



Stormtech

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Grate Insights

Issue 4, 2022

Brought to you by Stormtech

Grate Insights - Welcome



Hi, and welcome to Grate Insights.

It's been another trying year for people in Australia and around the world as the continually shifting circumstances of the pandemic make it difficult to cement any circumstances. At Stormtech, we're feeling both lucky and proud to be faring well amidst that wider uncertainty. Lucky that by virtue of circumstance we have not been hit harder, and proud that the decisions we've made up until this point have put us in this strong position, and prove that our business model continues to drive results.

One of the most significant factors for businesses over the last 18 months has been supply chain disruption, particularly where international supply chains are concerned. At Stormtech, we've been working on domesticating and continually securing our supply chain, with the result that we currently only have 1% international exposure - and we're aiming to have that removed by the start of 2022. This will insulate us from the fluctuations of the global market and enable us to continue

delivering quality products with confidence.

As anyone who has worked with us will know, we're constantly looking for ways to increase our quality, efficiency, and user experience through technology, and we've made leaps and bounds on that front. One of the most exciting developments has been the launch of our online configurator. This digital tool is connected by a single data source to our machinery and allows users to create custom drains by inputting their specific requirements such as width, depth, height, and outlet location. Based on this input, our machinery will then build that drain to spec. It's an entirely unique tool, there's nothing similar on the market, and is just another way we're using technology to provide customers with added convenience while still guaranteeing the top tier performance they expect from us.

And finally, sustainability is a central Stormtech value, and we're constantly looking for ways to not only improve the sustainability profiles of our products and operations, but to ensure our

customers are confident that we're doing exactly what we say. To that end, we're proud to have achieved Global GreenTag HealthRATE™ Platinum for three product ranges - our Slimline Composite uPVC Channel and Stainless Grate (G kits), Slimline Stainless Steel Drainage System Series (i kit, MTL, CO, and Custom) and uPVC Slot Drain. This means that each of these has a 'world-leading' profile when it comes to the use of safe materials. We continue to commit to voluntary sustainability initiatives and achieve stronger certifications wherever possible to ensure that you can be confident that when you use a Stormtech product, you're doing the right thing for the environment.

That's all from me. It's been a great (if unpredictable) year, and we're looking forward to managing whatever challenges 2022 brings with the same positivity and proactivity we're known for.

Enjoy the read!

TROY CREIGHTON
CEO, Stormtech



Maximum Minimalism. Single Slot Tile Insert.

Linear drainage by Stormtech.

ARCHITECTURAL GRATES + DRAINS

Designed and manufactured in Australia, Stormtech's newest Tile Insert linear drain features a minimal Single Slot design for perfect, seamless tile integration.

All Stormtech grates and drains are available in a range of award winning designs and colour finishes with both Greentag and Watermark certification across our complete selection.

Explore our full range on the Stormtech website, and match the perfect drain to your design vision.

Showers • Bathrooms • Balconies • Courtyards • Pool Surrounds • Commercial

Pictured : Stormtech 100TXI20MTL 100mm wide Single Slot Tile Insert grate.



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Case study - Carrington Aged Care

Background

Carrington Estate is a vast, sandstone manor in Sydney's southwest. More than 130 years old, its life as a care facility began when, in 1888, William Henry Paling generously donated his Grasmere property of 500 acres to the people of NSW, and Lord Carrington established the Carrington Centennial Hospital.

But within its venerable buildings now exists a thriving modern Aged Care facility. Carrington now offers multiple levels of care on the premises, including Retirement Living, Assisted Living, and Aged Care. The facility's ethos is shaped by its charitable past and values, progressing towards a future that continues its story and values underpinned by care, attention, and innovation.

Challenge

Carrington recently added 41 luxury assisted living apartments to their offering. With 29 single bedroom, and 24 two bedroom apartments across 3 levels, it is a significant development. Carrington's Assisted Living is the

first of its kind in the Macarthur region, and provides support for people who can no longer live independently, but are still not quite ready for Residential Care.

In order to promote wellness, the apartments cultivate a homely, modern feel, while still being designed for maximum occupant safety. Striking the perfect balance between these two objectives can be tricky, and not all products are up to the task.

