Choices Flooring would like to welcome their newest Member, Alistair Jones, into the Choices Flooring family. After years of industry experience from a manufacturer perspective, Alistair decided it was time to switch to retail and open his own showroom in Hornsby (NSW). Alistair is confident that with the support of Choices Flooring's Central Office team, he can continue to grow his new business.



*"While I was the National Sales Manager at Gerflor, I worked alongside Choices Flooring for many years and was impressed by the Central Office support and overall success of the Group. After speaking with my son Marty about the prospect of opening a Choices Flooring store, we were both very enthusiastic to discuss the opportunity further with the Central Office team. After our initial meeting, we knew joining the Choices Flooring family was the way forward."*

For a strictly confidential discussion about the future direction of your business, please contact:

Andrew Lewis  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mobile: 0400 400 036  
Email: alewis@choicesflooring.com.au

Tim Drew  
Group Manager - Retail Development  
Mobile: 0425 751 756  
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Retailer of the month

# The colour of success

Colours Carpet Court,  
South Melbourne, Victoria



Justin Brown



Harrison Brown

The name may be Colours Carpet Court but one colour predominates in this successful business – Brown. And it is brown with a capital B since the owner is Justin Brown, his assistant is Harrison Brown (no relation) and his business partner is Terry Brown – also no relation (although he is Harrison's father), who runs his own Carpet Court store in Moorabbin.

Justin's background is in carpet laying so he has a strong understanding of the industry as well as the work and attitude needed to get the job done on time and in a professional manner.

The Colours Carpet Court store is housed in large (around 500m<sup>2</sup>), airy premises on York Street, South Melbourne, a trendy inner city suburb full of old homes and new high rise apartment blocks and filled with a mixture of cashed-up retirees and highly paid younger professionals. It has been owned and run by Justin Brown for the last 10 years although store had been a Carpet Court store for the three years prior to its purchase by him.

The store houses a full range of floorcovering options including timber, vinyl and ceramic tiles with the vast majority of floor space devoted to carpet. This is because, despite the trend focus on hard flooring, Justin finds





that the majority of his customers come to purchase carpet.

“Most of the old homes around this area have timber floors so if the owners want a timber floor they tend to sand and polish what is there,” said Justin. “They come to us to purchase floorcoverings for other rooms, such as bedrooms, where they want something softer.

“In the case of the modern apartments, we find that is where most of our timber sales go.”

Recently adding to the scope of his business, a window and blind department was opened earlier this year and “is kicking off nicely”, according to Justin. “Many of our customers are time poor and there aren’t many places in the area where people can purchase window coverings so we have found our customers are glad to have that option provided to them.”

With the extremely high value of inner city property in Melbourne, Colours Carpet Court doesn’t have the luxury of its own warehouse. Instead, Justin shares resources with Terry Brown – both warehousing and installation teams.

“Installing floorcoverings in apartments can be challenging so we need installers that have a ‘can do’ attitude,” he explained. “Terry and I use two teams that we know we can rely on to get the job done properly.”

Asked what had been the highlight of his time at Colours Carpet Court, Justin explained that his store had been chosen to supply all the floorcoverings to the last five series of The Block.

“It was great fun but could be a bit challenging at times,” said Justin. “It was all organised through Carpet Court head office but it was an honour to be selected.”



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Other special events included the Wooden Integrated Products Area – a new showcase on wooden products for interior home furnishing that made its debut this year; the Floor Heating Installation Show; the Handmade Carpet Salon; and the Sports Experience Arena. ■



## Strongest DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR ever

DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR 2015 put in a strong performance, consolidating its position as the Asia-Pacific region's biggest trade fair for carpets and floorcoverings.

This year's show was staged from 24 to 26 March at the Shanghai New International Exhibition Center (SNIEC) in China, one of the world's most dynamic markets for floorcoverings. It attracted a record 46,115 visitors and was the strongest DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR ever staged.

The international importance of the show was evident from that fact 289 of the 1,275 exhibitors came from outside China. Among their number were companies like Balta, Oriental Weavers, Alsorayi, Armstrong, Gerflor, Krono Flooring, Kronotex, Beaulieu, Egger, Berry Alloc and Witex. There were also national pavilions from Afghanistan, Belgium, Germany, India, Iran, the Netherlands, Nepal, Pakistan and the USA. About a quarter (11,374) of the visitors came from places other than China – principally from other countries in Asia. Impressively, over 60% of the exhibition space was rebooked on the spot for next year – a sure

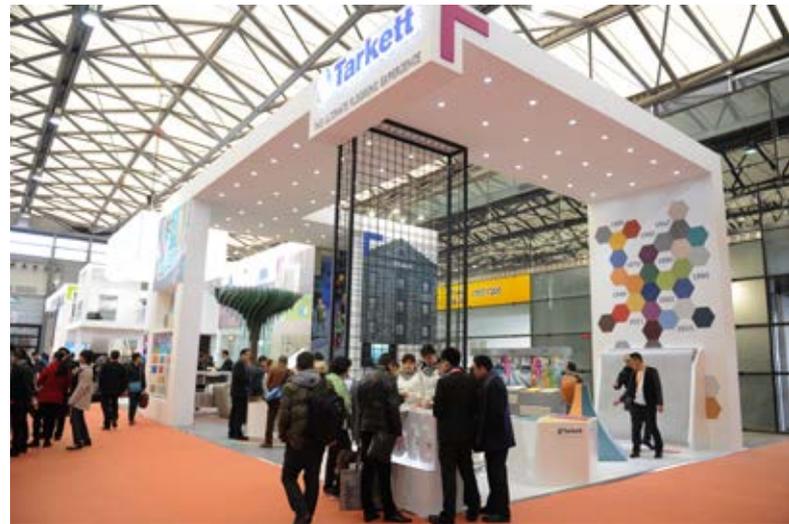
sign of exhibitor satisfaction with the fair and the business opportunities it opened up.

**Sustainability is in** DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR 2015 hosted the second GreenStep Asia Awards. The awards, a joint initiative between the show's organisers and the US trade journal Floor Covering Weekly, honour manufacturers who have undertaken initiatives that demonstrate exemplary commitment to sustainability and environmental protection.

This year, Shan Dong Li Fang Jie won the Green Product Category with an Environment-friendly Floor Cleaning Membrane, Weihai Shanhua and Zhejiang Sunflower jointly won the Green Process Category, and Novalis Innovative Flooring took top honors in both the Green Promotion and Green Pinnacle categories. Honorable Mentions went to Wuxi Huacan and Dalian Huade in the Green Product Category, Beaulieu Asia in the Green Process category, and Polyflor (represented by Shanghai Linkstrong) in the Green Pinnacle category.

Another major highlight of the various on-site forums and special events

held in conjunction with this year's DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR was the 2015 China International WPC Development Forum. WPC – wood-plastic composites – is a class of new materials that now rank among the most sought-after products in the global flooring industry.



# Another two Choices Flooring stores join the *Store Evolution*

Transforming the Australian retail flooring experience as we know it, Choices Flooring by Advance (TAS) and Choices Flooring Tamworth (NSW) are the latest stores to undergo the Group's new showroom layout, known as the 'Store Evolution'. The Store Evolution allows consumers to connect the visual representation of floors in their own rooms, thanks to the innovative touch screen technology of the Inspiration Station, with the physical look and feel of the flooring samples enticingly displayed throughout the showroom. Providing the ultimate in-store experience, Choices Flooring by Advance and Choices Flooring Tamworth pave the way for the future.



Choices Flooring by Advance



Choices Flooring Tamworth



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# Cork: the sustainable flooring solution

By Kelly Hamilton, Cork Imports Australia

Agglomerated cork tiles, made from the hydrophobic suberin bark of the *Quercus suber* (the cork oak tree), are one of the most durable and sustainable flooring solutions on the market.

Naturally waterproof, fire retardant, insulating, hypoallergenic, high density and easy under foot, they are a much loved alternative to timber, bamboo, carpet, vinyl and concrete. These new generation cork tiles retain all the naturally occurring properties of cork but in new improved designs and range of colours.

Cork is a naturally occurring and sustainable flooring alternative for use in both wet and dry areas in commercial and residential applications.

Whether in a restaurant, bar, school, commercial office or in the home, the benefits of cork can not be understated. Great for high traffic areas, easy to maintain and cost effective, cork tiles are timeless in application. And now cork tiles are re-invigorated through the emergent availability of new textures and colours.

## Origin and production process

Cork trees are grown in the semi-arid climate of the Mediterranean, East Africa and Australia. Individual trees have a life of approximately 300 years and can be harvested in continuous cycles for cork production after maturity.

After the tree reaches the age of about 25 years, the cork bark is stripped from the trunks and harvested on a nine year cycle. Harvesting is not only important for the longevity of the tree, but also encourages vital suberin\* production necessary for both the tree and integral for the agglomeration of cork when turning it into tiles and other products. This process means that no trees are felled for harvesting purposes.

Once harvested, the cork bark is 'seasoned' in the field for 12 months. This seasoning will both age the cork and dry the naturally occurring oils and resins. The seasoned cork is then steamed clean and the natural bio-organisms growing on the bark are removed.

At this stage, the cork is assessed with the thickest part of the bark being used for wine corks and the remainder granulated.

