



Photograph: Shannon McGrath.

STAMP OF APPROVAL

CATEGORY: BEST COMMERCIAL INTERIOR - NATURAL STONE

The level 18 fit out of Australia Post's head office in Exhibition Street, Melbourne, has set a benchmark for the design of the company's workplaces. The architects created a strong, sophisticated palette aligned with Australia Post's corporate aspirations to deliver the best services and products to their customers. The 1300 square metre fitout maximises access to city views and natural light and is enhanced by the use of polished terrazzo flooring.

Open work areas surround the perimeter, with offices and support facilities internally located. Flexible meeting spaces of varying sizes were designed to allow for easy interaction in formal and informal settings. The breakout space, which is barely visible from the lift lobby, is divided by a graphic glass screen and provides staff with a comfortable and homely space for meetings, meals or relaxing.

The use of polished terrazzo in a neutral carbon colour enhances the uninterrupted flow of the open-plan design and creates a subtle, cohesive existence between the expansive glass panel and complementary use of multiple down lights.

In the last edition of Tile Today we featured an article entitled 'Ceramic tile – the lowest cost floor finish' (page 26), which highlighted a report commissioned by the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) and conducted by Scharf-Godfrey, which confirmed that a variety of ceramic material, including monocottura, porcelain, mosaic and quarry tile, had a life expectancy of 50 years.

Traditional resin-based terrazzo was said to have a life expectancy of 15 years. The featured Fibonacci Stone is a product of advanced technology engineered by Breton S.p.A. that utilises techniques similar to those employed to manufacture engineered stone.

The Fibonacci terrazzo is embedded in a cement base in preference to a resin base. This ensures that the material will not change colour in locations where it is exposed to high levels of sunlight.

Terrazzo is a hard-wearing material that is perfectly suited to withstand high levels of foot traffic.

PROJECT:

Australia Post head office

ARCHITECT:

HASSELL

STONE SUPPLIER:

Fibonacci Stone

STONE FIXER:

Metro Select Tiling

STONE DESCRIPTION:

Polished Fibonacci Stone terrazzo tiles 400 x 400 x 15 mm in the colour of carbon

ROOMS/AREAS TILED:

The director's lounge, community kitchen, foyer and reception counter along with the lift lobby

LOCATION:

Level 18, 321 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, Victoria