

TILE TODAY

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markets:

Ceramic tiles in the
21st Century

China and India
advance

Tile imports and
local production

NCIA Today

technology:

Paving on a pedestal

ARCHITile

People, products, projects
and standards

BUYERS GUIDE EDITION





Mouth-watering mosaics

melbourne Central Shopping Centre houses offices and numerous retail outlets. The 211 metre high tower was originally designed by Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa in the Metabolist style. Construction took place between 1986 and 2001. The loss of Daimaru lead to a downturn in trade which prompted a \$260 million renovation which was handled by architects Ashton, Raggatt, McDougall.

Visitors to the Centre have a number of dining options which include the recently redeveloped Food On 2 dining

hall. Located immediately next door is a brand new, significantly larger Food Court which covers an area of 1400 square metres and seats 650 diners.

The new 'Central Food Court' features some of the finest mosaic tiling ever installed in Australia. The project was designed by 'The Uncarved Block', it features 500 square metres of Mutina Dechirer 1200 x 1200 mm wall tiles and matching 95 x 95 mm hexagonal mosaic, and 2400 square metres of 150 x 600 mm Italian Casalgrande Padana floor tiles. However the truly mouth-watering designs appear in the form of 200

square metres of custom designed hand cut Bisazza glass mosaics. All wall and floor tiles and mosaics were supplied by industry major Academy Tiles.

The mosaic designs feature a bewildering array of colours which depict a wide variety of brightly coloured butterflies and birds including a startling owl. Ants, rabbits and other creatures were fashioned courtesy of Bisazza's Artistic Department in Italy which utilises its impressive colour palette of mosaics to faithfully translate digital images, logos and photographs into stunning mosaics which are custom designed at the



Stunning mosaics fashioned from Bisazza glass supplied by Academy Tiles, NSW decorate the Melbourne Central Food Court. Designed by The Uncarved Block, the mosaics were created by Bisazza's custom design department utilising digital designs which can be produced from photos and drawings.



factory for on-site installation. Every mosaic sheet is numbered and the mosaic fixers carefully follow the digital print outs which are supplied with each order.

Sydney based commercial tiling specialists Academy Tiles worked closely with The Uncarved Block and Bisazza to faithfully fulfil the original design brief. Bisazza have the capacity to modify designs by enlarging or reducing the panel size, or by adding new colours. Academy specialise in the supply of advanced ceramics, natural stone and glass mosaic products.

General Manager Anthony Zeiter said "What excited us about this project was the creative customisation involved. The Uncarved Block supplied us with their stunning artwork and Bisazza's expertise ensured we delivered one of the largest custom designed murals ever installed in Australia. This has inspired us to dedicate more resources and engage manufacturing partners giving specifiers greater flexibility to express their creativity. We can now provide custom solutions in glass, ceramic, porcelain, stone, both in smaller mosaic and larger tile formats." **TT**



Mutina's Dechirer series of large scale porcelain tiles provide a subtle blend of varying patterns which invite visitors to Melbourne's Central Food Court to touch their inviting surface. In French Dechirer means 'to shred'. (Images courtesy Academy Tiles.)