Cork tiles are produced from the granulated cork bark in accordance with agreed international standards (ISO3813:2004). The granules are washed and then formed into large blocks using 300 to 500 kilogram per cubic metre of steam pressure. The heating process releases naturally occurring resins within the cork, which solidify when cooled and bind the compressed granules together. Another benefit is that naturally occurring resins eliminate the need for adhesive or other binding concentrates



resulting in no additives to the natural structure and an environmentally friendly and sustainable flooring product.

The blocks once compressed are sliced to form large sheets which, in turn, are cut to form tiles.

This process means that from harvest to installation, the tiles are truly sustainable and retain the insulating and resilient properties of natural cork, not to mention that the cork forests continue to provide a habitat for a variety of terrestrial animals and bird species.

### Naturally resilient

Eliminating the need for felling trees and use of toxic binders means that cork tiles are one of the most sustainable and renewable sources of flooring product and continue to positively contribute to the environment through the natural carbon capture and storage of the tree itself. Thanks to its resilient cellular structure, cork remains pliable throughout the production process and during its life.

The positive benefits of cork include:

- environmentally friendly;
- natural insulator that adapts to the surrounding environment: warm in winter and cool in summer;
- acoustic absorbing;
- low maintenance;
- mildew proof;
- antistatic;
- hypoallergenic;
- water resistant;
- fire retardant;
- durable and impact resilient;
- soft under foot;
- adds a variety of textures and colours to the interior designers palette.

Cork's long-term durability as a flooring product is obtained by coating the floor with a product that is specifically manufactured for cork such as Cork Imports Australia's Tradies Own water based primer, adhesive and polyurethane. This ensures



both environmental integrity and the long term viability of the floor.

After eight to 10 years of significant foot traffic, the floor can be brought back to life with a re-coating. The resilience of cork means that when it is re-coated, the floor surface can look as new as the day it was initially installed.

### Aesthetically pleasing

Because cork tiles are made from a natural product, no two are identical. Shade variances are a natural occurrence that give cork its uniqueness. The texture variation even in coloured cork will be visible and is a feature of the design.

Aesthetically, the new generation cork tiles are less likely to be a reminder of a 1970s kitchen and more likely to conjure up images of high end galleries, hotels and restaurants.

Black cork with natural flecks or completely black cork has never before been available. The durability of this designer range called Luxe is perfect for entrances and commercial spaces. It is important to note that this range is not merely a veneer but rather a solid tile. This means that in eight to 10 years, when you feel your space needs a re-vamp, the tiles can be re-sanded and polished to look like new. Cork Imports Australia,

which has exclusive rights to supply the Luxe range to the domestic Australian market.

The company can also offer up to 20 different colours and patterns of cork in its Colour Cork collection – flat black, white, cream, coffee and many more. All these colours are water

based, which again means you can rest assured that the environmental sustainability of the product can be maintained. Colour is only applied to the surface of this cork, which means that when you want to rejuvenate the floor, it is imperative to use a qualified tradesman. → 20

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### Installation and Maintenance

Installation in accordance with the Australian Standards is a breeze. Whether you direct stick to concrete, ply or yellow tongue, installation couldn't be easier while on timber, install masonite first and then off you go.

Cork is pleasant to work with and because of its thickness, can be installed on most floors without any additional work such as shortening of doors or leveling. It can be cut simply with a Stanley knife and glued to most floor surfaces with some minor preparations. This means that although your cork will last for generations, the under floor will not be permanently impacted.

Once installed, maintenance is as simple as regularly cleaning with hot water and methylated spirits.

The anti-static properties of cork mean that it does not attract or retain dust. The resilient qualities also mean that there will be minimal impact by heavy or sharp objects. However, if a piece of cork is gouged out of the tile, simply apply a filler and a coat of polyurethane to the raw cork and the floor is sealed and secure once again. ■

*\* Suberin is a waterproofing waxy substance found in higher plants. Suberin is a main constituent of cork and is named after the cork oak, Quercus suber. Its main function is as a barrier to movement of water and solutes.*

*Cork Imports Australia Recognising the need for environmentally friendly and sustainable flooring solutions, Cork Imports Australia imports only the best of MJO cork tiles from Portugal, the traditional home of cork. [www.corkimports.com.au](http://www.corkimports.com.au)*



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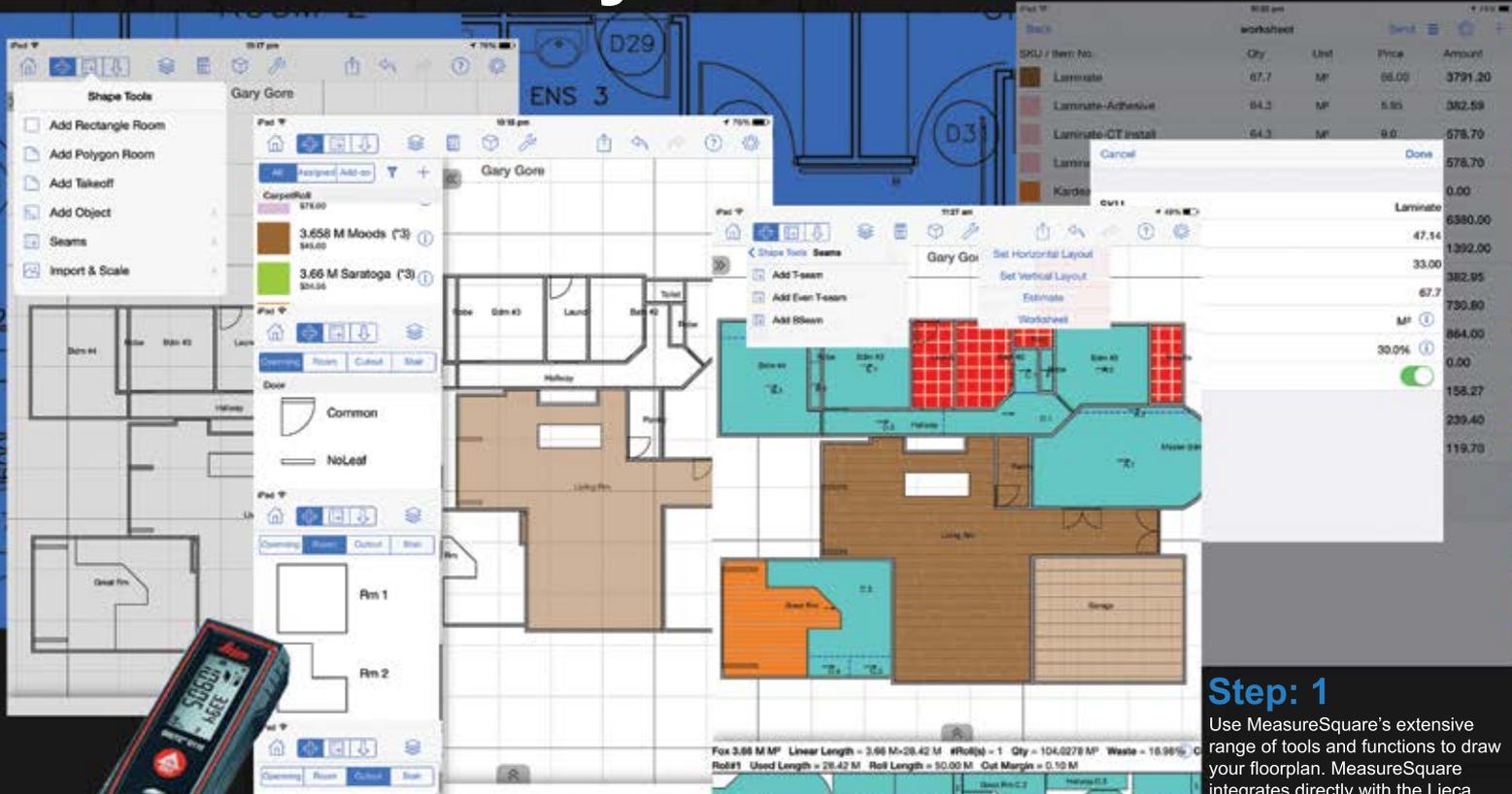
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## Darren Palmer launches new rug range

At St Leonard's Carpet Court (NSW) in May 2015, design savvy locals were treated to an exclusive preview of Darren Palmer's new Provincial Lane rug range.

In conjunction with design blog Interiors Addict, the newly renovated store was overrun with more than 70 design lovers who were keen to meet Carpet Court ambassador, Darren Palmer, and view his latest venture with Carpet Court – his new rug range.

Store manager, Mel Kahramanian, said it was a great day and a fantastic opportunity to share the new look store with customers in the area and reward them for their ongoing support.

"We had a fabulous day with both existing customers and new faces through the store, with everyone excited to meet Darren. It was clear to everyone at the event that rugs in general seem to be a go-to styling item and a great passion of his.

"It was great to have Interiors Addict involved as a partner for the event, with

their supportive membership making the trip to the store on the day.

"We spent more than four months on the renovation and it was great to be able to share the new look store with the community. A big addition to our new store was the 20 metre long Carpet Library which showcases some of the best carpets in the industry. It was great to receive positive feedback on this during our event," Mel said.

Designed to complement the rest of the Provincial Lane range sold exclusively through Carpet Court, Darren Palmer's break-away rug range effortlessly adds warmth and colour to transform any space from ordinary and unfinished to sophisticated, stylish and complete.

Carpet Court Ambassador Darren Palmer said introducing rugs was an easy decision given the increasing popularity of the existing Provincial Lane range.

