



Community courts flooring

The Olympic Games may be underway in Paris, but flooring of the same calibre is being installed at Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre.

The 110 x 45 m community courts area has enough space for six indoor netball, basketball, or futsal courts, along with line markings for volleyball, badminton, korfbal, floorball and handball.

Installation experts, Hardwood Technology, say that the community courts space alone at Parakiore is among the top five largest single-floor court spaces in New Zealand.

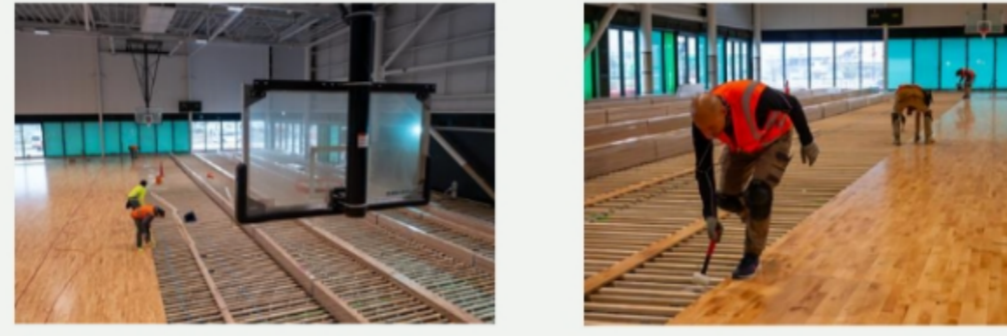
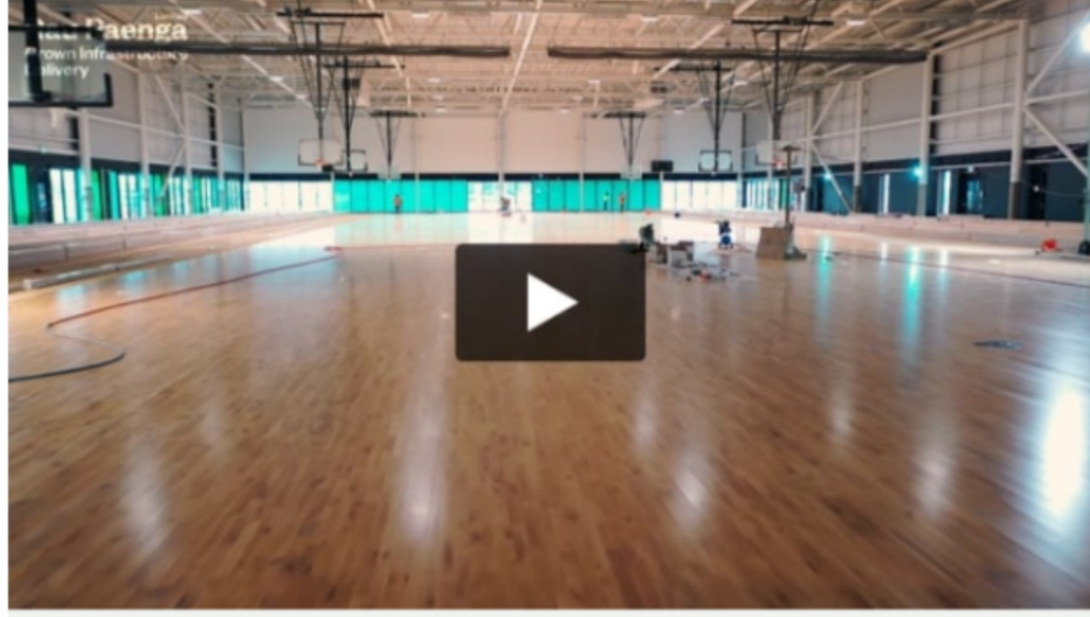
The floor is so large that a 42mm gap is left around the outside because that's how much the beech timber will expand by, now it has been unwrapped and exposed to the humidity.

The sprung battens that support the floor sit on 36,500 wedges and rubber pads, that take much of the impact out of the players' joints when they're running and jumping.

As the 37,800 linear metres of timber for the community courts is laid, it is nailed down with around 110,000 nails. Then the lines will be marked out and the area coated with 500 litres of polyurethane, to protect the surface.

Parakiore also includes a 2891m², three-court, show court, space for elite level or televised events. Two of these courts can be covered by retractable grandstands to create a 2500 spectator space.

See how the floor is being constructed in the video below.

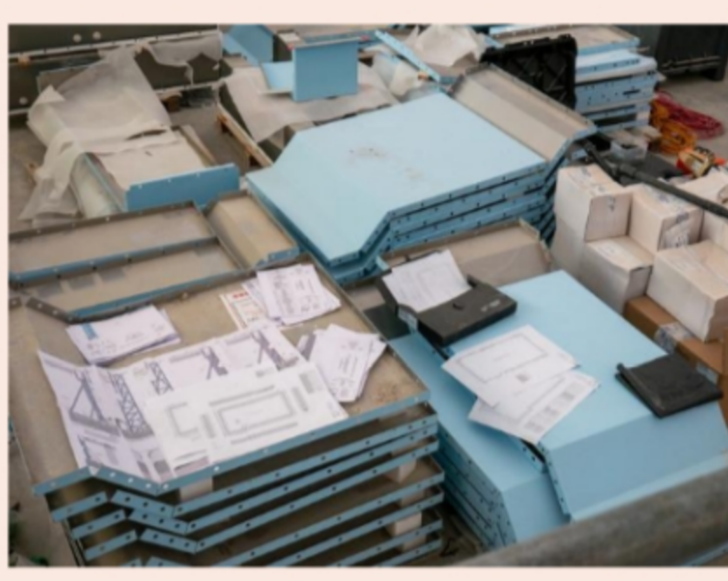


Pools

Installation of the 50-metre competition pool is now underway.

The pool is made up of over 500 stainless steel panels of different shapes and sizes, which are currently being set out. The panels will then be aligned and permanently fixed in place to create the frame for the pool. The drainage channel, vinyl floor and moveable boom will then be installed.

The pool is being supplied by Myrtha Pools. Like the court flooring, Myrtha has supplied and installed pools at the Paris Olympics.



Water harness rigging

Now hanging either side of the 10-metre dive tower is rigging for two water harnesses.

This apparatus is used to help divers learn new somersault and twisting movements off the 3m and 1m springboards in a safe way before being lowered into the water.

This equipment coaches with expert training and experience to use.

Parakiore will be one of only three facilities in the country with the harnesses.



Tiling underway

There are around 334 rooms and spaces in Parakiore and a significant number of these include tiling, to withstand the demands of a competition aquatics facility.

Along with the changing rooms and bathrooms, the concourse around the eleven pools and spas is also tiled. In the photo below you can see the underfloor heating tubes going in around the leisure water area.



Outside

The northern entry to Parakiore is taking shape, with the first half of the pedestrian path to the doors now poured and light poles and bike stands installed.

The gradual incline of the path gives a good sense of how far above ground level the facility sits, to keep most of the pools out of the water table below.

