



JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

CATEGORY: BEST COMMERCIAL EXTERIOR - TILE

Flinders Medical Centre is a public teaching hospital and medical school co-located with Flinders University and Flinders Private Hospital in Bedford Park, South Australia.

The medical centre features a central courtyard garden where staff, patients and their families gather to talk and to enjoy the fresh air. In April 2007, the courtyard was given an extensive upgrade, which included decorating three square supporting columns with a range of colourful tiles to create artistic ambience.

The upgrade was part of the Arts in Healthy program, which has been operating at the centre since 1996 and aims to make the hospital a warm and welcoming place for people to visit and work in.

In 2003, extensive research at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in the UK revealed that visual and performing arts in a health care environment induces significant differences in clinical outcomes; reduces the amount of drug consumption; shortens lengths of stay in hospital; improves patient management; contributes towards increasing job satisfaction; and enhances the quality of the service.

The tiled columns were designed by local artist Evette Sunset in collaboration with Grant James of Regal Tiling, who did the installation and also visited several local tile stores to find exactly what was needed for the job. In all, 14 different types of ceramic, porcelain and mosaic tiles in a variety of colours and sizes were sourced from four tile retailers and also from Grant's personal collection.

Blue and green colour spectrums were chosen to exude a sense of serenity and healing, and also to represent water. The three columns represent dew, spring and rain. The names have been sandblasted on each of the columns in five different languages. Each column also features a decor tile representing a different culture. Accents of grey, and a small band of red, were chosen to harmonise with the earthy colours of aboriginal artworks that adorn the courtyard.

The corners of the columns have been rendered for practical reasons. Normal plastering sand was used with white cement and a mix of blue and black oxide to create a neutral grey grout to complement the wide range of tile colours.

PROJECT:

Flinders Medical Centre

ARCHITECT/DESIGNER:

Evette Sunset and Grant James

TILE RETAILERS:

Ceramic World, Beaumont Tiles, Newton Ceramics, Regal Tiling, Statewide Tiles

TILE FIXER:

Regal Tiling, Ingle Farm

TILE DESCRIPTION:

A vast mix of glass mosaic, ceramic and porcelain tiles in a range of formats: 400x400 cm porcelain tiles; 100x100 and 200 x 200 cm ceramic tiles; and 25x25 and 50x50 cm glass mosaics with additional decoration provided using 5x20 cm hand-cut glass mosaics.

ROOMS/AREAS TILES:

Three courtyard columns

LOCATION:

Bedford Park, South Australia