Solution

When it comes to drainage in aged care applications, superior performance is paramount - a malfunctioning or substandard drain can leave surfaces wet and increase the chance of slips and falls. Stormtech was engaged to provide linear drains in the showers and wet areas of each apartment.

Stormtech's linear drains were an ideal solution for the project, as they sit flush with the floor - removing the need for shower hobs and thus increasing accessibility throughout the bathroom area. Stormtech's

drains also come with a number of customisable grate finishes, complementing the wider design vision of any project.

While modern finishes like stainless steel or matte black are common in many projects, here the drain was specified with a tile insert. This means the same tile used to clad the bathroom sits on top of the drain, with a thin gap running around the edge for water removal. The drain elegantly blends into its surroundings, providing excellent performance with minimal visual impact.

For Carrington Estate, Stormtech's expert knowledge of the requirements of designing for aged care, as well as the high-performance and visual appeal of the products, made them the ideal choice for this project.

AT A GLANCE

Builder: Richard Crookes Constructions

Plumber: Ashmor Plumbing

Products Specified: 100Tii20MTL

Case study – Calli Apartments

Background

Nestled in the heart of Liverpool, the Calli Apartment complex is exemplar to the new crop of high-quality multi residential constructions that are supporting the suburb's status as 'Sydney's 3rd CBD'. A hive of business, education, and activity, Liverpool is a thriving multicultural metropolis in its own right - one whose rapid population expansion has seen it become a mecca for considered medium-density living and modern architecture.

The Calli Apartment complex offers affordable 2 & 3 bedroom apartments targeted predominantly at the many young families who are putting down roots in the area. The living spaces are wide open and light-filled, and the apartments incorporate modern design principles and high quality finishes that allow owners to tailor their space to suit their own personal needs.

Challenge

The apartments aim to balance high-quality finishes and aesthetics, affordability, and functionality throughout - an ethos and guiding principle that extends from their light fixtures to their drains. Finding drains that not only looked great, but were able to perform reliably in a multi-dwelling application (where a blocked drain could cause big problems) was essential.

Solution

Calli Apartments contacted Stormtech to discuss their drainage requirements. Stormtech's patented linear drains were specified for the apartment balconies and sliding doors, as well as the thresholds at some entrances to the complex.

While Stormtech grates are frequently specified in stainless steel for their durability and modern finish, they also come in a range of other colour options to

suit the specific visual requirements of any design. Here, the grates for both the apartment balconies and the sliding doors drains specified in a matte black grate, in keeping with the wider apartment design.

On the ground floor, Stormtech linear drains provide a level threshold to reduce the amount of water tracked into the apartment complex. Here, the drains were specified with stainless steel grates to complement and contrast the black metal frames of the doors.

Stormtech drains brought the precise mix of luxury, durability, and functionality to the Calli Apartments to ensure a lot of happy residents for years to come.

AT A GLANCE

Architect: Gus Fares Architects

Builder: Lipman

Products Specified: 65PSTDi, 65PSi40MTL, 100TRTDi, and 100TRi40MTL



Designing for Ageing in Place

Drainage Solutions for Accessibility, Independence and Safety

“Ageing in place” is a term used to describe a person, as they get older, choosing to remain living in their home and independently managing the impacts of old age on their mobility and mental ability rather than entering an aged care facility. A study by the Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute found that between 78 and 81 per cent of Australians over 55 (depending on their age group) want to live in their own home as they age. Economic factors come into play – retirement is becoming more expensive and people are being forced to work longer, so ageing in place is often not a choice, but a necessity.

New homes that are being built now by first or second time homeowners are likely to be the homes that they live in into old age. New builds need to prioritise safety, accessibility and comfort to meet the needs of occupants now and into the future. Among the key design priorities

include, eliminating trip hazards, mobility considerations and facilitating daily living activities such as bathing, grooming and cooking. If such requirements are not considered early, the homeowner will face costly house modifications as they age.

A special area of concern are bathrooms and the transition between indoor and outdoor areas. Poorly-designed drainage can make thresholds difficult to navigate for people with limited mobility, especially if they require walking aids or a wheelchair, and introduce trip hazards that are difficult to remove at a later stage. It is important for a person's overall health and wellbeing that they are given the choice of being able to age where they want to age, rather than have to move into an aged care facility simply because their home has trip hazards left in place from construction years prior.

