

# Grate Insights

Issue 2, February 2020  
Brought to you by Stormtech



Innovation,  
Aesthetics,  
& Performance



# Grate Insights - Welcome

2019 has been the year that quality has come under the spotlight. For several years, we've noticed a growing disconnect in the relationship between builder, developer and architect. A worrying result of this disconnect is that products are increasingly being substituted - dramatically - for a lesser or non-equivalent alternative, often unbeknown to the developer.

This year, the trend towards high-speed, low-cost development - at the cost of quality - has started making headlines and directly impacting residents, with various towers in Sydney and Melbourne deemed uninhabitable due to cladding, fit-out or structural issues.

Non-equivalent product substitutions can also have major implications for sustainability. Our industry has borne the brunt of 'greenwashing' in recent years - the use of logos and language

that imply green credentials, without the certifications to back them up - and it's often the homeowner or developer who is left oblivious to the impact these products can have on their projects.

At Stormtech, we've always championed the need for architects to take greater control over projects, in order to maintain the architectural aesthetic, intent and integrity of the design. Thankfully, we're seeing architects beginning to take back control of their projects and adopt a more active role in ensuring the final outcome matches the quality of their original designs.

We're also very proud of our commitment to sustainability. We're still the only sustainable drainage company in Australia, recently attaining a certificate of excellence in product stewardship from the Vinyl Council of Australia; demonstrating our commitment to

reducing the environmental, health and safety footprint of PVC across the product lifecycle.

For us, quality is also about innovation - another key focus for us this year. Not only have we been working very closely with the Australian Building Codes Board and Standards Australia in developing regulations and updating standards, in sanitary drainage, but we've also invested heavily in R&D for developing revolutionary manufacturing processes. Watch this space!

With quality as the theme of this year's issue, we hope that Grate Insights 2020 will strike a chord with readers, highlighting the importance of choosing quality and sustainability over price.



**TROY CREIGHTON**  
CEO, Stormtech





# High performance linear drainage. By Stormtech.



## ARCHITECTURAL GRATES + DRAINS

Match the perfect drain to your outdoor environment with Stormtech's unmatched range of high performance linear drainage systems. Manufactured in Australia from marine grade stainless steel, Stormtech systems deliver style and durability to any outdoor environment. View our complete selection of outdoor drainage systems and product applications on the Stormtech website, or call for more details.

- Linear Drainage Systems
- Threshold Drains
- Pool Surrounds + Drainage
- Slot Drains + Vinyl Clamps
- Custom Design + Fabrication

Telephone 1300 653 403

Visit [stormtech.com.au](http://stormtech.com.au) for tools + inspiration.

Main Image : Stormtech 'Special Assembly' Linear Drainage System. Marine grade stainless steel, 65mm wide punched slot grate. Copyright © Stormtech Pty Ltd FPARP554





# Case study – Las Palmas

## Background

Noosa has long been Queensland's best kept secret. With all the stunning beaches, lakes and parkland of the Sunshine Coast's more well-known resorts, but without the seasonal crowds, Noosa has become the ideal destination for retirees – and its waterfront properties, a developer's dream. In the neighbouring suburb of Noosaville, overlooking the beautiful Weyba Creek and Keyser Island Conservation Park, sits Las Palmas – one of the most enviable locations in the area. When Tim Ditchfield Architects were enlisted to help design a dream waterfront home, it presented a very rare opportunity to create something extremely special.

## Challenge

For Associate Architect, Oskar Booth, the Las Palmas project sets a new standard for the area.

Inspired by the mid-century Palm Springs architectural style – complete with full concrete rooves and walls, spacious rooms, external gardens and terraces – luxury was the team's overriding focus. "Slowly but surely, waterfront properties in Noosa are being redeveloped, and this project really breaks the mould", explains Booth. "It's a significant undertaking to build with so much concrete and we're consciously creating a legacy of high-quality building materials that will stand the test of time". An important aspect of the design's commitment to quality was the property's drainage – a key concern for a waterfront, marine environment.