"Exceptional spaces start with the flooring and end with the right rug. All the other



design choices in between are important, but it's those large items which ground a room, set the tone and unify the rest of the pieces.

"The Provincial Lane rug range offers beautiful designer selections ready to adapt to a range of interiors. I've kept the colour palette simple and instead experimented with patterns and textures, delivering the highest quality options," Darren said.

Celebrating style with natural textures, geometric patterns and quality weaves the range showcases entry level designs as well as high-class options from cotton blends to hand crafted wool piles. The collection boasts the latest in trending colours with muted undertones, calming greys and even dip dyed electric blue, a collection set to accentuate beautiful interiors. ■





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## Where technology meets wellness

Collective Time is a carpet tile and broadloom collection that takes inspiration from the shifting light captured from day to night and proportions of time tracked in our daily routines of activity and rest.

Intrigued by the body's circadian rhythm, the Shaw Contract Group design team used wearable technology to track daily routines throughout

the development of the collection and become more mindful of activity levels and sleep/wake cycles. The metrics created from this personal data served as inspiration for the collection.

"Collective Time is a story of technology and wellness brought together. In addition to the product inspiration, this collection is designed for

healthcare environments and features high-performance Cradle to Cradle materials," said Shaw Contract Group General Manager, Paul McCosker.

Featuring three carpet tile and two broadloom styles, the products can be used to create scale and subtle colour shifts across the floor. Collective Time offers the

ability to create a dynamic pattern mix or a more monochromatic space.

Products in the collection include:

- Activity Tile: a small scale pattern with colour undulating from light to dark emulating the 24-hour light cycle. Available in eight colours.
- Unwind Tile: a medium scale pattern representing movement during intervals of the day. Available in eight colours.
- Rest Tile: the largest scale pattern with a soft wash of calm. Available in 16 colours.
- Dusk: a small scale, textural broadloom with colour undulating from light to dark emulating the 24-hour light cycle. Available in 16 colours.
- Dawn: a large scale broadloom pattern based on the charting of activity cycles during the day. Available in 16 colours.

Designed primarily for high performance environments, the products feature the enhanced ability to resist soils and prevent acid-based stains.

Manufactured with Eco Solution Q Extreme fibre and EcoWorx tile backing or Ultraloc broadloom backing, Collective Time is Cradle to Cradle Silver Certified, completely recyclable, and manufactured with recycled content.

All carpet tile styles featuring Eco Solution Q Extreme fibre and EcoWorx tile backing are GECA certified and achieve a Green Star 'Level A' product rating according to the Green Building Council of Australia.

The Collective Time collection is backed by a lifetime commercial warranty, protecting against abrasive wear, static build-up, tuft bind, edge ravel and delamination. ■



# Modra launches new machinery



Modra Technology is the leading provider of carpet sample machines in the world. Based in Warragul, Victoria, Modra has over 300 machines in 40 countries.

In the past 12 months Modra installed a robotic creel system into the USA, a 24 needle Mtuft into China (for tile sampling) and has recently launched the Hollow Needle Mtuft.

The Hollow Needle Mtuft presents a new, economical approach to making custom rugs or short run wall to wall product. From one to four yarns are tufted into poly backing up to 5.0 m wide. The length of the product is limited only by the poly and yarn supply.

Gauge, stitch rate and patterning by pile height are all controlled by software and new ideas and samples can

be produced very quickly. The machine has an industrial touch screen for simple pattern entry and setting adjustments. For more complex or full repeat patterns a PC with a paint or design program can be used, the pattern is transferred by USB or over a network connection.

Level loop pile or multi height loop can be made. A shearing machine can be utilised to tip shear or fully shear the loops, enabling cut-loop patterning effects. Single or multiple coloured yarns can be used but they are tufted through the entire product.

The machine has a compact footprint and presents exciting new opportunities for existing wall to wall or rug manufacturers.

The Hollow Needle Mtuft could also be used to launch a custom rug business. ■

## HOLLOW NEEDLE MTUFT

*A new approach for simple but highly flexible manufacture of broadloom carpet and rugs.*

### Single Needle – Variable Height Loop

The Hollow Needle Mtuft uses a single needle with up to 4 yarns. The pile height is controlled by a servo yarn feed. A touch screen user interface allows easy entry of simple patterns and needle shift profiles, or more complex patterns can be imported in a range of formats.

### Roll to Roll

The Hollow Needle Mtuft accepts a full roll of primary backing and features a product take-up at the rear of the machine.

### Shearing

The Hollow Needle Mtuft produces loop pile only. For cut and loop or tip sheared effects a shearing system is used.

### Yarn Types

From 1 to 4 yarns, up to 5000 Tex total.

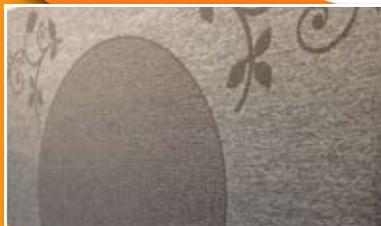


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## Shape takes on a different form

Shaw's latest carpet tile collection sees shape take on a different form

Frame Color Form, the latest carpet tile collection from Shaw Contract Group, encourages experimentation with diverse colour hues and sees the introduction of a new carpet tile size.

The combination of the new 23 x 91 cm carpet tile with the standard 61 x 61 cm carpet tiles enables design to be monochromatic subtle or make a progressive colour statement.

"Color Frame Color Form offers design flexibility with its two carpet tile sizes and an extensive colour palette of 36 colours ranging from brights to neutrals providing generous opportunities to co-ordinate with countless

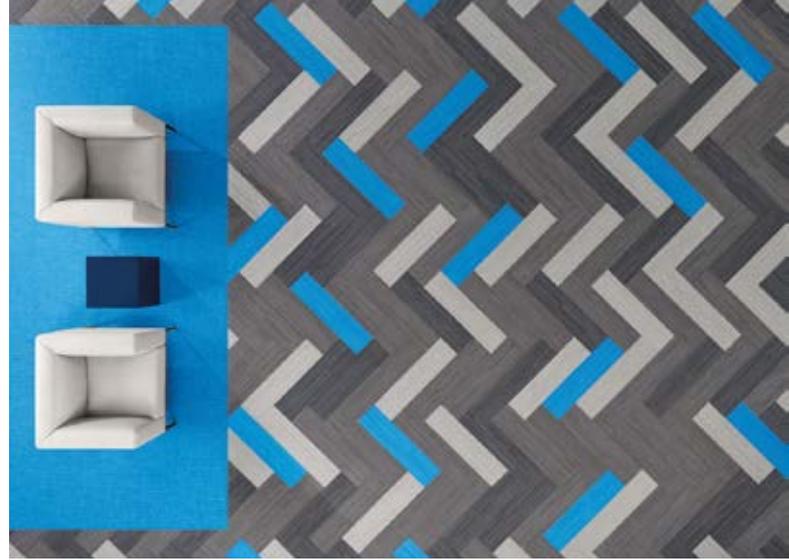
styles in our greater product line," said Shaw Contract Group General Manager, Paul McCosker.

"The versatility of the collection makes it ideal for all market segments, especially corporate office settings, education and government.

"The Color Frame style is also part of our 2015 In Stock In Australia program, making the style ideal for design focused projects with tight lead times," said Paul.

Products within the collection include:

- Color Form Tile: a simple and tailored, near solid pattern consisting of random linear lines available in 36 colours. Tile size of 23 x 91 cm and 17oz.



- Color Frame Tile: a subtle non-directional, horizontal and vertical pattern available in 36 colours. Tile size of 61 x 61 cm and 18 oz.

Constructed with premium Eco Solution Q nylon and EcoWorx tile backing, Color Frame Color Form is Cradle to Cradle Silver Certified, completely recyclable, and manufactured with recycled content.

All carpet tile styles featuring Eco Solution Q nylon and EcoWorx tile backing are GECA certified and achieve a Green Star 'Level A' product rating



according to the Green Building Council of Australia.

The Color Frame Color Form collection is backed by a lifetime commercial warranty, protecting against abrasive wear, static build-up, tuft bind, edge ravel and delamination. ■

## Desso makes the transition

Transitions in Structure is a collection of four new carpet tiles that have been designed to reconnect people with nature, inviting the outside in to soften the interior.

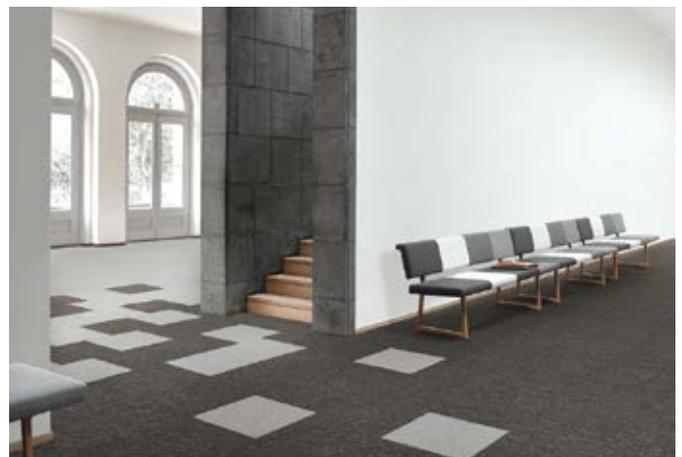
Being part of Desso's Carpetecture Transitions Collection, Salt, Rock, Desert and Grain help create flexible spaces with different areas for working, meeting and quiet contemplation.

