

MADE FOR FUTURE LEARNING



BACKGROUND

Adelaide Botanic High School is South Australia’s first vertical school, a landmark learning environment located on the edge of Adelaide’s parklands. Designed by Cox Architecture, the project reimagines how education spaces can respond to growing urban communities while celebrating connection to place.

This award-winning school brings together new and repurposed structures, linking the existing Reid Building with a striking contemporary addition. Generous glazing and an open atrium flood the school with natural light, creating dynamic connections across multiple levels and reinforcing the strong relationship between learning spaces and the surrounding Botanic Gardens.

The interiors reflect a vision for modern learning - open, multidisciplinary, and highly flexible. Spaces are designed to foster collaboration and encourage students to engage with learning and each other in new ways.



Quote

Name of person quote is from





Challenge

Delivering a vertical secondary school presented unique design and performance challenges. To create a cohesive environment that supports high traffic and diverse learning modes, the design needed adaptable materials that could handle constant use while contributing to a calm, inspiring atmosphere.

Flooring had to play multiple roles:

- Define different zones without adding physical barriers
- Provide acoustic comfort in bustling, multi-level spaces
- Be durable enough for heavy daily foot traffic
- Easy maintenance to keep the school looking its best
- Support sustainability targets aligned with the school's forward-thinking vision





SOLUTION

Interface's modular flooring brought the vision for a modern vertical learning environment to life. Custom Upon Common Ground Carpet tiles and LVT were designed and chosen to deliver performance, acoustic comfort and visual flow across diverse spaces — from classrooms and study nooks to collaboration areas.

A natural, biophilic palette echoes the surrounding gardens and helps create a calm atmosphere that grounds students and teachers alike. The modular format ensures flooring can be easily maintained and refreshed, keeping pace with a busy school day and changing learning needs.

By selecting products with low embodied carbon, the project aligns with broader sustainability targets- showing how contemporary vertical education design can prioritise people, performance and the environment.



Quote

Name of person who quote is from



Why Interface? The short story:

▪ Biophilic design and connection to place:

Interface's flooring collections — like those selected for Adelaide Botanic High School — use organic textures and natural, earthy tones to strengthen biophilic design principles. This connection to the neighbouring Botanic Gardens helps create a calm, grounded environment, giving students a sense of place and belonging within an urban vertical campus.

▪ Customisation capabilities:

Interface's customisation options allow design teams to fine-tune colours and layouts to align with their vision — ensuring smooth transitions between levels, creating clear wayfinding, and adding unique highlights that tie the interiors back to the local landscape and architectural context.

▪ Durability, performance and comfort:

Interface's high-performance carpet tiles and LVT are designed to handle the demands of busy, high-traffic education settings. They deliver excellent durability and underfoot comfort while helping to manage acoustics in open, flexible spaces — essential for creating learning environments that are both practical and inviting.

▪ Sustainability and environmental responsibility:

Interface's commitment to low embodied carbon, circular design and local manufacturing aligns perfectly with the Department for Education's sustainability targets. For Adelaide Botanic High School, this means flooring that supports responsible building practices while helping to create a healthy, resilient learning environment for the next generation.

**Project Details:**

Location: Frome Road, Adelaide, SA
 Architect: Cox Architecture
 Client: Government of South Australia,
 Department for Education
 Photographer: Peter Clarke Photography

Products:

Carpet Tile –
 Upon Common Ground Collection
 Dry Bark - (Custom)
 Shallows - (Custom)
 Undulating Water - (Custom)
 LVT – Textured Wood Grain - Antique Ash Oak

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