

Project Location
Cnr Gold Coast Highway
and TE Peters Drive
Broadbeach Gold Coast
Queensland

Client
Gold Coast Convention
& Exhibition Centre:
David Whippey

Design
Peter Hunt Architect:
James Turnbull

Schiavello Systems Qld
Philip Morgan
Sean Ellem
Peter Shumsky

Area
66,000 m²

Products
Unimet tile system



GOLD COAST CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE SYSTEMS

UNIMET ON SHOW

The intricately articulated form of the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) relies upon an armature of steel to support its taught exterior skin.

Once seated inside the building the vast functional flexibility of the arena and exhibition spaces becomes apparent. Any seat on any night might cater for a patron of the opera, a tennis fan, a convention delegate or one of thousands of dinner guests enjoying Queensland's hospitality.

The brief was to create a building that is highly functionally pragmatic and yet be imbued with an iconic style and aesthetic to reflect the attributes of the Gold Coast.

The design team at Peter Hunt Architect spent much time with the GCCEC's operational team and a variety of industry experts, auditing and testing the operational effectiveness of the design to ensure that the key efficiency drivers of conventions and exhibitions were met. This process, whilst complex, was extremely successful as the design addresses both the users' needs and the operational requirements.

"Flexibility of use was an understandably high focus of the design. The multiplicity of use modes is achieved through excellent planning and sophisticated seating and walling systems," explains James Turnbull, Associate Director, Peter Hunt Architect.

Schiavello's Unimet tiles and frame system were selected for this unique application in the GCCEC project because of the product's high acoustic absorbency value and strength of the framing system. The installation was specified and delivered as a complete system

with the inherent aesthetic appeal of the powder-coated perforated metal tile and routed timber surfaces.

Unimet's perforated metal acoustic tiles clad the three external walls of the conference centre and the wall between the conference centre and the exhibition hall above the operable wall. Meeting the acoustic challenges of such a large space, the Unimet's perforated acoustic surface achieves a 0.75 NRC rating (Noise Reduction Co-efficiency – 75% of the incident sound energy). A 75 mm thick insulation blanket is fixed to the framing behind the acoustic tiles acting as the absorbent component of the Unimet system.

The Unimet metal tiles are 600 mm high and 1200 mm wide, commencing at 3600 mm above the finished floor level and covering the first 3600 mm. The remainder of the wall is clad with laminate tiles routed out with the acoustic blanket backing taking the total height of the cladding up to 9000 mm above floor level. The tiles are clipped onto standard Unimet frames which are fixed to "C" channels.

Although Unimet is commonly used as a dividing panel or wall for work environments, this project demonstrates the system's design flexibility and functionality as a base walling system that can span many metres.