

**Project:** Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) NSW  
**Architect:** BVN Architecture  
**Construction:** Thiess Construction  
**Installation:** Peter Kelly Flooring  
**Vinyl Flooring:** Polyflor

flooring design  
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**Polyflor Royal North Shore Hospital**

The \$721 million new Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) at the old hospital site in St Leonards, is a healthcare building that doesn't want to look like a healthcare building.

Part of the \$950 million redevelopment of the site, the hospital is a PPP between the consortium InfraShore and NSW Health and is the largest health capital works project in NSW Health's history.

Designed by BVN Architecture and constructed by Thiess Construction (part of the consortium), the newly completed hospital is a stand out building that doesn't shriek "hospital". Despite having the very best and newest in medical technology, 6500 rooms and 110,000 m2 of flooring, BVN associate Geoff Cooke says the aim was "to create a space that did not look like a hospital."

To that end, his team deliberately moved away from colours and finishes associated with healthcare buildings - apricot, yellow or pinks. They chose finishes that could be found in any new commercial or educational building. This design decision meant



the flooring had to be the same or similar tones throughout, unlike many healthcare buildings where different areas are colour-coded, with patterns and colours on the floors. This is where Polyflor's expertise came into play. 90 per cent of the rooms in RNSH have vinyl flooring.

**Technical challenges and stringently level floors**

While the colour requirements were limited, there were other technical factors that had to be considered in flooring the building – sustainable slip resistance, low VOC, static dissipation properties, GreenTag™ LCA environmental certification and the need for extremely level floors.

Perfectly level floors are essential in ORs and equipment rooms, especially for cardiac catheter labs and MRIs. Add to them the challenge of the hospital's AGVs (automated guidance vehicles)!

Thiess Project Manager, Raz Favotto says getting the floors right was one of the biggest challenges in the hospital construction.

Polyflor was able to supply a full system for these floors from the concrete all the way to the vinyl. In the service corridors, a cementitious levelling compound – Kiesel P200 Plus Levelling compound was used, capable of withstanding the 500kg point loads of the AGV machine.

**Useability, durability, reliability**

Polyflor Australia won the tender to provide the RNSH flooring after recommendation from Thiess Construction, and comparative studies of other healthcare floorings in situ by Cooke's team at BVN, to compare how well they were wearing.

"The decision to use vinyl over the alternatives was based on the history of that product in the Australian healthcare market," Cooke explains.

"We were looking for a single supplier of resilient flooring with a range broad enough to cover all the flooring requirements for the different areas in the hospital, including slip resistance, anti static, cushioning and AGV safe.



"Architecturally we were looking for a vinyl that wears well, resists scuffing and marking, and can be maintained to a high standard. We also wanted a colour with a natural warmth, steering away from colours traditionally used in health facilities."

Favotto says emphasis on durability and ease of maintenance were important factors. "We wanted to select a vinyl flooring with really good lifecycle, good floor products that would be easily maintained and durable. Polyflor had the best products to last the next 28 years – a very good lifecycle to minimise cleaning and good durability."

BVN's Geoff Cooke has the last word. "We have been pleased with how well it looks in the space. It has surpassed our expectations."

