



## IN THE SWIM

CATEGORY: BEST COMMERCIAL INTERIOR - CERAMIC TILE

**T**he Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre in Ultimo is a \$40 million landmark project commissioned by the City of Sydney.

The world-class venue, which opened its doors to the public in July, is housed in a distinctive wave-form building, and is the last public building designed by the late Harry Seidler. It includes a heated 50 metre lap/competition pool, leisure pool with spa, hydrotherapy pool, sauna, café and fitness centre, together with concourse and amenities.

The centre is considered a benchmark in its use of environmental initiatives, including natural ventilation from hydraulically operable roof vents and rainwater harvesting for internal amenities such as toilets and sprinkler systems. Extensive use of natural daylight provides an open and light atmosphere to the centre, which incorporates approximately 4000 cubic metres of concrete, 160 tonnes of steel, 650 square metres of glazing and required more than 5000 square metres of tiling, including cladding.

More than 200,000 tiles have been laid, with placement of over 160,000 individual tiles that

had to meet strict Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) – International Swimming Federation – requirements.

The purpose-made KlinkerSire 9 mm thick extruded swimming pool tile features a heavy-duty glaze and dovetail, keyed-back profile, which has been tested to demonstrate up to 50 per cent increase in adhesion over minimal profile pressed tiles. With a nominal 5 mm joint, the 245 x 120 mm tile works to a modular 1 x 1 metre grid of eight by four tiles. This assists the tile set-out to achieve FINA requirements for lane markings, etc.

The amenities ‘pods’ have also been clad in the same white gloss swimming pool tile. Floor tiles in all areas, including pools, concourse surrounds and amenities are the maximum rated category C for barefoot slip resistance.

Fixing materials were Metz own synthetic latex system with Metz epoxy grouts used in the critical swimming pool and floor areas.

**PROJECT:**  
Ian Thorpe Swim Centre

**ARCHITECT:**  
Harry Seidler and Associates

**TILE MANUFACTURER:**  
KlinkerSire

**TILE FIXER:**  
Metz

**TILE DESCRIPTION:**  
Purpose-made 245 x 120 x 9 mm KlinkerSire extruded swimming pool tile in white, featuring heavy-duty glaze and dovetail, keyed-back profile

**ROOMS/AREAS TILED:**  
Heated 50 metre lap/competition pool, leisure pool with spa, hydrotherapy pool and sauna, cladding of amenities ‘pods’, as well as all floor areas and concourse surrounds

**LOCATION:**  
Harris St, Ultimo, NSW