In this whitepaper, we consider the importance of drainage

design in creating a safe living space suitable for ageing in place. In doing so we identify drainage solutions that enhance the quality of life of occupants – giving them more choice as they age.

Download this whitepaper to learn how informed drainage design can enhance the quality of life of occupants as they “age in place”.

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bit.ly/GrateInsights_WP1_2022







Considerations When Selecting a Sustainable Drainage Provider

Amidst the rapidly expanding local and global construction sectors, sustainability is a key concern. Architects and specifiers must navigate a tricky terrain of mandatory regulation and compliance hurdles, coupled with growing social pressure and, importantly, their own drive to make a positive impact on the world.

With growing numbers of home buyers and renters concerned about the sustainability credentials of their dwellings, and increasingly willing to pay more for sustainable residences, the writing is on the wall. Architects and specifiers continue to rise to the challenges of increasingly sustainable architecture and now lead the charge with ever-more innovative solutions.

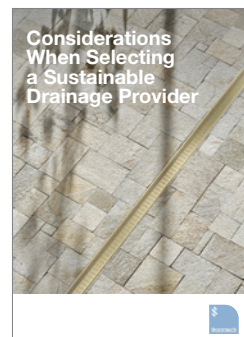
Within the context of residential architecture, efficient and environmentally-friendly drainage is a paramount concern

if the project is to perform as sustainably as possible. For architects, building and maintaining relationships with trusted drainage suppliers is one of the easiest and most effective ways to guarantee that the most sustainable solutions are being specified and that the products themselves perform as suggested. There are many ways for suppliers to prove their sustainability credentials, however it's important to know what to look out for in order to avoid greenwashing and substandard solutions.

Download this whitepaper for a detailed overview of factors for consideration by architects and specifiers when choosing a renowned, industry-leading drainage supplier to deliver effective sustainable drainage solutions.

KEEP READING

bit.ly/GrateInsights_WP2_2022



Architecture & Design

Alexander Symes

Alexander Symes Architects was founded in 2014 with a mission to advance sustainable architecture. Alex combines a deep understanding and interest in building physics and sustainability best-practices to create buildings that are not only beautiful, but contribute to stronger environmental outcomes overall. Stormtech caught up with Alex to discuss more about his unique approach to architecture.

Thanks for chatting with us, Alex. How did you get into architecture in the first place?

That's a really tough question. I think I had a natural disposition to thinking through drawing, and problem solving of the natural sciences, and growing up I used to love making things. So when it came to thinking about what my degree would be, architecture sat pretty well as a sort of a holistic thinking approach to solving problems.

I took a bit of a journey away from architecture, because I felt that it wasn't necessarily scientific enough for me. So after doing six years of studies and then working for an architectural practice for four years afterwards, I went into engineering for about four and a half years and learnt about the science behind quantifying environmental concerns. So that's how I honed some of my skills in our scientific approach to architecture.

What does that scientific approach to architecture entail?

It's about taking all the particular factors and then using a science first approach to make sure you're getting the envelope as efficient as possible. So balancing daylight and glare concerns, looking at how to efficiently capture and reuse water. And the same with waste if it's applicable for that particular site. So the outcome of our buildings is not that we're trying to find a particular formal composition, but rather let the

site and the science and the client's brief resolve itself into an architectural outcome, and then we do some tweaking to make sure that the composition we explore works harmoniously.

It's a very interesting approach. And if the science bumps up against the brief, which one wins out?

I suppose at that point it becomes a conversation. I'll generally be pretty blunt with people and say, 'this isn't meeting best practice sustainability' or 'what you're doing here, even though you think it might be sustainable, isn't necessarily aligned with one planet living' but really aim to begin that dialogue so that we can be realistic about what we're doing, because our impact on the systems of our earth is a real one.

I don't want to have a superficial conversation about that, I want everyone to be aware of the actual impact that they're having, and to use our particular skill

sets to reduce that as much as possible. In every project, there'll be a conflict with the science, and it's just about telling the client they have a few different options, and arriving at the best solution together.

An example would be the upside down Akubra house - it was very well received for its sustainability credentials and even won some awards. But it's not my ideal model of how we create a sustainable future. It's a sustainable home, and it's using low environmental impact building materials and techniques, and also has some great eco awareness attributes in terms of its visible PV and water systems and things like this. However, if everyone on the globe had a project like that, it wouldn't necessarily be a sustainable outcome.