Reflecting the ever-changing world where natural resources are becoming increasingly scarce and where more and more people are living and working in man-made, urban environments, carpet tiles combine the latest thinking in interior design with that of a circular, regenerative economy.

Today, Desso carpet tiles contain on average 50% positively defined<sup>1</sup> recycled content, according to Cradle to Cradle principles. Products with the Desso EcoBase backing are produced with 100% recycled chalk from drinking water companies.

The new Transitions in Structure collection is supplied with Desso ProBase as a standard backing. This bitumen based backing will gradually hold more positively defined recycled content, as the supply of chalk from local drinking water companies is increased. This collection is also offered with an EcoBase backing as an alternative, in which case the backing already contains 100% recycled chalk.

- Salt is a two-tone, high/low structure carpet tile with a



natural organic structure in six neutral and vibrant shades.

- Rock has been designed in 12 complementary hues to sit alongside Salt to create zones for contemporary and impactful interiors.
- Desert is a non-directional carpet tile that creates a dynamic floor with a different vista from every angle. It is textured with a subtly layered organic

design in a choice of nine weathered shades ranging from muted mushroom to deep charcoal.

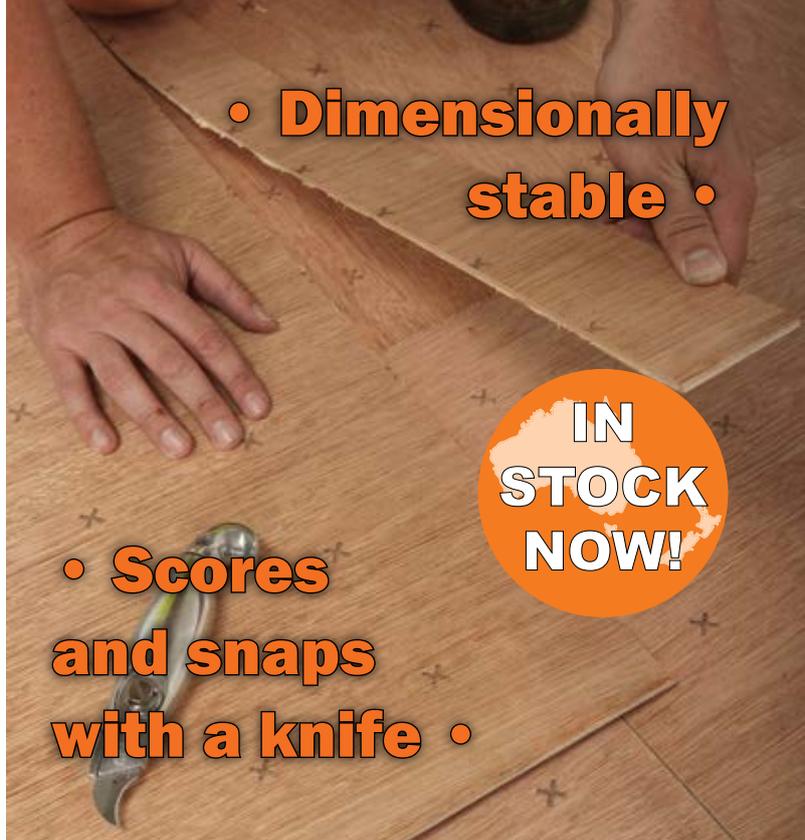
- Grain has a natural, free-flowing pattern that adds subtle movement by softening the edges of the interiors and inviting nature inside. It is available in a selection of 12 colourways including both neutral and vivid shades. ■



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For the Smarter Tradesman

## Entrance



## Dual product combination for convenience

Identity Matters is enjoying a strong relationship with 7-Eleven, which is now distributing matting solutions to approximately 600 stores around Australia.

The WaterGuard Waffle Entrance Mat is the most preferred mat, chosen for its functionality and durability. This is a heavy duty, long lasting commercial carpet mat designed to offer maximum benefits. Features include:

- rubber reinforced face nubs;

- waffle pattern design allows this mat to hold water and scrape dirt from shoes;
- UV and rot resistant;
- dries quickly;
- suits high foot traffic areas;
- suited to indoor and outdoor entrances.

For counter and coin situations, the preferred mat is the DeskWindo, which offers its users a quick and easy means to change out graphics. The DeskWindo is a smooth and sleek counter-top-advertising option designed to increase in store sales. ■

## Entrance protection systems

Designed as the first point of contact for a visitor entering the interior of a building, Karndean's Pedigree Entrance Zone captures soil and moisture passively as people walk on its dense pile.

A good flooring entrance system provides two key advantages for an office building; cost savings through reduced cleaning and maintenance, and the everyday protection of floorcoverings within the building.

In an office environment, maintenance can account for 80% of the total life cycle cost of flooring, so choosing an entrance system that helps to protect your investment is key.

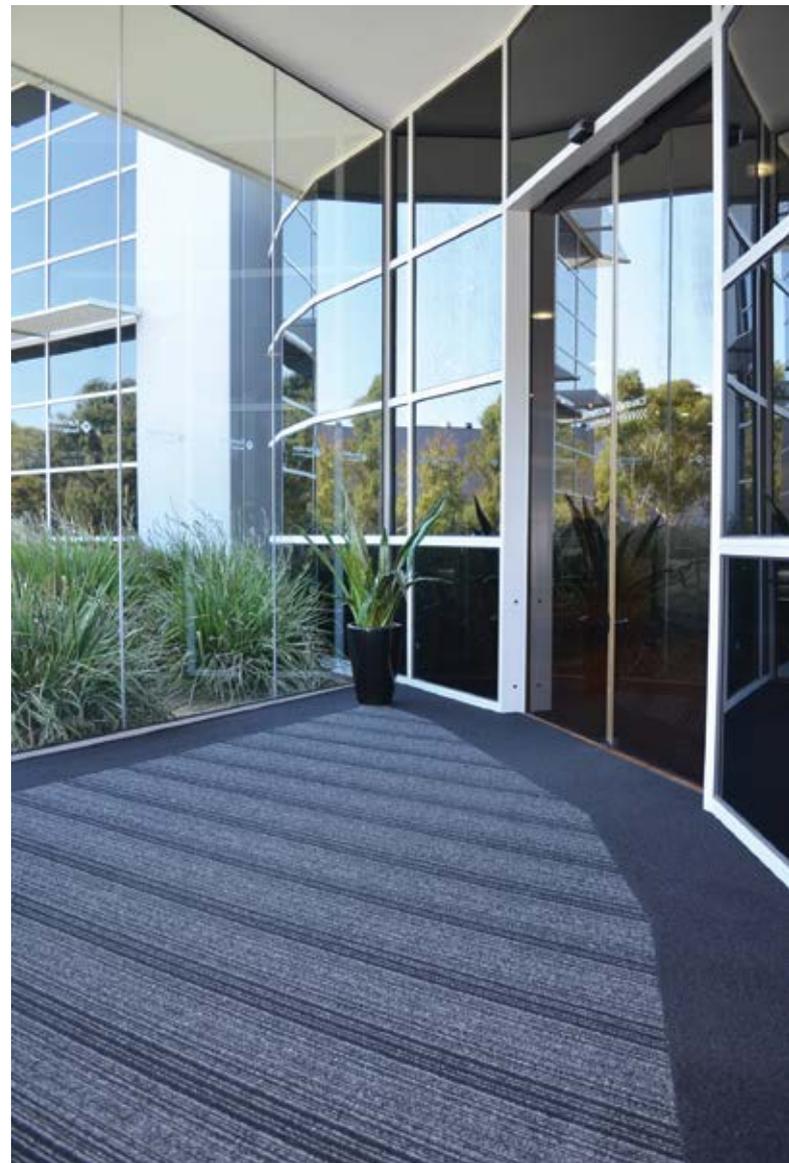
The coarse scraping fibres and dense pile weight and height of Pedigree Entrance Zone holds over five litres of water per square metres and can take up to 90% of

