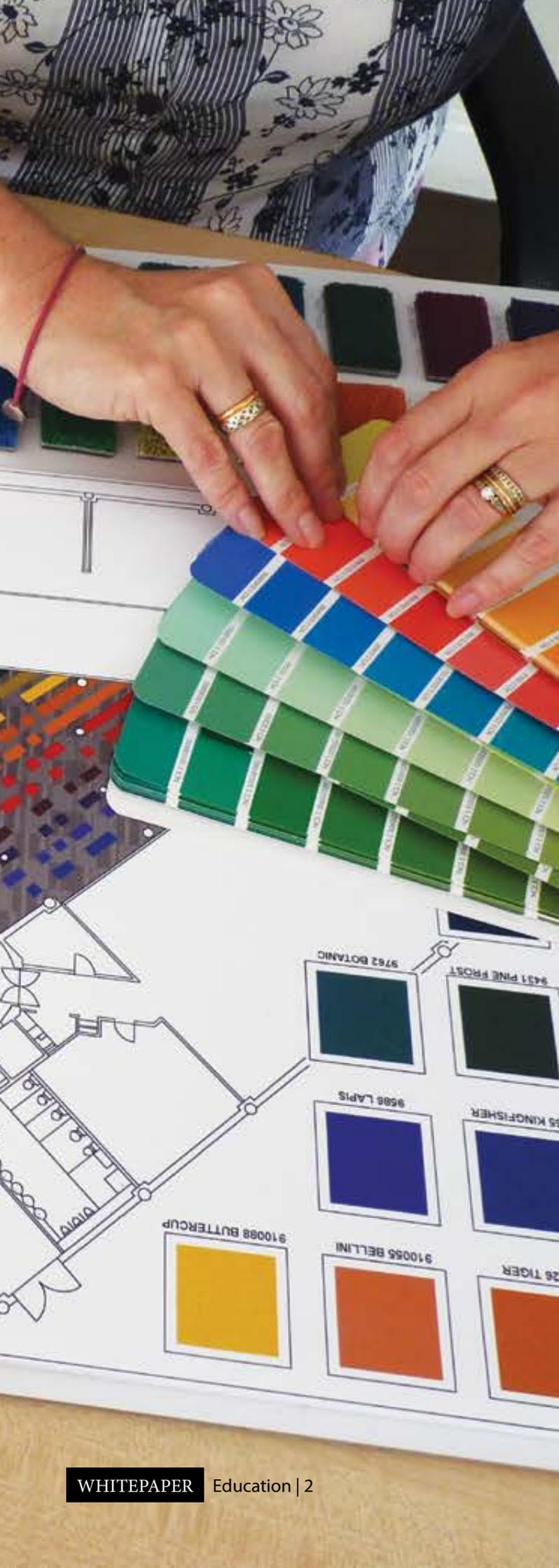


# IMPROVE ANY SPACE BY STARTING WITH THE FLOOR

**The foundation for healthy and engaging  
learning environments**



## THE ROLE OF ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS

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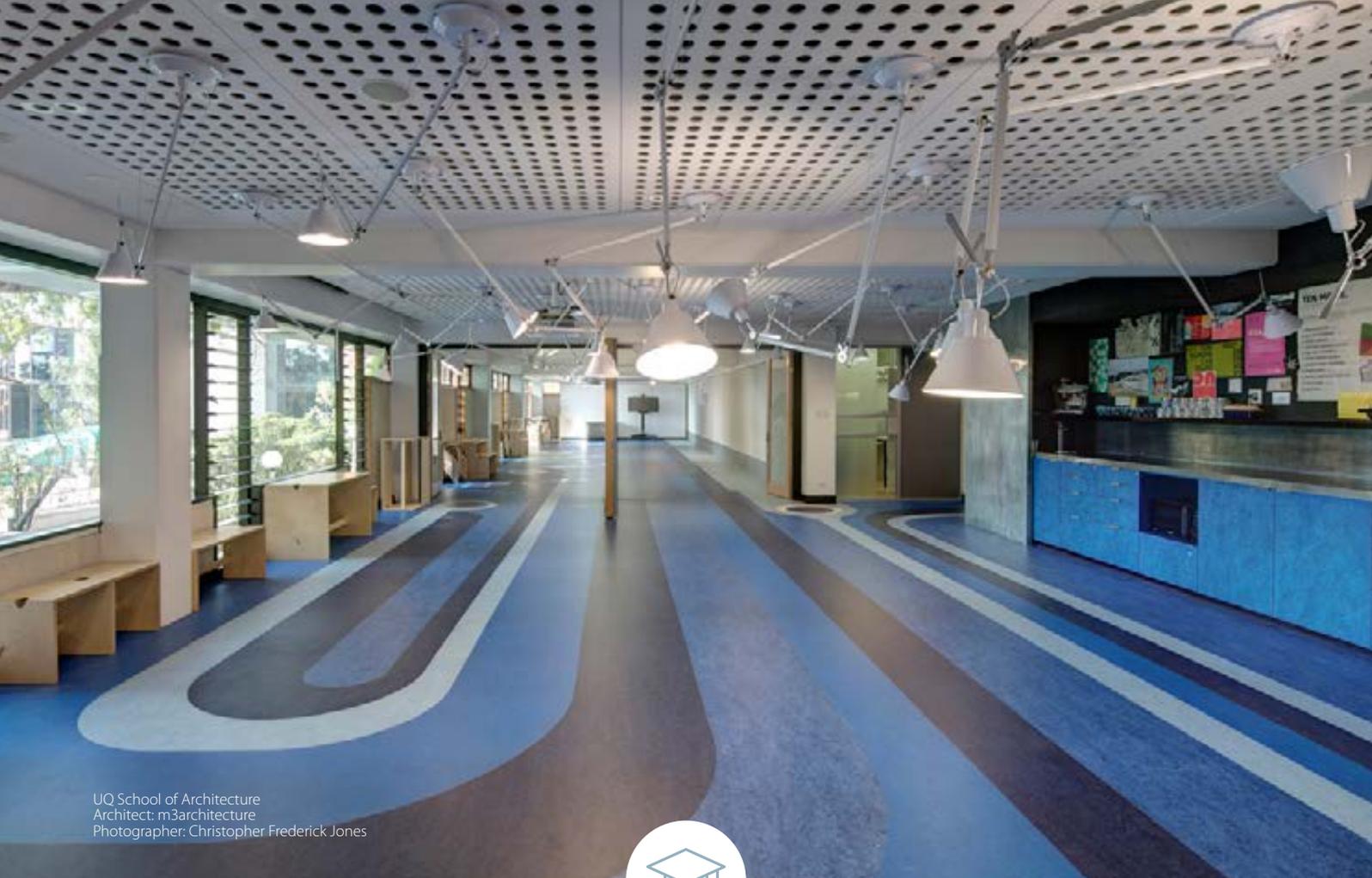
**The role of the architect and interior design team is absolutely crucial in delivering to the client, a building or space that is not only functional but which hopes to more deeply and positively communicate its purpose to those who enter and conduct activities within it.**

And whilst the building's persona is defined to positively influence the people who use it, its lasting legacy will then be determined by what those very same users achieve.

If users remain engaged and connected to the activities of the building and deliver quality outcomes, the design is successful.

If the output of the facility is less than expected, the very design is questioned; and may result in a complete and expensive re-fit before its expected lifespan.

Not only does this reflect poorly on everyone involved in the original work, it destroys any measures to improve sustainability and reduce the environmental impact that many of us seek to achieve through a high quality and purposeful design and fit-out.



UQ School of Architecture  
Architect: m3architecture  
Photographer: Christopher Frederick Jones



## THE IMPORTANCE OF A WELL-PLANNED FLOORING PROGRAM

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It will contribute to the long-term wellbeing and health of a building and individual contributory spatial settings.

