





SCION Laboratory Renovation

Rotorua

The existing laboratories dated from the 1970s and were accommodated in two adjacent buildings linked via an enclosed walkway. Separated internally by a central corridor, a series of small individual working spaces made for inefficient work flows, a lack of flexibility and did not comply with current laboratory design standards. This central corridor was a major circulation route which connected different parts of the campus and posed a safety risk as there was no separation between laboratory and non-laboratory activities.

The client wanted a modern, state-of-the-art laboratory which reflected the organisation's dedication to providing world-class science to its industry sectors. The new plan provided a safer, flexible, more usable space that complies with design standards and which supported the organisation's goal of supporting a collaborative and creative work environment. The new design turned the central corridor into a series of 'dip-in' support spaces (walk-in fridges and freezers, balance rooms, chemical storage etc.) that could be accessed from new open plan spaces on either side. This has allowed for the internal rooms to be opened up and the space used more efficiently.

A feature of the project is the new fully glazed corridor which was added to the north side of the building. This glazed corridor maximises views to the exterior from within the laboratory, allows for Scion to take their clients through the facility to view work taking place, without the need for them to enter the laboratory zone as well as retains the circulation route through the campus.

The inspiration for the colour scheme came from the colours found in the

Whakarewarewa Forest, which forms a backdrop to SCION's site. These are the brown of **Resene Drumbeat** on the forest floor and the green of **Resene Saratoga** in the foliage, which are featured in the colour back glazing in the external corridor. We wanted a neutral background to offset the highlighted feature walls where both sides of the walls were coloured to form a solid block and not just a surface. We also needed an overall light colour scheme to provide a working environment with good lighting levels. This lent itself well to using **Resene Sea Fog** as the base and **Resene Quarter Napa** and **Resene Hot Chocolate** as highlight colours.

The existing laminated timber posts and beams have been retained and clear finished in **Resene Qristal Poly-Satin** as a feature and a reminder of the structure of the original building.

A challenge in the project was to make the new north facing 100m long glazed corridor interesting. This was achieved by creating a patchwork pattern of glazed panels along the fully glazed wall. Colour back glass was finished in **Resene Pohutukawa**, **Resene Drumbeat** and **Resene Saratoga**. With the colour visible through the glass it could be seen from both the inside and the outside of the building.

Resene ClinicalCote was selected for use on the walls in the laboratories because of its anti-microbial properties, which are an advantage in laboratories where surfaces need to be frequently cleaned to avoid contamination. **Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen** was specified for the general wall surfaces in the offices and common areas because of its durability in a commercial environment.









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Building contractor: Watts & Hughes Construction
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Client: SCION www.scionresearch.com

Colour selection: Joanne Kelly/Kimberly Rogers

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