



JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

CATEGORY: CERAMIC TILE - BEST EXTERIOR

The transformation of St Margaret's Hospital in Surry Hills into an urban village was made possible by converting existing hospital structures, and building a new apartment tower, that protected heritage status while creating a modern statement.

The owners of the apartment tower requested a high-quality, low-maintenance facade for the southern aspect of the new building.

Architect Koichi Takada of Peddle Thorp and Walker, selected the Hydrotec Keraion Quadro invisible fixing system, which uses an aluminium substructure to support the tiles. Ceramic discs fired onto the reverse of the façade panels hold stainless steel screws to which aluminium brackets are attached with a self-locking nut and then fixed to horizontal aluminium rails.

Keraion is a lightweight ceramic stoneware cladding in tile form. It is available in a wide range of glazed and unglazed finishes, up to a standard maximum of 1200 x 1200 mm, 8 mm thick. The physical properties of the tiles – heat insulation, sound insulation and non-combustibility – lend themselves to rear-ventilated façade

cladding. The tiles are also low-maintenance due to the self-washing Hydrotec coating, which activates oxygen in the air via photocatalysis, breaking down organic dirt and bacteria quickly and permanently.

The project features more than 1,700 square metres of matt white, matt black (utilised adjacent to the glass) and glossy white tiles in a special 956 x 956 mm format which enabled three tiles to span precisely floor to floor. A further 30 types of special, smaller-sized tiles, were factory prepared for certain positions in the building.

One of the prime advantages of using a ventilated façade system relates to higher energy efficiency. A significant factor which cannot be overlooked.

This type of system can reduce heating and cooling costs by up to 50 per cent. In addition, every 1,000 metres of tile treated with hydrotec has the air cleaning capability of 70 medium size deciduous trees.

PROJECT:
St Margaret's Hospital

BUILDER:
Grocon

ARCHITECT:
Peddle Thorp and Walker

TILE MANUFACTURER:
Agrob Buchtal, Germany

TILE RETAILER:
Beaumont Tiles

TILE DESCRIPTION:
956 x 956 mm ceramic Buchtal tiles in matt black, matt white and glossy white, mechanically fixed

ROOMS/AREAS TILED:
1,700 square metres of façade on new apartment tower

LOCATION:
Bourke Street, Surry Hills, NSW