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Stratford Hall

Location:

Stratford Hall
Vancouver, B.C.

Architect:

Omicron Canada Inc.

Project:

Rooftop Play Area
6,500 Sq Ft

Solution:

VAST Composite
Permeable Pavers

Completed:

June 2010



STRATFORD HALL
IB SCHOOL



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Rooftop Play Area Tops Off Green School Building at Stratford Hall

In November 2009, Stratford Hall achieved a milestone in its vision of a world-class urban campus: the opening of the new Stratford Hall Lower School for its Primary Years Program (grades K-5). Stratford Hall, Vancouver, B.C., is one of two schools in Canada that offer all three International Baccalaureate programs exclusively from kindergarten to grade 12.

"Understanding the urban vitality of the campus location, sensitivity to the neighborhood context, and commitment to sustainability have guided the design and development of this project," said Peter Joyce, Project Director, Omicron.

When the Lower School opened, one important element seemed to be missing: a safe place for the children

to play without having to cross busy streets to get to local parks.

"Topping off the Lower School with a roof deck was a sensible solution and appropriate for our urban campus," said James McConnell, Ed.D, Head of School, Stratford Hall.

The Lower School was envisioned as a LEED® certified project. The project incorporated geothermal exchange, displacement air ventilation, a highly insulated building envelope, radiant floor heating, and many other green concepts and materials. Thus, when it came to choosing materials for the 6,500 square-foot rooftop play area, finding a green material was a preference. PlayFALL and SoftTILE® rubber safety tiles, made with recycled rubber, were considered. Omicron determined that it had to find a more cost-effective alternative to these playground safety surfaces. During the product



"VAST pavers enabled us to achieve a degree of design complexity and visual interest not normally possible or affordable with concrete pavers or rubber tiles."

- Peter Joyce, Project Director, Omicron

"In all the years I have been installing pavers – starting in Germany 50 years ago – VAST is the first true innovation I have seen."

- Jarome Sheriland, Refuge Design & Landscaping, Inc.

research stage Omicron learned about VAST® Composite Pavers.

Slip resistance and fall protection are key considerations for play areas. VAST pavers have a softer feel than concrete. VAST and rubber tiles offer comparable slip resistance. Durability to hold up under children's play was important as well.

"VAST pavers are unbreakable and maintenance-free," said Joyce. *"The composite material's inherent resilience will better withstand colder Canadian climates than any concrete surfacing products, and VAST pavers have been proven not to crack in repeated freeze-thaw cycles."*

Building regulations require roof coverings to be tested against fire in accordance with CAN/ULC S-107 or ASTM E108. Together with Omicron, VAST undertook the necessary product testing to fulfill code requirements and gain approval for use on roof surfaces of non-combustible buildings in Canada. Competitive paving products have yet to obtain this requisite product approval.

"When Peter brought the VAST product to us for our consideration, its recycled content impressed us as did its superior aesthetics," said McConnell.

To McConnell and other school officials, 12x12-inch square rubber tiles look like what they are: a playground material. In contrast, VAST offers the more refined architectural appearance of paver bricks.

"The VAST pavers are simply more visually appealing," he said.

VAST pavers are also one-third the weight of concrete pavers. When it comes to rooftops, the total load factor has to be considered. The weight limitations that come into play whenever a material is used in rooftop applications make VAST a good choice.

"Each pallet of the VAST Composite Permeable Pavers weighs just 2,200 pounds. That allowed us to load the roof with all the required material for secure storage during construction," said Jarome Sheriland, Refuge Design & Landscaping, Inc., the landscape subcontractor on the project. *"The light weight makes the pavers easy to get up to a roof and easy to work with up on a roof as well."*

VAST Composite Permeable Pavers were used in the 6,500 square-foot installation with a permeable design for stormwater management. *"The design ensures proper drainage,"* said Sheriland. *"And because of the inclement weather during the project, we found out that VAST pavers can be effectively installed in the rain."*

Omicron developed a repeating boxed basket weave pattern in a customized color composition with 65 percent Redwood color and 35 percent Waterwheel color. The paver color scheme complements the red color that serves as a signature element of the school building's design.

"I love the product. I'm impressed with the results," said Sheriland. *"In all the years I have been installing pavers – starting in Germany 50 years ago – VAST is the first true innovation I have seen."*



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