

MAKING HOSPITALS SAFE

MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS USED IN HOSPITAL INTERIORS NEED TO BE NOT ONLY FUNCTIONAL BUT ALSO SERVE THE PURPOSE WITHIN A SPACE THAT IS GEARED TOWARDS HELPING PEOPLE RECOVER.

BY BINDU GOPAL RAO



EMERGENCY





1. Raufloor Neostein ensures protection from scratches and dirt and contains chemical contaminants for easy cleaning.

2. Manish Arora, VP - Furniture Solutions, REHAU South Asia

3. Exterior wall cladding is an exterior solution that is resistant to UV rays, chemicals, scratches, termites and extreme weather conditions. Courtesy REHAU



In healthcare settings, the exposed walls, hallways, and stairways are often prone to tremendous contact with people. Hence, architects and interior product companies must design these spaces keeping these considerations in mind.

TILE TALE

A hospital is a unique ecosystem and there is a range of products specially designed for various environments within the hospital. Orientbell's Anti-Static tiles are built for places like MRI rooms, operation theatres and more where an electric spark can trigger harm. These tiles conduct any static electricity generated to the ground, preventing potentially dangerous electric sparks, shocks and malfunctioning of sensitive electronic equipment. "Our Scratch-Free Forever Tiles are great for corridors and rooms. These tiles will withstand high foot traffic, spills and the moving of heavy objects such as beds and furniture. Avoiding scratches reduces the probability of creating breeding grounds for pathogens. They are stain-resistant and easy to clean. On special requests, we can make these Scratch-Free Tiles Germ-Free too. This reduces the dependence on human operators and keeps surfaces clean even between cleaning cycle, besides supplementing their efforts and keeping even the difficult-to-reach places clean and germ free. Our Antiviral tiles restrict the spread of viruses on the surface and kill more than 99 per cent of

the viruses in two hours. They are made to remain safe and germ free even between cleaning cycles as microbes spread faster through multiple skin-surface contacts," says Alok Agarwal, Chief Marketing Officer, Orientbell Tiles.

FURNITURE FIX

REHAU, a German-based brand, has emerged as a top provider in the furniture market with its well-expanded product portfolio, engineering innovation, robust developmental capabilities and decentralised sales and services. "Within the range of our products, the most compatible and urban flooring solution for hospitals is RCVT (Rigid Core Vinyl Tile), under the brand name RAUFLOOR Neostein, which ensures protection from scratches and dirt and contains chemical contaminants for easy cleaning. Hospitals experience heavy footfall and by installing a RCVT flooring solution, it can protect itself from daily wear and tear as the coated layers make the flooring waterproof and durable. Flooring solutions like RCVT are anti-slip in nature and its antibacterial features prevent the growth of germs on the floor which eventually ensures health and hygiene," says Manish Arora, VP – Furniture Solutions, REHAU South Asia. He adds, "Claddings are one of the most suitable products for hospitals as they enhance the aesthetic of the exterior walls and give a positive impression to the customers while being germ-proof. Claddings are also fire-resistant, thus providing extra protection to buildings from any unforeseen situations. Also, exterior wall claddings have an average life span of 20-25 years and are considered easy to clean and maintain which make them appropriate solutions for places like hospitals."

FLOORING SOLUTIONS

Marbles are made from purely natural materials and are safer for health purposes. "Unlike other flooring options



like Tiles or Quartz that are artificial and factory-made, and made mostly from chemical components and environmentally hazardous foreign substances, marble is a natural material that offers a natural and non-toxic surface that is safer for health. Marble contains antibacterial properties that make the surface naturally resistant to bacteria compared to other similar material used for flooring. Additionally, today, special treatments are available that can be used to enhance the antibacterial properties of marble to make it practically bacteria free," says Rahul Maheshwari, Director, Marble Centre International (MCI). Classic Marble Company (CMC) has launched a collection of KalingaStone veined quartz recently. Quartz slabs are tough and non-porous and since hospitals observe heavy footfall as well as movements of stretcher trolleys, quartz is highly suited for the traffic at hospitals. KalingaStone marble is another choice. It is not just aesthetically pleasing for interiors in hospitals but is also convenient for daily usage as the products are less porous, hard, and easy to maintain. "Microban silver ion technology is the latest antibacterial measure introduced by CMC, making it the first company to launch this technology in India. CMC treated Quartz slabs have Microban silver ion technology built into them during the manufacturing process. It kills bacterial growth on the surface of the product by up to 99 percent and reduces the risk of bacterial cross-contamination on the surface of the treated product," says Amit Shah, Managing Director, Classic Marble Company.