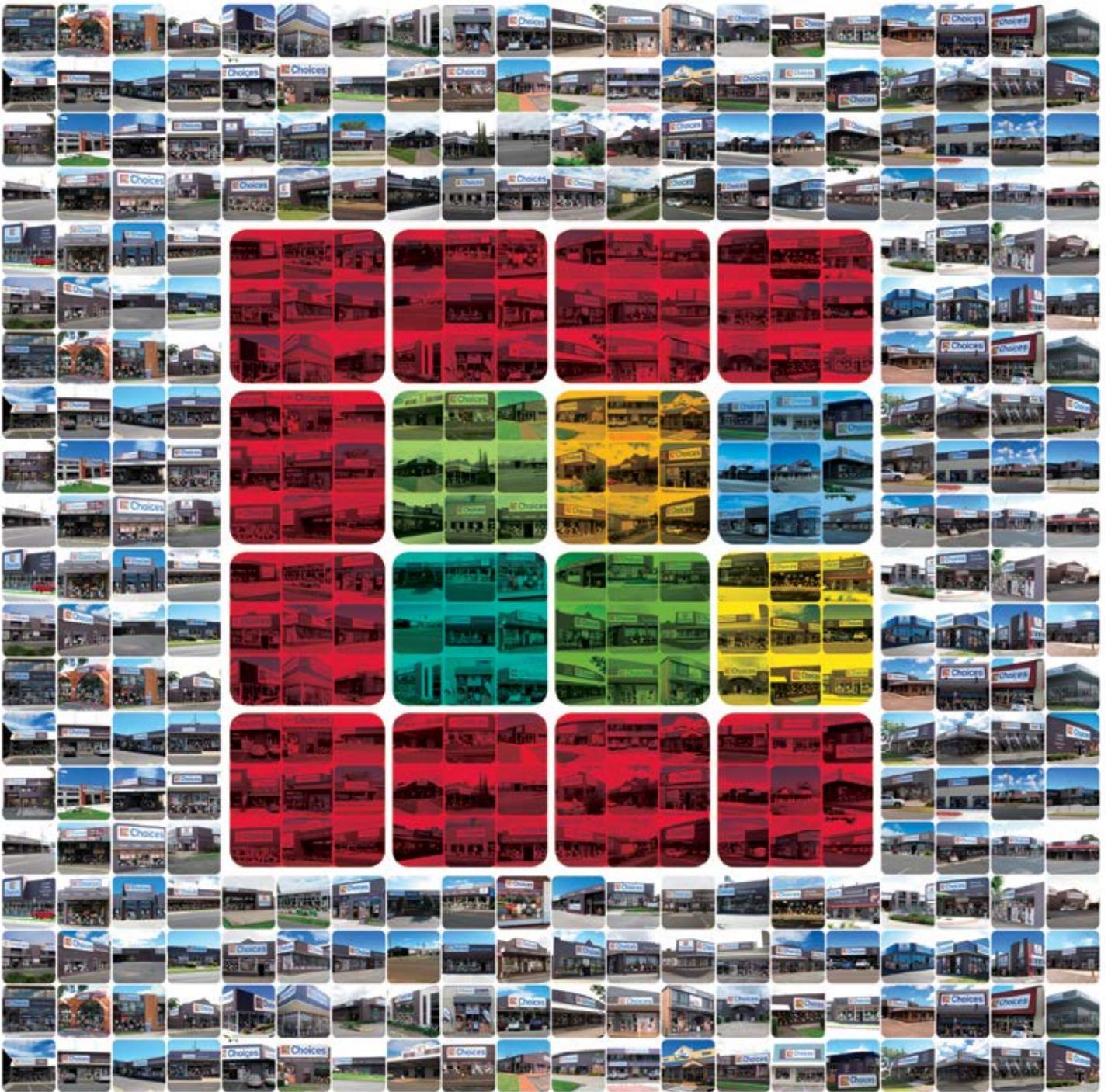
dirt and water off people's shoes.

Keeping dirt and moisture from moving forward into the building, it is a practical choice for keeping the flooring throughout an office building looking better for longer and therefore saves on cleaning and maintenance.

Suitable for many types of installations including loose-laid, set into a large mat well or fully installed like a carpet, Pedigree Entrance Zone is adaptable to any space.

"The fact that Pedigree Entrance Zone looks like a carpet and flows seamlessly from an entrance to another space is an important aspect in keeping an office aesthetic consistent," commented Carl Griffiths, Product Manager of Karndean Designflooring. "This means that you get the durability and protection you need but with a look that fits in with your overall scheme." ■





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# Cosmo by Signature

To complement its new ranges of luxury vinyl plank and tile flooring, Signature Floors has just released Cosmo luxury vinyl planks. Designed to suit the bustling households of Australia, Cosmo vinyl planks have been made specifically with the whole family in mind.

For convenience and the ultimate flexibility, Cosmo is available in two application types. Drop is the quickest installation method available and can be walked on straight after installation with no messy adhesive required. Stick is best for high traffic areas or wet areas, forming a permanent bond with the floor and is still a fast and



easy installation method with lasting results.

Featuring an innovative Easy Clean surface treatment, your customers can now remove marker pen with a simple wipe of the floor – perfect for those

accidental hallway artists in the making. This Easy Clean surface treatment contains no heavy metals or phthalates making it gentle on little and big feet alike.

Cosmo comes with

seven beautiful true-to-life oak-look plank colours to choose from, exceptional performance, scratch and moisture resistance and a 20 year residential and 10 year commercial wear warranty. ■

# Create flooring with flair



Tarkett is bringing even more design flexibility to its range with the introduction of the Tarkett Floorcraft Design Service. Using state-of-the-art ultrasonic cutting technology, Floorcraft creates designs using products, colours and patterns from across the Tarkett vinyl flooring range.

The service offers an extensive selection of standard features, or the ability to create unique designs, including logos and other special graphics, limited only by the imagination.

Typical uses include:

- company logos for entrances in shops and offices;
- creating a supportive environment in healthcare;
- encouraging a creative environment in schools;
- incorporating directional signage.

A design is scanned and uploaded to the Floorcraft system, which selects the products and creates the cutting patterns. Once the final design is approved, each element is then sonic cut with micron tolerances to create a seamless floor that not only looks unique but also provides the performance expected from Tarkett. Intricate designs are pre-assembled so they can simply be glued in place with ease, adding virtually no extra time to installation.

The Tarkett Floorcraft Design Service has already helped to create individually customised flooring for the healthcare, education, retail and housing sectors across the world. However simple or complex the original brief, the Tarkett Floorcraft service offers clients proven versatility. ■



## Key to a Scandinavian interior

Cool and light, with graphic elements and colourful accents, the Scandinavian look is an interior design trend that has been around for some time, and isn't likely to disappear soon. The best place to start if you're seeking to create a Nordic look is, of course, a light floor.

White is the ideal basic colour for a Scandinavian interior, for both walls and flooring. A floor in a light hue creates an optical illusion of space in rooms with ceilings lacking in height. By choosing light colours as a foundation, you can easily display

your personal mementos and photographs without producing a cluttered result.

The white finishes of Quick-Step Variano timber floorboards such as the White Oak Oiled are composed of smaller pieces of wood to create a playful, yet streamlined and light foundation.

If bright white is too clinical for your tastes, or you prefer a warmer hue, natural wood is also a great option if you wish to create a Scandinavian ambiance. The natural characteristics in the wood (cracks and knots) produce a lively and cheery

ambiance in a contemporary manner.

After painstaking research by Quick-Step designers, the Quick-Step Chestnut laminate floor was created to perfectly mimic genuine wood. The finish is sustained all the way to the joints and pressed in such a way that the planks have the look and feel of the real wood.

The Moonlight Oak Light laminate finish also creates a light foundation, but adds a realistic wood print and texture as an extra element. While this adds a little more character to your floor,

this light natural shade will retain your room's spacious ambiance.

Streamlined white planks with the convenience and affordability of vinyl, the white finishes in the Quick-Step Livyn Essential Collection such as the Patina Oak Light White and the Painted Oak Light White combine the best of two worlds. The Essential Collection is renowned for its realistic wood look and texture. A big plus point, this vinyl is fully water-resistant and can be laid in wet areas such as halls, bathrooms and kitchens. ■

Intricate logos and designs can be sonic cut with Tarkett's Floorcraft service – search "Tarkett Floorcraft" on YouTube.

**"Tarkett has changed the way people look at Luxury Vinyl Tiles. The ease and speed of installation means jobs can be completed with virtually no disruption to everyday business trading. And the finished job looks great!"**

Lance Palmer  
ALL Commercial Flooring

Tarkett's range of luxury vinyl flooring offers an attractive, quiet, resilient and easy to clean solution to set your projects apart from the rest.

# Is change as difficult as we think?

By Chris Ogden, RFMS Australasia

We have all heard it said and we may even have said it ourselves: nobody likes change.

Until recently I used to say it myself but I realise now that it just cannot be true. The reality is most of us are good at dealing with change. Sometimes the change is dramatic and unsettling but we handle

it. Other times change is exciting and positive; we plan for it and look forward to it. More often though we don't even see the change happening. Think about sending a text message; taking a photo on your smart phone and posting that photo to Instagram; navigating to a destination with GPS; getting around

a website and purchasing something online; these are all things that would have been completely foreign to us only a few years ago. Can we remember learning to do these things? No, we simply absorbed the changes and now they are just part of what we do every day without thinking.

Apple would not be on its way to being the world's first trillion-dollar company if it weren't for our inherent ability to change. Bill Gates would still be working out of his garage in Albuquerque if he had had to work with consumers that didn't like change.

Why does this matter? It matters because as business owners the belief about how difficult change is, is change is holding us back from innovating within our business. It matters because whether we like it or not our business is changing and how we do business is changing.

We want to be in control of that change and driving it in the direction we want it to go. If we assume our staff will resist change then we won't make changes until we have no choice – at which point it will be difficult. If we are not in control of change within our business, if we are not consciously making considered changes to the way we are doing business, then we are not in control of our business.

One of the biggest changes we can make in our business is to change IT systems. There are three challenges to changing the IT system in a flooring business; cost, the amount of work that it will take and the fear that our staff will resist the change. The first two are usually the easiest to overcome. The hardest

is the belief we have that nobody likes change.

Speaking for myself, if I can see benefit from making a change then I will look forward to it and support it and embrace the process. If, however, I believe I will not experience any benefit or the effort of change will outweigh any benefits then I will be resistant to change. I am no different in this respect from your staff. If they understand why the changes are happening and if they are told about the benefits that they will enjoy as a result then they will be receptive and supportive.