**The flooring is the very first thing you see when you enter a building; it sets the tone for the building's persona and purpose; and provides the foundations for the interior design which rests upon it.**

The cognitive tones of the flooring landscape can affect the mindset of those who enter, positively or negatively, impacting upon their work ethic.

If a building design looks to be devalued and cheap, users may feel comfortable with delivering that same quality in their own output, reflecting the mindset of those who commissioned and delivered the build.

In contrast, a well-designed space influences the user to interact with, and produce a reflective quality within their own attitude and their work principles.



## THE REAL COSTS OF FLOORING - CHOOSE WISELY!

“The true cost of investment can only be measured long after the initial price is paid”

It costs between 1.5% & 2.5% of a total fit-out for basic flooring which does nothing to align user’s to the activities, mission and vision being driven within a facility.

**It may cost less than an extra 0.5%** to feature highly functional yet engaging flooring landscapes that invite user engagement and activity; aligned to the values, purpose and mission of a space.

**the design adds substantially more value than the initial investment, improving asset worth and true sustainability in design**





## CREATING BETTER ENVIRONMENTS

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Given how much time we spend indoors, the health and quality of the indoor environment should be critical to us. It shouldn't be compromised by the ideology of economic rationalism.

80-90%   
of our time we are spending indoors

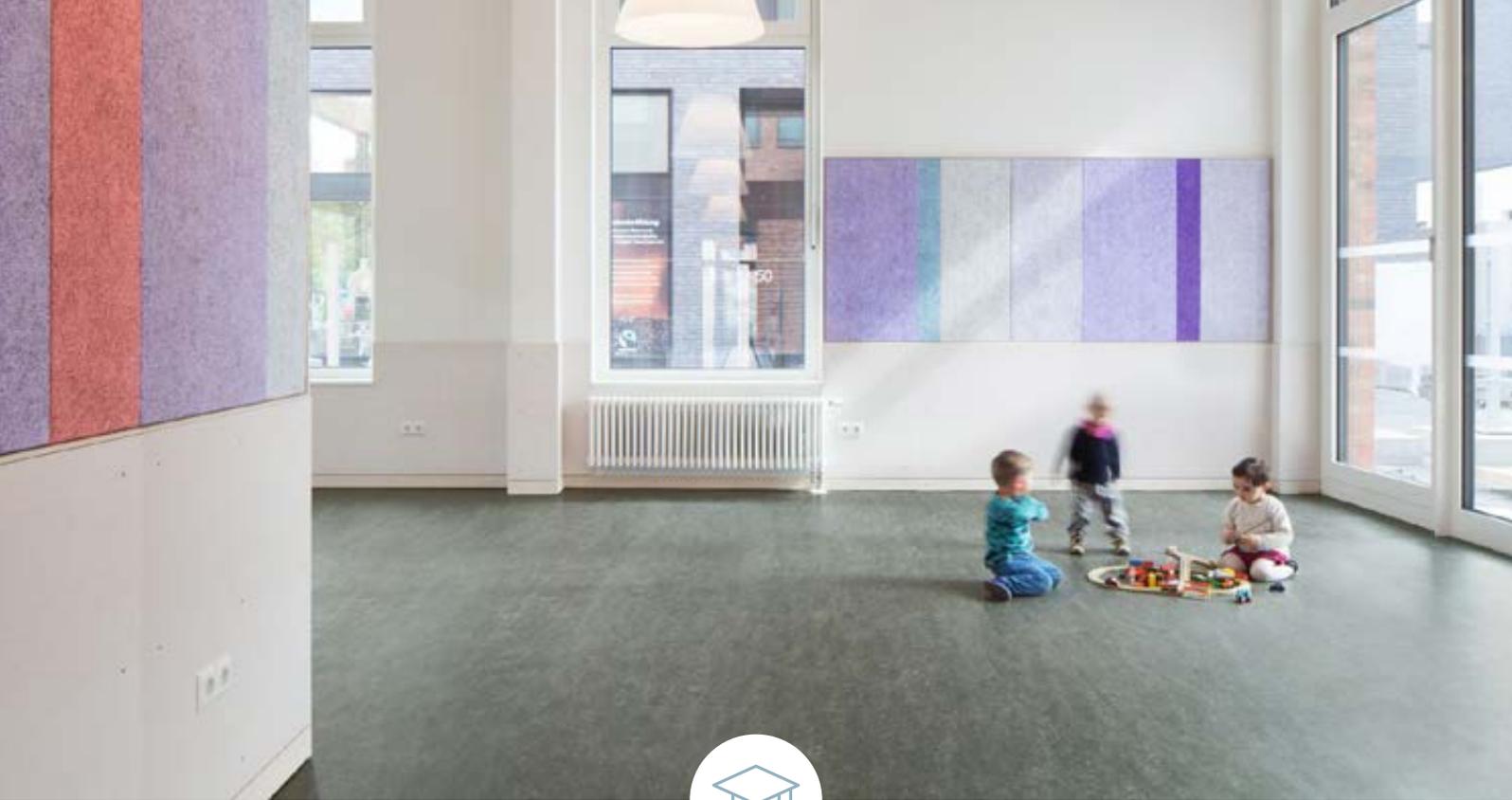
Instead, since what is desired of any workplace, health facility or learning environment, is active engagement and a quality contribution; the spatial design should reflect this by only using materials that will not harm the immediate health of users nor create any negative impact on the environment, which will later impinge upon the health of all.