## Solution

An important design feature – and a non-negotiable from the client – were completely flush floor finishes; making Stormtech's

linear drain solution the obvious (and only) choice. Working closely with the project team, Stormtech provided a range of stainless-steel grates for all external slidingdoor thresholds and bathrooms – along with a range of customisable drainage channel products.

"The ability to be able to customise drainage channels is hugely important", notes Booth. "Nothing ever gets built exactly as you want it to, particularly when you're working with concrete which is quite unforgiving, so being able to create customised solutions is crucial in achieving the desired results. Stormtech has an impressive range of options to choose from and, having specified Stormtech products in many previous projects, we knew they would provide the absolute best outcome."









Hot water supply ↓

Zypho preheated mains water supplied directly to shower (or water heater) ↑

Waste water disposal ↓

↑ Cold mains supply

Hot drain water ←

# Clean Energy:

## Save 30% More Energy with Zypho's Shower Heat Conservation System - From Stormtech

**M**aking significant environmentally friendly changes to the way in which we live has never been more pressing. News of devastating bushfires and Australia being set to miss its emission targets make headlines daily. However, in the wake of these climate change wake-up calls, there has been a renewed focus on innovation and ways in which we can redesign our everyday lives to make a positive impact - particularly technologies that can significantly conserve water and energy usage.

A recent Nielsen study on sustainability revealed that, in Australia, 77% of households see environmental issues as a major concern; and 62% are willing to pay more for products that promote sustainability. This renewed desire for greener living is directly translating into building and design, with recent trends suggesting a direct correlation between energy-efficiency ratings and house prices.

As the only drainage manufacturer with Level A GreenTag™ certification, Stormtech has built its entire company ethos on sustainability. When Stormtech's CEO, Troy Creighton, discovered Zypho - a ground-breaking, European-designed waste heat recovery system - it proved to be a perfect addition to the company's sustainable drainage product portfolio.

The innovative Zypho iZi uses a unique, patented design that captures heat from waste shower water as it passes through the drain, transferring it back to the cold-water supply via the shower mixer or water heater. Pre-heating the cold-water supply by up to 15°C, before it even reaches the shower heating system, delivers massive energy savings of up to 30% - simultaneously cutting household energy usage and costs.

As a solid-state system, with no moving parts, the Zypho is Watermark Certified and

one of the most cost-effective home energy-saving products available. Ideally suited to contemporary linear drainage installations, the Zypho's compact, award-winning design means it can also be easily retrofitted into any existing plumbing system. The Zypho is fully compatible with the complete Stormtech product range and, as Zypho's Australian partner, Stormtech can assist with integration requirements, site specific needs and installation suitability.

Made of durable yet recyclable polypropylene, the Zypho comes with a 10-year warranty and a guarantee of return on investment within three years. The Zypho has already received international recognition, as a Design Plus 2019 award winner, and is set to play its part in helping to make Australian homes more energy efficient.

*For more information about Zypho, visit [Stormtech.com.au](http://Stormtech.com.au) or call directly on 1300 653 403*



# A Channel to Compliance:

## Meeting Plumbing Requirements Through Efficient Drainage Specification

Drainage is a critical element for all construction projects yet it is often overlooked, left until too late in the construction process or inadequately specified. Drainage solutions that are non-compliant with Australian Standards can cause flooding, property damage and soil degradation, any of which can blow up project budgets and schedules beyond repair. As such, designers and specifiers are looking for innovative drainage solutions that can help them achieve full compliance while delivering high performance and quality.

A Channel to Compliance: Meeting Plumbing Requirements Through Efficient Drainage Specification is an incisive overview of the regulations and standards that set out drainage requirements in Australia. The latest 2018 amendments to AS/

NZS 3500.2 and its impact on drainage specification are also discussed. Against this regulatory backdrop, we present innovative drainage solutions that offer designers and specifiers an efficient path to full compliance.

