



Flooring at Mackay Art space



Northern Lifestyle Sports Floors Pty Ltd

THE MILLENNIUM ARTS PROJECT at the Queensland Cultural Centre is a prestigious development and the largest infrastructure investment in the arts in Queensland for nearly 30 years. As such, only the highest of quality materials and standards were utilised on the project.

One of the last finishing trades on the project, Northern Lifestyle Sports Floors (NLSF) were awarded the contract to provide 3500sqm of timber floors and designer floors for the Galleries, library and theatres.

Northern Lifestyle have extensive experience in providing very high quality flooring within time and budget parameters on a number of prestigious projects including The National Gallery in Canberra, the QUT Art Gallery in Brisbane, the Gynea Art Gallery in Sydney and not to mention the Mackay Art Space in Mackay. As a result, they are no strangers to the high quality requirements of such a project, although, as their name suggests their general operations are more orientated towards specialised sports flooring in timber and parquetry.

Northern Lifestyle have been in operation throughout Australia for the past 20 years and the hands on directors have a combined industry experience of over 40 years between them; Mr Peter Guntner has a Masters Degree in timber flooring and finishing and Christine Hansen is the first woman to gain the Trade Recognition Certificate. Between them, and with a team of dedicated tradesmen, they have realised their vision for professionalism and excellence without compromise in their work.

A considerable challenge when creating flooring for art galleries is the unique internal climate required for the protection and longevity of the art works. Within the art gallery, temperatures and humidity are tightly controlled to within very specific parameters. The task for Northern Lifestyle was to ensure that the timber used in the flooring was acclimatised to these distinctive

conditions and would not be subject to warping, expansion, or any other sort of movement once laid.

To ensure the wood adjusted to the conditions within the gallery it was necessary to store the timber within the building once the air conditioning was operational, creating the eventual climate of the art gallery. Stored in this way for 3 weeks, prior to installation, it was able to adapt perfectly to its new home. Working closely with Timber Queensland, who is the recognised body for the timber industry in Queensland Northern Lifestyle and Bovis Lend Lease monitored the timber from the first floorboard cut, through to installation and project completion.

The results of Northern Lifestyle's involvement in the Millennium Arts Project are integral to the final creation of the architect's vision. The overall ambience of the development is one of lightness and simplicity and it is clear to see how the quality wooden flooring has enhanced this aspect of the project. The dedication and application of Northern Lifestyle Sports Floors is reflected in the high quality finish they have been able to provide, and the successful completion of their work is sure to enhance their strong reputation even further.

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