RFMS has more than 8000 flooring businesses across the world using our flooring IT solutions. They have all successfully overcome the notion that people don't like change and as a result they are enjoying all the benefits of running their business on one integrated platform specifically designed to help them and their staff manage all the moving parts within a flooring business. They have a competitive advantage and as we continue to develop and enhance our software they are at the forefront of the flooring industry.

If you would like to discuss the benefits that a fully integrated business management system would bring to your business and how together we can manage the process of change then we would be happy to talk with you. ■

*Chris Ogden is a consultant and Managing Director of RFMS Australasia a supplier of IT solutions specific to the flooring industry. He has an extensive background in the flooring industry and can be contacted at [cogden@rfms.com](mailto:cogden@rfms.com)*

“Apple would not be on its way to being the world's first trillion-dollar company if it weren't for our inherent ability to change. Bill Gates would still be working out of his garage in Albuquerque if he had had to work with consumers that didn't like change.”

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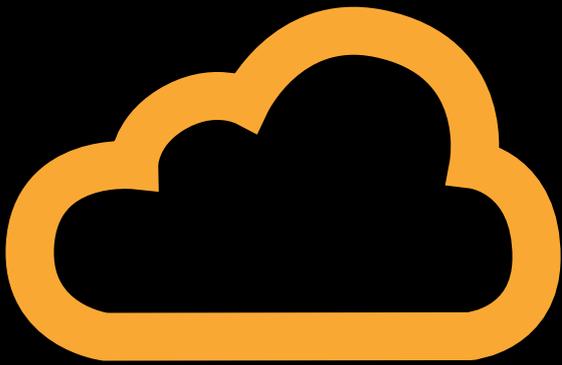
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MEASURE  
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# Making the change to electronic measuring and quantifying

By Chris Ogden, RFMS Australasia

I have talked in an earlier article about how we perceive change to be difficult. Certainly change can be both challenging and difficult but, for the most part, we take it in our stride.

It is true to say, however, that when we have the choice between making a change and sticking with what we know then we will, usually, stick with what we know. This is called habit and habits can be difficult to break.

If you want your flooring business to take a significant step forward then the single best thing that you can do right now is explore electronic

measuring and quantifying. However, implementing electronic measuring and quantifying will require a change to how you have been doing your job. In situations like this you need to break longstanding habits and learn new skills that, in time, will become your new habits.

Managing this change can be a challenge but there are a number of things that everyone involved in the process should understand:

1. a software solution does not replace good people and it is not a substitute for experience and common sense;
2. it will not make existing

staff redundant but it will make them more professional, quicker and more accurate;

3. businesses must move with the times if they are to not just survive but thrive.

Electronic quantifying is not going away. Just as the laser measuring device is taking over from the tape measure, software solutions are taking over from the scale rule and calculator.

The early adopters are enjoying a competitive advantage over their competitors because they have recognised the benefits and made the change. In doing so they have overcome

the long established habits of very experienced quantifiers – quantifiers who would now never go back to the traditional methods.

If you would like to have a demonstration of Measure by RFMS we would be happy to show you the market leading solution and we can discuss with you how you can trial it in your business at no cost. ■

*Chris Ogden is a consultant and Managing Director of RFMS Australasia a supplier of IT solutions specific to the flooring industry. He has an extensive background in the flooring industry and can be contacted at [cogden@rfms.com](mailto:cogden@rfms.com)*



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## Laticrete and the Radisson Blu Mall of America

Mortenson, the general contractor on the eclectic Radisson Blu construction project on the south side of the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, had a big concrete problem on their hands. The concrete recently placed, cured, dyed and polished in the lobby and skyway curled. Compounding troubles, this new slab was decorative, exposing large aggregate, making it very tough to match up with a new pour or overlay product.

Vexed, Mortenson project managers wondered what to do. This concrete was brand new, appearing beautiful and sound in some areas and curled in others. The general contractor not only needed a quick-turnaround solution to the concrete curling, but they also needed a flooring product that would closely resemble the large, exposed aggregate appearance. As usual in such new construction situations, time was of the essence.

The Mortenson project managers called up Tom Graf, owner of Hudson, WI, based Concrete Arts. Graf analysed the job and recommended a decorative, polishable overlay product called Durafloor TGA. This versatile product could be placed in severely curled areas, specifically in the lobby and the skyway—both high traffic areas.

Graf and his crew cut-out the severely curled concrete areas and employed a milling

machine to create enough surface depth to where the DurafloorTGA could be applied flush with the existing new floor.

From there, they put down an epoxy primer onto the properly prepared surface and seeded it with silica sand to rejection. After allowing the sanded epoxy to dry, the excess aggregate was vacuumed and broomed from the surface. Concrete Arts then placed and cured the Durafloor TGA overnight. The next night, the overlay was ground down to a full polish. It was then dyed to match the existing concrete's colour. ■



## Be ahead of the game

Concrete floor polishing requires detail, expertise and attention along with tough equipment to get projects completed in record time. Be it the need of using the right diamond tooling, having the right amount of power supply, grinding out or removing scratch marks from the concrete floor or stripping off old glues, paint, membrane or epoxy, All Preparation Equipment has you covered.

From preparation to polish, it's all about living, breathing and believing what can be done with a concrete floor. From an old renovated concrete slab to create a natural stone or classic, flat, warehouse look through to a perfect mirror finish, gloss or

shine on a newly poured slab, Schwamborn grinders have everything to create it.

Preparation of a concrete floor needs to be done right, with the main equipment being a planetary grinder fitted with aggressive, intermediate and finishing

diamonds, through to resin bond polishing pads as required. Professional polishing uses planetary machines fitted with diamond grinding shoes, to grind down the surface and open up and expose the stone, before then following over the surface with

resin bond diamond pads to the desired finish. The more steps made in the polishing process the more of a mirror finish.

The difference in the finish of a polished concrete floor comes down to the equipment you use it. ■



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## External floors revitalised

Since the '80s there has been an ongoing trend in the use of exposed aggregate as an external flooring product in Australia. Fast-forward to 2015 and many of these floors are beginning to appear tired and are causing maintenance teams ongoing headaches.

Property owners are facing a dilemma on how best to revitalise their exposed aggregate floors without the exorbitant cost of removing existing concrete slabs in order to lay a new one to allow for a new floor finish.

Exposed aggregate floors are achieved by spraying a chemical on the surface of the wet concrete slab, which, when poured, slows down the setting of the top layer of the concrete mix. Following on from this, the surface layer is then pressure washed to expose the aggregate that is within the concrete mix. The finished product is a rough textured concrete floor that has full exposure of the aggregate, both in appearance and composition.

This year, Transitions has worked with a client who has been experiencing concerns in regards to the exposed aggregate floors of their commercial property – Pavilions on Palm Beach. This property is a living, dining and shopping hub located just one street from the picturesque shorelines of Palm Beach on the Gold Coast.

Completed in mid 2009, the exposed aggregate concrete floors, installed in all the external public areas and pathways, now appear dull, worn and are difficult for the property owner to maintain and keep clean. The exposed aggregate floor has been unable to withstand the demands of the environment with which it is installed and the high traffic volume experienced on a constant basis.

The ultimate objective for the project was to achieve a long-term focus for the chosen flooring product with an emphasis placed on greatly improving the aesthetic of the external flooring areas whilst remaining a low maintenance option. The chosen product was also to fulfill all functional requirements of an external floor finish. Furthermore, this product would be aligned with that which is to be installed in the upcoming Stage 2 of development.

Transitions Honed Concrete has been the product chosen to replace and revitalise the existing exposed aggregate areas at Pavilions on Palm Beach.

Transitions Honed Concrete is an external concrete flooring product that has the look and feel of a contemporary designer floor, is versatile in its design and has the functionality of a hard wearing, long lasting flooring option. It

is also slip resistant and can withstand the harsh Australian climate whilst maintaining its colour and stylish feel.

The finished product was achieved by grinding down the exposed aggregate product to create a flat, seamless finish. This included the decorative cobblestone paving bonds that wound through areas of the concrete slab. The new floor brightened the overall appearance of the external areas and uplifted the aesthetic of the entrance to the shopping and dining areas. ■





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## Alternative Flooring

## Finish with a fast cure floor

When budgetary funding is available for flooring refurbishments and repairs but the time for traditional flooring applications is short Flowcrete Australia's fast cure methyl methacrylate (MMA) flooring range Flowfast provides an ideal solution.

Flowfast provides a decorative, durable, high performance floor finish that is fully trafficable only 90 minutes after application. The accelerating catalyst added into the formulation significantly speeds up the floor's rate of cure to help projects meet tight deadlines. It also allows for follow on trades to access the site earlier than usual and minimises the unwanted downtime incurred by a refurbishment.

Flowfast not only meets the heavy-duty performance requirements of industrial environments but it is also available in a range of decorative colour options with a choice of flake or aggregate blends, to provide commercial facilities managers with an attractive solution underfoot. Thanks to its robust nature, a Flowfast finish is able to maintain its visual appeal for an extended period of time despite continuous use and abuse within challenging working conditions.

Flowfast Quartz Scatter is ideal for a number of environments and was recently

used at the Pennant Hills Train Station Footbridge to provide a decorative, durable and slip resistant flooring solution. The system was installed on top of existing metal panels and was selected due to its resilience, rapid cure time and excellent bonding properties.

