Hôpital Civil in Strasbourg, France

Continuous improvement in medical care and patient accommodation conditions

The construction project for the Hôpital Civil in Strasbourg was initiated in 1992 within the framework of the French MOP law (law on public project contracting and its relationship to private project management). In 2002, some 600 people began work on this construction undertaking. Just the project represents an all-trades budget of 175 million Euro excluding taxes, and no less than five years of work.

Tarkett, one of the partners involved in this vast project, provided 80,000 m² of flooring in the dark blue “Bleu nuit” colour scheme and storm grey “Gris orage” colour scheme of their TX Laser range. These two colour schemes were specifically developed and used for this job.
A town within a town
Situated at the heart of the university hospitals in Strasbourg, the NHC is a major urban development (second European project in healthcare), which is playing an important role in prolonging the architectural history of the civil hospices.

Consisting of two parallel buildings, one housing surgical specialties and the other medical specialties, this hospital has 720 beds with a surface area of 91 000 m², rising to 23 metres in height. The specialised centre comprises a total of 15 operating theatres. Extensive planted patio areas and linear gardens allow natural light to flood into all areas of the new hospital.

A tripartite environmental strategy
This construction project called for a succession of different materials which, while maintaining uniformity in the architectural design, underwent a rigorous selection process in order to determine which materials would be used. Tarkett played a leading role here, proposing a “total quality” solution, from the point of view of manufacturing, assembly and waste management.

Driven by a convergence of interest between Tarkett and the specifiers with respect to the environment, and with the objective of minimising waste, a decision was made to proceed with a special manufacturing process based on roll widths, which would be adapted to the design combinations of the location. These were calibrated on an area-by-area basis to ensure that waste volumes were kept to a minimum. Waste was collected for recycling purposes throughout the entire construction process.

A perfect balance between acoustics and technology
In their call for tenders for the flooring, the architect and designer stipulated the need for very rigorous resistance and indentation tests.

“Tarkett proved to offer the best resistance to static and dynamic indentation”, indicates architect François Kalk, “which means that it offers excellent performance when it comes to moving heavy loads by trolley. These two elements are essential in a hospital environment, where loads can often be very heavy, particularly in the service and logistics areas. They also focus on the human dimension by improving employee working conditions.”

Comfortable conditions
In addition to meeting technical constraints, the specifier also demanded the best in acoustic comfort. François Kalk shared his thoughts on the matter: “To accommodate and care for patients is the main objective of this hospital, acoustic quality is therefore crucial to ensuring comfortable conditions for everyone. As a living, working and research environment, and faced with the innumerable constraints associated with any healthcare facility, special mention must be made of the exemplary quality of the environment which, once again, offers the best possible conditions for both staff and patients”.

“With Tarkett as a partner,” states François Kalk, “we were able to enhance the role of the “flooring” so that it met all of the technical and aesthetic requirements of the Hôpital Civil. Our shared skills were put to work for the benefit of the healthcare sector, its professionals and patients as well as their environment”.

Grey colour for sensitivity and calmness
Tarkett designed a special “storm grey” colour scheme for the Tapiflex Laser range following the specific request of architect Claude Vasconi. It has been used throughout almost the entire building. This choice was based on the neutral effect
associated with the colour grey as well as an element of sensitivity and calm, which is required for a space in which there is a constant flow of movement.

For the architect, the sense of movement and fluidity created by this grey colour brings an element of freedom to the space and conjures up images of a peaceful and steady nurturing process.

**Blue as a second colour scheme**
The dark blue “Bleu nuit” colour scheme from the Tapiflex Laser range, is the second colour scheme that was developed specifically for the project and has been used for the flooring in the emergency department, intensive care units and continuing care units. This colour scheme was chosen for its ability to create a calming effect in areas in which there is heavy traffic.

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**PROJECT FACTS**

**Country:** France  
**City:** Strasbourg  
**Type of project:** New building of hospital  
**Installation period:** 2002-2007  
**Building contractor:** Hôpitaux universitaires de Strasbourg  
**Specifier:** Claude Vasconi- Architect Paris  
**Architect:** François Kalk  
**Installer:** Sté CDRE (Comptoir des revêtements de l’Est)  
**Total flooring surface installed:** 80 000 m²  
**Tarkett products installed:** TX Laser