Forbo Flooring is a world leader in the manufacture of heavy duty resilient and commercial flooring. Forbo is also a world leading manufacture in relation to its environmental credentials.

### **Forbo at a glance:**

- All products are produced using 100% electricity from renewable sources
- All vinyl & Flotex are 100% phthalate free
- All products are low VOC
- All production plants are certified to ISO 14001 and SA8000.
- Marmoleum is produced CO<sub>2</sub> neutral
- Flotex and Marmoleum is Allergy UK approved
- Every m<sup>2</sup> of marmoleum used contributes to restoring Australian native forests through tree planting in partnership with the [Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund](#)

[www.forbo-flooring.com.au/environments](http://www.forbo-flooring.com.au/environments)



## THE FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY & ENGAGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

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### WAY-FINDING

Since it's always within the line of site of users, the floor is a perfect place to embed culturally significant 'Way-Finding'.

Sustainability is enhanced by use of generic geometric shapes such as circles. These incorporate locally significant imagery and are interchangeable to suit the changing needs of users.





## HEALTHY MOVEMENT ACTIVATOR

A small portion of floor can be used to disrupt normal flow, invite interaction and increase sensory activation.

A small section complete with a unique pattern play sparks user's curiosity and sense of fun.



## CULTURAL SIGNIFIER

A healthy and positive mindset is further amplified when people receive messages to reinforce their sense of value and purpose, aligned to the mission and visions of the enterprise.

The floor is a perfect place to embed lasting symbols and messages confirming that which is meaningful and significant to the organisation.

This 27m<sup>2</sup> design tells the story of a naturally healthy (indigenous) pathway for education.



## ENGAGING USERS WITH LINES OF DEMARCATION

The only barrier needed is by clearly differentiating the passageway from the play zone.

The play zone uses a unique print Flotex textile, whilst the passageway incorporates Surestep; both of which offer excellent slip and stain resistance, and longevity.

Most importantly, even very young users easily understand how to use the space.



