



## MELBOURNE CENTRAL SPENDS A PENNY

CATEGORY: BEST COMMERCIAL INTERIOR - CERAMIC TILE

**M**elbourne Central, with its impressive 50 metre brick shot tower (built in 1890) and giant musical fob watch topped by a 77 metre towering glass cone, was built in 1988 as a low-level shopping complex in the heart of the city. Sadly, due to its seemingly haphazard design and drab interior spaces, the building quickly lost its shine and public appeal.

Fast forward to 2005, and the tired building is reborn under the vibrant and creative direction of architects Ashton Raggatt MacDougall (ARM), the team behind many notable architectural feats including the Museum of Australia in Canberra.

ARM won an invited international competition for the master plan, design and delivery of the complete revitalisation of the centre, which comprises 60,000 square metres of retail space interlinked with a major commercial development and one of the busiest railway stations in Melbourne.

ARM was allowed two strategies for its architectural operation: to remedy the inequitable unfriendliness of the building, and to restore life, logic and retail opportunity to the shopping centre.

Its solution was to create new openings and entry passages at street level, and to make internal spaces more visible and accessible.

The bold injection of colour was key and has been used to great advantage in the male, female and disabled public toilets that form part of the Hoyts cinema complex on Level 3. The clever wall-to-floor application utilises brightly coloured gloss ceramic tiles in a range of eye-catching hues – Kiwi in the male (shown), Raspberry in the female and Goldcrest in the disabled WC – with matching gloss black and white tiles providing dynamic contrast. To add to the artistic nuance of the project, the wall tiles have been deftly laid in alternating male and female motifs.

In all, 150 square metres of wall tiles and 65 square metres of floor tiles were laid in the three amenities. All three floors required R10 minimum slip resistance and were tiled using Night Sky black matt 297 x 297 x 12 mm porcelain tiles.

**PROJECT:**  
Melbourne Central

**ARCHITECT:**  
Ashton Raggatt MacDougall

**TILE MANUFACTURER:**  
Johnson Tiles

**RETAILER:**  
New City Ceramics

**TILE DESCRIPTION:**  
Walls: Waringa gloss tiles in Kiwi, Raspberry, GoldCrest, black and white.  
Floors: R10 Night Sky black matt 297 x 297 x 12 mm porcelain tiles

**ROOMS/AREAS TILED:**  
Male, female and disabled public toilets on Level 3

**LOCATION:**  
Corner La Trobe and Elizabeth streets, Melbourne