Earlwood Growers Market in Sydney's inner western suburbs desired the industrial aesthetic of polished concrete but their substrate was not suitable. Flowfast Terrosso provided an ideal solution to the challenging substrate and the quick-curing system was installed in the aisles, trading floor, checkouts and deli areas of the store. The Flowfast Terrosso system has been developed for these high traffic retail spaces and delivers a decorative, robust and abrasion resistant floor finish.

Flowcrete Australia's methyl methacrylate flooring can be used to optimise an environment in a number of ways, for example coloured quartz aggregates can be broadcast over the Flowfast material to create a positively textured finish that will help to prevent slips and trips.

Flowfast's ability to be installed on top of a number of substrates, including concrete, steel, tiles, other resins and marine ply, also facilitates a rapid flooring project, as in most cases the previous surface will not need to be taken up before the new finish is applied. ■





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# Get the Edge with Classic Carborundum

Contemporary appearance together with durability makes the Tredfx Carborundum series the preferred choice of many of today's specifiers. This range has now grown to include a greater choice of styles to suit a wider variety of substrates. Make your staircase safer and smart looking with these highly slip-resistant carborundum insert stair nosings. Suitable for both internal and external applications.



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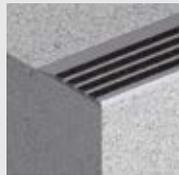
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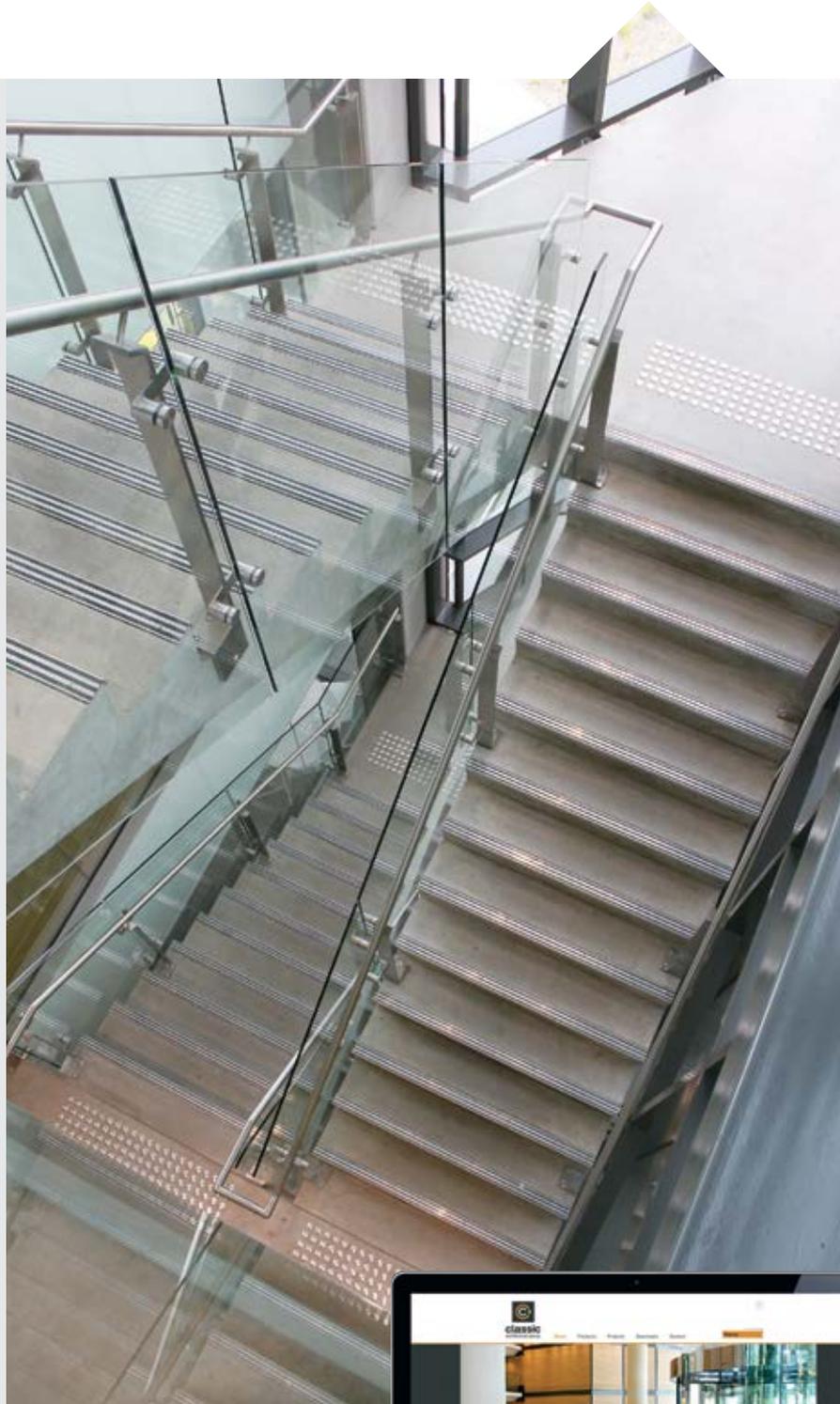
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## A revolution in grout technology

Laticrete has released an innovative grout product that it says will shape the future of grout.

Plasma grout is a professional grade grout that is ready-to-use, no mixing required. Built on a new, patent pending technology platform, Plasma provides early strength development, ease of workability and superior stain resistance. It is crack and stain resistant,

does not require sealing and is available in 40 colours, plus a translucent version.

Laticrete manufactures and markets materials, methods and solutions for installing tile and stone including adhesives, waterproofing membranes, sound and anti-fracture one step adhesive, stainless grouts and tile cleaners. The materials are maintenance free and guaranteed to perform in all conditions. ■



## Starseal offers cost savings

Densifiers are used to harden an array of flooring and wall surfaces in order that they do not decay and/or can be maintained cost-effectively. Vexcon's Starseal PS (permanent sealer) is said to offer genuine cost saving longevity.

No need for expensive abrasive pads and chemical top-ups to keep the gloss level, Starseal PS just needs a cheap pad buff every three to six years .

Easy to maintain, just sweep, clean with a neutral PH cleaner like Tough Green and buff when needed with a Buckaroo cheap pad and that is the cheapest maintenance

"Starseal PS is a chemically-modified

potassium densifier that reacts with calcium and silicon to permanently harden concrete, limestone, travertine, marble and sandstone," explained International Building Supply's managing director Ivan Imerman.

"Once hardened, the surface can then be honed to a permanent gloss level without the need for any sealers. It can also be treated to be permanently stain-proof for a period as long as 20 years or so," he enthused.

Both commercial and domestic sites are appropriate for Starseal PS, which is sold only to trained technicians to assure quality control. ■

## Gerflor – the good sports in flooring

Gerflor representatives are taking guests courtside for all the action as the 2014 Volleyball World League and Grand Prix makes its way around the nation on the internationally acclaimed Gerflor Taraflex surface.

In a curtain raiser to the official events, Queensland Manager Neil Warden and Commercial Specification Manager, Helen Saye hosted clients from Populous Architects and Neil and Caldis Cook for the clash between China and Australia.

"We had a great night and all attending really enjoyed the evening," Helen said. "It was a great game and atmosphere even with

Australia being narrowly beaten in the fifth set."

Guest Zoe Sullivan from Populous Architects agreed. "The team and I had a great time. It was really fun and great to see the Gerflor product installed and being used."

Australia (ranked 13th in the world) take a set in each of its matches against Italy (4th ranked team in the world).

Guests from Walter Brooke Architects, Studio Nine Architects, Archi Data and Australian Carpets and Tiles enjoyed Gerflor's hospitality and had plenty of fun watching the Volleyroos display amazing athleticism.

Emma Hill from Studio Nine captured the group's enthusiasm for the spectacle. "It was wonderful to see such a fantastic Taraflex installation on which world class Volleyballers displayed their talents. Gerflor continues to provide world class products which are fit for purpose," Emma said. ■





## Ardex launches specification tool

Ardex Australia has launched a comprehensive specification tool on its website providing complete recommendations for a range of projects.

Officially launched at DesignBUILD in late April, the specification tool is the first of its kind and takes a product selector a step further. The tool covers three main categories – waterproofing, tiling and flooring.

The specification tool is like an advanced manual for trade professionals that takes the user from product selection to preparation and application advice. Specifiers simply input data such as the type of application they are undertaking and the substrate they are working with and the specification tool will offer a list of the

most suitable products, preparation required as well as details of the application. Each specification document can be easily downloaded, emailed or printed for use, offering a wealth of information at your fingertips.

“Ardex received some excellent feedback from builders, contractors, architects and specifiers during the launch at the DesignBUILD Expo,” explained Megan Cloran, Ardex National Marketing Manager. “The tool was born out of the idea that Ardex wanted to take a product selection tool even further. The tool is not about simply getting the products out there, it’s about providing a warranted system solution from beginning to end, something with which Ardex is synonymous.” ■

## Get the edge

The Tredfx Carborundum series of stair nosing from Classic Architectural Group is a great choice for your next project. Contemporary in appearance and durable in construction, the Tredfx carborundum stair nosing includes a great range of

styles suitable for a variety of substrates.

Highly slip resistant, this carborundum insert stair nosing not only enhances the look of stairs but also their safety and is ideal for use in both internal and external situations. ■

## A sound investment

CSR Hebel has launched its PowerFloor system enabling homeowners to turn down the sound in their homes, and reduce sound transmission between floors.

