

01 The Fiona Stanley Hospital, completed in 2014, is the flagship facility of Western Australia's health reform program.



Helping to Heal: Taubmans Pure Performance Paint at the Fiona Stanley Hospital

With a budget of \$2 billion, Fiona Stanley Hospital is Western Australia's largest single building project and the flagship of the state's health reform program. Built by Brookfield Multiplex and designed by Hassell, Silver Thomas Hanley and Hames Sharley, the hospital incorporates the very latest in evidence-based design principals.

In this sense, it is designed not just to deliver the best in traditional medicine and clinical care but also to be a naturally healing environment that is absolutely patient-centred.



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02 Taubmans Pure Performance Interior paint has been used in the hospital interiors. The paint is low in VOCs and odour.

Research into the impact of the physical environment on health and well-being has found that the nature and quality of the environmental experience can have a significant effect on patients' rate of recovery. Factors such as the quality of light and air, views and access to outdoor green space, the ease of wayfinding and clear orientation, among others, have been demonstrated to improve recovery. All of these considerations strongly influenced the design of the Fiona Stanley Hospital.

In keeping with the ambition to provide a high quality environment that helps with healing, the project team behind Fiona Stanley Hospital was also determined to keep volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in interior fixtures and finishes to a minimum. High levels of VOCs can have a detrimental effect on indoor air quality and the health of building occupants, but unfortunately they are all too common in many building products,

in particular paint. VOCs can be emitted or 'off-gassed' into living spaces and the atmosphere for up to five years after paint has been applied, interacting with other chemicals in the atmosphere to produce pollutants that can lead to a range of health problems, from asthma to headaches, nausea and even cancer.

To help address this issue, the project team behind Fiona Stanley Hospital specified Taubmans Pure Performance Interior paint internally. Approved by the National Asthma Council Australia's Sensitive Choice program, which helps people identify asthma and allergy-aware products that deliver cleaner air, Pure Performance Interior is a 100% acrylic, water-based paint that, crucially, is low in volatile organic compounds (VOC) and odour. In addition to this, though, the paint also benefits from Taubmans' other investments in technological development and product engineering, which means it boasts a number of features unique to the range that are ideal for health applications.

Maintaining a hygienic environment is crucial in hospitals and both health and aged care facilities, and this requires that surfaces be regularly cleaned. In this respect, Taubmans has engineered its Pure Performance paint to be scuff resistant and highly washable. In addition to this, though, the paint includes Microban Antimicrobial Technology, which protects surfaces by killing germs and bacteria, such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*, while also working to prevent the growth of mould, mildew and fungus. This means that even painted surfaces that are not in direct contact with patients, which can be neglected by cleaning staff, are less likely to become a source of cross contamination.

Taubmans' technologies can help to improve the performance of any hospital's internal environment in other, subtler ways too. For large-scale hospitals,

"People were very positive. Their response made it clear that we have delivered a place that is welcoming, calm and inviting for patients, staff and visitors."

Jeff Menkens, Principal at Hassell

clear orientation and lucid wayfinding are essential to minimize confusion and stress and to reduce delays to the delivery of care, especially for those in need of immediate attention. In this respect, a key design requirement for new building work, as required by the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and the Disability Access Standard, is to provide a minimum luminance contrast of 30% between doors, frames and walls (luminance contrast is the light reflected from one surface or component, compared to the light reflected from another surface or component). To allow for an easier selection of contrast when specifying colour, along with HEX and RGB values all Taubmans colours detail their Light Reflectance Value (LRV) and architects and specifiers can search Google for any colour by name to quickly find HEX, RGB and LRV values.

The Fiona Stanley Hospital aims to break new ground in hospital design. To achieve this, it not only incorporates some of the latest medical technologies, but also best-practice evidence-based design principles that call for patient-centred, healthy interior environments, which Taubmans Pure Performance Interior paint has played an important part in delivering. As Jeff Menkens, principal at Hassell, has said, the hospital passed a key test when more than 2000 people visited the site during an open day just before completion.

PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER BENNETTS

03 The Pure Performance paint range features Microban Antimicrobial Technology, which reduces the risk of cross-contamination in healthcare environments.