Inherent to many people's architecture practices is the idea of legacy, and the legacy of what we're building and what

we leave behind. Would you say that's quite an important factor to your practice?

Definitely. And although I do have two beautiful children, I think of every project as a pseudo child to a certain degree. I'm not afraid of describing them that way. They become things that you are involved with for a long period of time and you do whatever you possibly can to make it the best project that you can. So in that, it's your own legacy of making sure every project is as good as possible.

But in terms of the legacy of my opportunity to provide stewardship to a lower environmental impact future, we're trying to provide examples of projects of how you can have better efficiency homes, more comfortable homes, healthier homes. So we're at the beginning of that process, from my perspective, in that we've only been really practicing for the last 10 years, and we're getting better.



The homes that we were doing in the beginning of last decade, from an environmental perspective, are nowhere as good as what we're doing right now. And I'm hoping that in another five years, I'll be able to say that we've had that incremental improvement in terms of the overall outcome of the projects we're working on. But the fact is that as an industry, I think we're not necessarily at the point where we understand the science of how we can create future-proofed homes for the climate. That's still coming.

Stormtech achieves GreenTag HealthRATE™ Platinum for three product ranges



In a world where climate change is an increasingly pressing issue, yet for many, the action of Governments leaves a lot to be desired, businesses are picking up the slack. Across the architecture and design industries we're seeing businesses fulfill their social responsibilities and putting the minds of environmentally conscious architects and end-users at ease.

Of course, some businesses take this responsibility more seriously than others. Stormtech is a prime example of a business who is continually pushing their products to be more sustainable across the full manufacturing process, and to ensure they

are achieving the highest levels of voluntary certifications to showcase these achievements.

The name Global GreenTag will be well known to anyone in the industry with even a slight interest in sustainability. The mark is made up of a number of certifications that take a holistic approach to certified sustainability. Stormtech's two flagship linear drain solutions, the Slimline Composite uPVC Channel and Stainless Grate (the G kit range) and Slimline Stainless Steel Drainage System Series (the 'I' kit range, MTL, CO, and Custom) have already achieved a number of GreenTag's top certifications: GreenTag GreenRate Level A, GreenTag LCARate Gold and

GreenTag EPD ISO 14025. These put them in the 'world-leading' category for these certifications.

But now, Stormtech has a new GreenTag milestone to add to the list. The Global GreenTag Product Health Declaration (PHD) is the first of its kind in the world, a certification tool that recognises manufacturers who fully disclose the toxicity information of their products with 100 percent transparency. The GreenTag PHD then provides a GreenTag HealthRATE™ mark, which clearly communicates for manufacturers, industry and consumers a measurement of the varying levels of healthiness of their products as well.



Stormtech has now achieved GreenTag HealthRate Platinum certification for the Slimline Composite uPVC Channel and Stainless Grate (the 'G' kit range), Slimline Stainless Steel Drainage System Series (the 'I' kit range, MTL, CO, and Custom) and Slot Drain, uPVC products, putting each in the 'world-leading' category. This allows designers and specifiers to make the most informed choices regarding the material toxicity of Stormtech drains, and to rest assured that Stormtech has considered how toxicity can be reduced at every stage of the production process.

To bookend the GreenTag certification, Stormtech is also a

signatory to the Australian PVC industry's voluntary Product Stewardship Program. While PVC is an ideal material for drainage in that it is incredibly durable and longlasting, there are sustainability issues associated with its manufacture - a fact Stormtech fully acknowledges and balances against the benefits of using PVC. By embracing the voluntary commitments made under Product Stewardship Program, Stormtech commits to addressing the environmental issues associated with the manufacture, use and disposal of PVC products in Australia.

To fulfill this commitment, Stormtech assists customers in

the responsible disposal of unused PVC channel and fittings as well as stainless steel channel, fittings and grates by receiving these products or part of products, for recycling purposes at their points of purchase. This is a simple, yet effective, means of encouraging responsible handling of Stormtech products by end users, and a way to take ownership of product impacts across the full lifecycle. For more information on Stormtech's voluntary sustainability commitments, check out their website.

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