SANITARY CONCERNS

Choosing the ideal sanitary ware and fittings for any organisation is a matter of safety and efficiency in addition to aesthetics. Sanitary ware is an essential item in every



4. After the impact of the pandemic, various developments have been taken into account which includes antibacterial features in the flooring solution to protect the environment from germs.

5. Microban silver ion technology is the latest antibacterial measure introduced by CMC making it the first company to launch this technology in India.

6. Future of hygiene with Hindware's Touchfree Flushing Technology is a revolutionary new way that lets you flush with a simple wave of the hand.

7. Hindware Touch Free Water Sensor Faucets with infra-red sensor allow for zero contact that ensures hygiene and saves water with automatic sensor detection.



hospital. "We have a long history of collaborating with architects and designers to develop the practical needs of hospital sanitary equipment. Consequently, we have created and polished goods for the healthcare sector that are applicable in a variety of applications and meet healthcare requirements. Our touch-free product range has great hygienic features due to its smooth appearance and functioning. When choosing products for hospitals, hygiene always



8. Sudhanshu Pokhriyal, Chief Executive Officer, Bath & Tiles, Hindware Limited



9. With the importance of hygiene having been highlighted in the pandemic era, there is a collective consciousness amongst people to shift their focus to advanced cleaner spaces around them, without compromising on the aesthetics of interiors.

10. KalingaStone marble is not just aesthetically pleasing for interiors in hospitals but is also convenient for daily usage as the products are less porous, hard and easy to maintain. Courtesy Classic Marble Company

matters. Sometimes, it can be challenging to find the right clinical sink, the best valves, or even the most adequate janitorial units. When keeping safe and clean is a priority, we offer the absolute best, without exception. Our touch-free range is the future of hygiene and gives a revolutionary new way that lets you flush with a simple wave of the hand, ensuring that the bathroom stays completely germ and bacteria-free," says Sudhanshu Pokhriyal, Chief Executive Officer, Bath & Tiles, Hindware Limited.

CLADDING MATTERS

In comparison to other industries, the healthcare industry focuses more on hygiene standards to ensure that the risks of spreading bacteria are minimal. More than the tonality of interior decor, it focuses on products that help in improving experiences and providing comfort to the patients and families who occupy those areas. "The new interior décor products that are used in hospitals in terms of flooring, furniture, walls are focused largely on comfort and easing anxieties, as well as thematic designs, different layouts, and ease of use. When a building blends into its surroundings, it appears more welcoming to visitors. To eliminate distinct boundaries and create free-flowing movement, the building's shape and colour should match its surroundings. Greenlam Clads offers revolutionary cladding solutions for interior surfacing panels that are designed to withstand harsh conditions with as little maintenance as possible. Along with our interior cladding, our laminates come with a multitude of features like fire retardancy, moisture resistance, antibacterial, antifungal, and antiviral properties, assuring a healthy and a protected lifestyle," says Parul Mittal, Director, Greenlam Industries.

DESIGN DETAIL

Recent innovation in material technology such as double-charged and full body tiles, and even Vinyl, which offer



better resilience to high traffic and enhanced availability, are slowly making their way into healthcare settings, as a plausible alternative to conventional materials. "With regards to furniture, the two primary considerations pertinent in healthcare settings include selecting fabrics/upholstery that are not susceptible to infection transmission and second is the fixing attributes. For instance, fixing the cushion to the couch via magnets instead of stitching allows for a higher degree of operability, cleanability and hence sterility. The primary criteria towards product selection in hospitals is driven by factors such as infection control which includes high degree of cleanability, resistance to dents, abrasion, and electricity, etc. Further considerations include abstaining from finishes which are VOC-emitting or require frequent maintenance," says Ravideep Singh, Associate Director, Creative Designer Architects. There is a growing body of psychological considerations in product/material selection, which have shown to render positive impacts in terms of enhancing patient experience and recovery rates. Leveraging colour theory through innovations in materials, such as in PVC, allows curating the right kind of healthcare environments from a cognitive standpoint. **AS**

WEBSITES

- Orientbell Tiles: www.orientbell.com
- Greenlam Industries: www.greenlamindustries.com
- Hindware Limited: www.hindware.com
- Classic Marble Company: www.classicmarble.com
- Marble Centre International: www.marblecentre.in
- REHAU: www.rehau.com/in-en
- Creative Designer Architects: www.cdaarchitects.in