## A FUN LESSON IN GEOGRAPHY, MATH, & ENGLISH

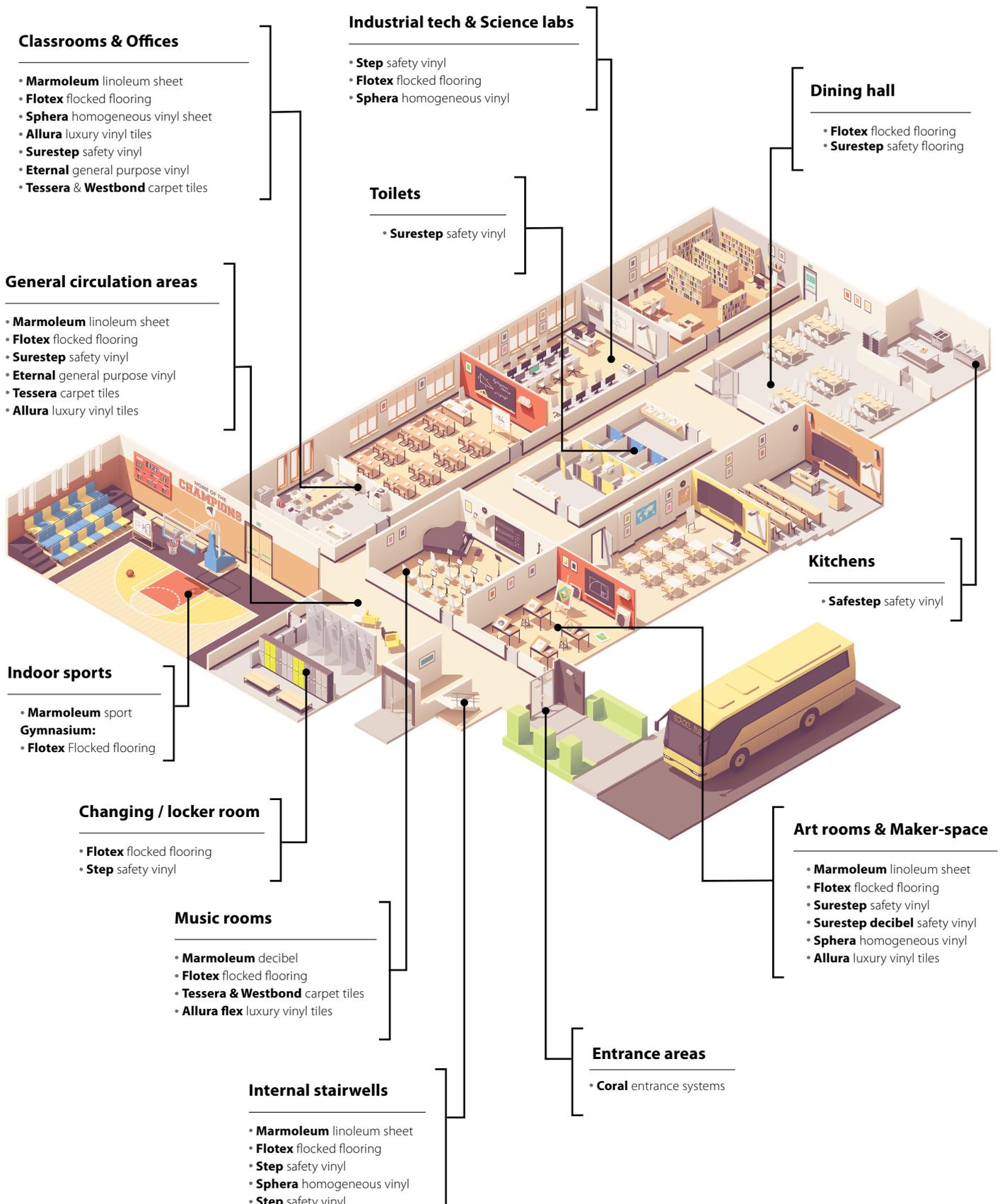
The floor can be an active participant in human engagement.

Students learn how to read maps whilst letting friends know where they live. Teachers have a new tool to employ to reinforce learning outcomes.

Measuring distance, spelling, orienteering, geography, and puzzle-play are just some of the things that can be done on a well-thought out flooring landscape.



# FLOORING SOLUTION FOR EVERY HEALTHY & ENGAGING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT





Forbo Flooring Systems is part of the Forbo Group, a global leader in flooring and movement systems, and offers a full range of commercial floor coverings for education, healthcare, aged care, office and retail sectors. High quality linoleum, vinyl, textile, flocked and entrance flooring products combine functionality, colour and design, offering total flooring solutions for any environment.

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