For more than 25 years, Stormtech has been the market leader for quality and innovation in the Australian drainage industry. Stormtech drainage solutions are high performing and built to last, in addition to being fully compliant with the Plumbing Code of Australia and all Australian Standards relevant to plumbing and drainage. Stormtech offers a range of WaterMark and Greentag certified, fit-for-purpose drainage solutions that meet the needs of any application context and are supported by in-house experts who will help you solve any drainage problem.

*Download this whitepaper to see how efficient drainage specification can help you find the easiest path to full compliance in Australia's ever-changing regulatory landscape.*

### KEEP READING

[http://bit.ly/stormtech\\_plumbingcompliance](http://bit.ly/stormtech_plumbingcompliance)













# Safety Lessons:

## A Specifier's Guide to Creating Safe & Sustainable Educational Facilities

In Australia, the number of primary and secondary students is at an all-time high. The increasing demand for safe, healthy and sustainable educational facilities has put pressure on the design and construction industry. Poorly-designed schools are not only dangerous but can negatively impact student well-being and academic performance. Against this backdrop, designers and specifiers need to be fully informed as to the key design objectives and safety considerations relevant to this sector.

Safety Lessons: A Specifier's Guide to Creating Safe & Sustainable Educational Facilities is a concise look at the design standards and considerations that apply to schools in Australia, with a particular focus on addressing child-specific safety risks and sustainability requirements.

First, we summarise the key design principles relevant to the education sector and the mandatory requirements set out by Australian standards and regulations. We then explore several child-specific safety risks and suggest some possible design solutions. This is followed by a discussion on sustainability and the importance of balancing functionality, performance and aesthetics in an educational environment. Finally, we present a range of architectural drainage solutions that contribute to safer and more sustainable schools.

Since 1989, Stormtech has been the leading Australian provider of efficient architectural drainage solutions for showers, bathrooms, thresholds, balconies, paved areas and pools. This Australian-owned company offers narrow profile, high capacity products that

have been used in prestigious commercial projects in Australia and internationally.

*Download this whitepaper and learn how designers and specifiers can help educational facilities achieve elevated safety and sustainability outcomes.*

### KEEP READING

[http://bit.ly/stormtech\\_safetylessons](http://bit.ly/stormtech_safetylessons)





# Architecture & Design

## Jefa Greenaway

As technology features more heavily in our everyday lives, the value of authenticity and connection has never been greater. For Jefa Greenaway, Director of Greenaway Architects and Chair of Indigenous Architecture + Design Victoria (IADV), the key to achieving authenticity and connection in every project – whether residential, cultural or public – is an integrated design approach. We caught up with Jefa, amid his planning for next year’s Venice Biennale, to get his take on the role of integrated design in modern architecture.

Jefa, as co-author of the Australian and International Indigenous Design Charters, a lecturer at the University of Melbourne and an ambassador for INDIGO (International Indigenous Design Alliance), it’s fair to say you’re one of Australia’s leading advocates for indigenous and integrated design. What is integrated design and why is it important?

In the past, there has been a tendency for different disciplines

to be segmented on a design project. Integrated design is the process of taking a holistic approach and considering how we can create design that speaks to memory and history of place. It involves asking questions such as how do we make connections to country? How do we activate spaces? How do we develop opportunities for cultural narratives? How do we incorporate indigenous agency into our proposition? People are crying out for something that has meaning and depth. As we mediate a lot of our experiences through technology, the environment really enables us to connect to others – the places and spaces we create are an important factor in that connection.

### **What does an integrated design approach look like, at a project level?**

It begins with a strategy that foregrounds indigenous voices. For example, on a current project, for the University of Melbourne’s Parkville Campus,

we engaged with four traditional owner groups; this enabled us to hear the voices of elders and traditional custodians, their hopes and aspirations for the project. We can then look at how we incorporate those into a design proposition across a range of different domains – naming strategies, use of language, way-finding opportunities, art strategies, procurement policies to empower indigenous enterprise – a multifaceted approach.