A highly versatile solid flooring system, PowerFloor gives the feel of a concrete floor at a significantly lower cost. It is installed over conventional joists, the system of thick panels fit snugly together to form a strong, smooth floor. Homeowners can enjoy a quieter home as PowerFloor eliminates the squeaking, bouncing and noise that often accompanies other non-masonry flooring substrates.

An excellent solid base for ceramic tiles, carpet or polished timber boards, home owners will notice its proven superior acoustic and thermal insulation properties – providing a more comfortable and tranquil home.

## Get wise with new Floorwise quote tool

New Zealand based flooring wholesaler and installer, Floorwise Limited has launched its new e-commerce website, [www.floorwise.co.nz](http://www.floorwise.co.nz), complete with a comprehensive online quoting system – the only one of its kind in New Zealand.

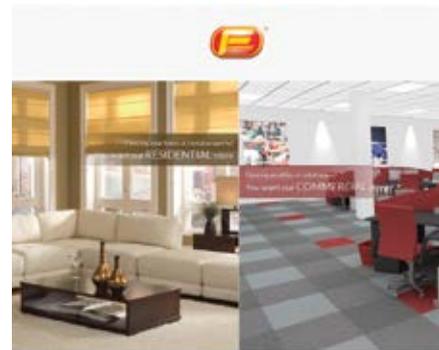
Customers are able to browse Floorwise’s extensive range of thousands of recognised carpet, vinyl, tile and timber brands on the state-of-the-art website; refining choices by brand, colour and price. Floorwise then offers customers a complete installation quote, online and in minutes, allowing them to quickly see the



The thermal efficiencies of PowerFloor also reduce the reliance on heating and cooling appliances, so homeowners will enjoy a comfortable home all year round with potentially lower energy costs.

PowerFloor is simple and fast to install, there are no delays to the building schedule and PowerFloor is easily installed by on-site trades such as carpenters.

Hebel has been awarded the Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) label in recognition of its significantly reduced environmental impact. ■



final price including, uplift, floor preparation and full installation.

The Floorwise Online Quote Tool allows customers to quickly compare products and accurately price projects – saving time and resources and giving customers complete freedom to quickly obtain a comprehensive quote.

Floorwise has found the tool so useful, the company is bringing the idea to market globally and offering the system to flooring businesses internationally. ■

# Tiling tips and styles for tiny spaces

Not every room is big. There's the second bathroom, the laundry, kitchenette, or courtyard and styling them is often the hardest due to their small dimensions.

With urban house prices soaring, living in pint sized accommodation is the abode of choice with the Housing Industry Australia (HIA) reporting an 11% increase in units being built in Australia in the past year.

Queensland tops the list with a 42% increase in unit dwellings followed closely by NSW behind at 16%, and SA and WA at 14% increase.

Beaumont Tiles Strategic Designer, Rachel Gilding says

this trend is being reflected in store with many DIY enthusiasts seeking tips and advice on the best tiles to use for smaller spaces.

"For many home improvers choosing the right tile to suit a space is a daunting task – especially when you don't have a great deal of area to work with and you need to maximise the space," Ms Gilding said.

"But getting it right is more than just the size of the tile – it's the colour, the way they are laid and the type of grout used that can make a difference."

Here's Beaumont's top five tips to give your customer.

- Establish a flow. One of the golden rules to create a free flowing home is to minimise the number of grout lines in the space. While choosing the right tile really depends on how compact the space is, try a medium sized tile for the hallway or living area. In the bathroom, taking note of the space between the vanity, toilet and shower is key – if the space is compact a small tile will work better as they'll fit neatly without messy cut lines.

- Choose one colour. Using just one colour tone will make the space appear larger and choosing a similar colour grout will heighten



the affect. Team it with a decorative piece to keep it visually interesting. Consider light colours as they will reflect the light more than darker colours, giving a more airy and spacious feel.

- Add a subtle pattern. Decorative tiles are perfect to use as a subtle addition to your floor or wall to create a stylish pop and patterned tiles work well in confined spaces. For example, most new small bathrooms have recessed storage areas, these are great areas to highlight with a decorative mosaic tile.

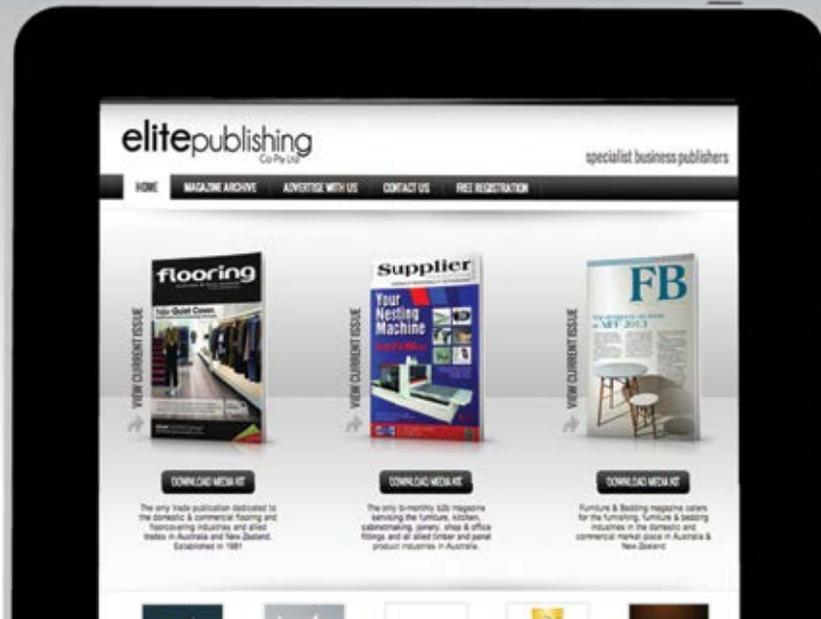
- Directional tiling. Tiling diagonally is one of the simplest ways to create a tile pattern and the layout has an expanding effect, visually widening the space. Lay a small or medium tile diagonally in a hallway to fool the eye and create the illusion of space.

- Tile to ceiling height. Tile the whole shower wall from floor to ceiling to achieve a seamless look. By using the same wall tile throughout the entire bathroom there will be less contrasts and transitions creating a more spacious and luxurious feeling in even the smallest bathroom.

If they are still unsure, Beaumont Tiles has an exclusive software solution called Scan & Play available both in-store and online. Scan and play is an interactive technology, which allows you to visualise your dream room by mix-and-matching colours in a virtual space before taking the plunge. ■



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## AST launches Cornerstone

Australian Solar Timbers (AST) launched a new range of hardwood engineered pre-finished flooring called Cornerstone at this year's Sydney HIA Homeshow.

The Cornerstone range brings exciting new features to installers that will push to new levels the expectation of what an engineered floor should be. These include:

- 180mm widths in single strip 3mm sawn veneers. Boasting a 180mm width

in 1.8m length packs, AST offers the widest engineered board in single strip Australian species using sawn veneers. With stability in mind, Cornerstone is built on a balanced construction using a 3mm sawn face veneer and backing veneer in the same species improving board stability.

- Warranted for installations over subfloor heating. With it's balanced construction comes greater

peace of mind in more demanding installations. After independent third party testing in Germany, AST now warrants Cornerstone's structural stability for installations over subfloor heating.

- 100% PEFC certified. Australian Solar Timbers has long been regarded as one of the leaders in sustainable best practices within the timber industry. This focus has been continued in the Cornerstone range

with AFS/PEFC certified face and back veneers along with European sourced PEFC material used for the core.

AST is a specialist in solid strip flooring and has been in the Australian timber industry for nearly a century. The focus on natural excellence has seen the coming together of the look and feel customers expect in traditional flooring along with the added stability and ease of installation of a superior engineered design. ■

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Interiors event showcasing interior products and furnishings  
Melbourne, Australia  
www.decorshow.com.au

22-25 AWFS Fair 2015  
Woodworking products, services, new technologies  
Las Vegas, USA  
http://awfsfair.org

AUGUST 2015

2-6 LVM Las Vegas Market 2015.  
Furniture Show & Decorative Accessories Market. Summer Edition  
Las Vegas, NV, USA  
www.lasvegasmarket.com

6-8 Luxe Home 2015 –  
Shanghai Intl. Luxury Living & Interior Furnishing Exhibition  
Shanghai, China  
www.chinaluxehome.com/en/Shanghai/index.aspx

21-24 Wood Tech India 2015  
Woodworking Machinery, Flooring, Power Tools, Fittings & Accessories, Parquetry, Raw Materials  
Chennai, India  
www.woodtechindia.in

26-28 Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles - Autumn Edition 2015. China International Trade Fair for Home Textiles and Accessories  
Shanghai, China  
www.hk.messefrankfurt.com/hongkong/en/visitors/welcome.html

SEPTEMBER 2015

4-8 Maison & Objet 2015  
The International Homestyle Exhibition  
Paris, France  
www.maison-objet.com/en

5-12 Paris Design Week 2015  
Design international event for the general public  
Paris, France  
www.parisdesignweek.fr/en/accueil/

\*\*\* For more information on the fairs or to confirm dates, please check the individual websites.

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Classic Architectural Products	41
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Gibbon Group/Intafloors	27
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International Building Supply	8 & 40
Kennards Group	11
Laser Measure	21
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