

CASE STUDY

CENTRAL WOLLONGONG SHOPPING CENTRE



BACKGROUND

Wollongong Central is a major shopping centre in the heart of the Illawarra district just south of Sydney. With a range of stores, services, and events, it's a highly trafficked and essential part of the shopping scene in the area.

The centre was designed by Rice Daubney Architects, who commissioned Rocks On to develop a bespoke round floor tile that created an abstract flower design when laid in a particular pattern and particular colours.

CHALLENGE

The brief required a short-run production of 3200m² bespoke circular tiles with matching T-insert fillers to complete the tessellation of the pattern. In order to achieve the necessary visual impact, the tiles had to be manufactured in 10 specific colours in order to create the desired effect, with precise colour matching and quality assurance processes in order to fulfill the architect's request.

The tiles had to be produced in a size and format that would make installation simple and be easy to lay, while also creating a level of detail in the design as per the brief's specifications. In addition, the tiles had to be extremely durable in order to be practical and to withstand the high levels of pedestrians, trolleys, strollers, and other traffic common in a busy shopping precinct.

Functionally, the product had to be fit for purpose, slip rated, and compliant with all relevant standards to ensure the safety of people in the precinct. And last - but not least - easy to clean with the mechanical equipment commonly used in shopping precincts.

SOLUTION

To meet the brief, we identified a technical porcelain manufacture in Spain that specialises in producing round tiles, and was open to developing the required colours for short run production. The manufacturer also agreed to adhere to stringent technical manufacturing requirements in order to ensure the finished product would meet the high standard that was needed for the project.

We acquired both lab samples and production samples that were viewed, tested and signed off by the architect and client, then green lighted the project while maintaining full visibility, as well as quality control and quality assurance for the supply of the project.



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