### **The Parkville Campus is a signature project from the University of Melbourne’s reconciliation plan – can you tell us more about it?**

Certainly – Parkville Campus is a large student precinct, covering a 2.5-hectare site. We’re collaborating with five other architectural practices and two landscape architectural practices, with the intention of stitching together an urban design, landscape and cultural narrative through a number of different buildings. It has huge cultural significance and raises



the bar for integrated design processes. An important part of that is using local suppliers and, since the project involves a challenging topography, the need to manipulate drainage and waterflow, and water-sensitive urban design strategy, features many Stormtech products. In high traffic areas such as universities, it is essential to work with suppliers like Stormtech, who can provide high quality products that are fit for purpose.

**Your relationship with Stormtech goes back a long way – can you tell us how it started?**

I was a beneficiary of Stormtech's scholarship to the Glen Murcutt International Masterclass in 2011. Within my cohort there were 33 participants across 25 different nations, so a very rich diversity of design practitioners across the globe. It's an intensive experience, which went back to the basic principles of design, how we interrogate our processes and the essence of architecture – model-making,

drawing with thick pens, pencils and charcoals. It was hugely transformative for me and an important reminder that it's a privilege to create spaces that support and aid communities. The industry rarely recognises the importance of continuous learning and I commend Stormtech in their recognition of the value of education. As architects, while we may have spent many years at university, we can't rest on our laurels and must keep honing our skills.

**No-one could accuse you of resting on your laurels – on that note, how are the plans coming along for the 17th International Architecture Exhibition at the Venice Biennale?**

Very well, thank you. The International Architecture Exhibition happens every two years and is a vital opportunity to showcase Australian design on a global platform. Alongside my co-curator, Tristan Wong, our thematic is looking to challenge the notions of authenticity, how we can reveal our deep histories, interrogate ideas of



representation and identity, and evoke connections to country. One of our objectives is to invite our neighbours, across Asia-Pacific, to discuss how we can meet the challenges of cultural integration that we're all confronting, such as rising sea levels and the residual effects of colonisation. The Biennale is an exciting chance to share ideas, recognise the best and the brightest designers but, also, to celebrate our profession and the power of design to become an enabler.



Marc Newson.

# A Masterclass in Style and Sustainability -

## Marc Newson Designed Linear Drains for Bathrooms

In 2013, Stormtech released a series of grates in collaboration with internationally renowned designer, Marc Newson. The MND Series featured Newson's signature tessellated hexagonal pattern, available in a range of stunning colour finishes, including satin stainless steel, satin black, white, pearl brass and blue. The series previewed at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) in New York and went on to gain industry awards for its cutting-edge design.

What many don't know about the MND series is that, like all Stormtech products, it is also fully sustainable. But, at a time when the industry is rife with 'greenwashing', what does sustainable actually mean?

For Stormtech, an organisation built upon sustainable design, every step of the production

process is considered for its impact on the environment. In the case of the company's Marc Newson drains, the entire product lifecycle, from fabrication to packaging, boasts zero waste and zero chemicals – an achievement recognised by its Level A Gold certification with Global GreenTag.

The MND linear drains are composite products, made from marine-grade stainless steel and PVC. Stormtech has invested heavily in developing sustainable practices around the fabrication, sourcing and management of both materials. Not only are all Stormtech stainless steel grates 100% recyclable, but the marine-grade quality lasts thousands of years and all offcuts are reused. The organisation has taken sustainability to the next level, pioneering a new stainless steel fabrication technique that requires no harsh chemicals.

While Stormtech doesn't fabricate PVC, it has been awarded an 'excellence in product stewardship' certification from the Vinyl Council of Australia for its management, reuse and recovery of PVC, which boasts an impressive one tenth of a percentage of PVC waste.

The Marc Newson drains, like all Stormtech products, are proudly designed and manufactured in Australia and provide the ultimate stylish and sustainable solution for wet areas, including bathrooms, balconies, courtyards, thresholds, pools, paved areas and driveways.

*For more information about Marc Newson drains, visit [Stormtech.com.au](http://Stormtech.com.au) or call directly on 1300 653 403*





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