

Location Hibiscus Coast, Auckland, New Zealand

Architects Econo Built Systems Ltd

Engineers Econo Built Systems Ltd

Construction Econo Built Systems Ltd

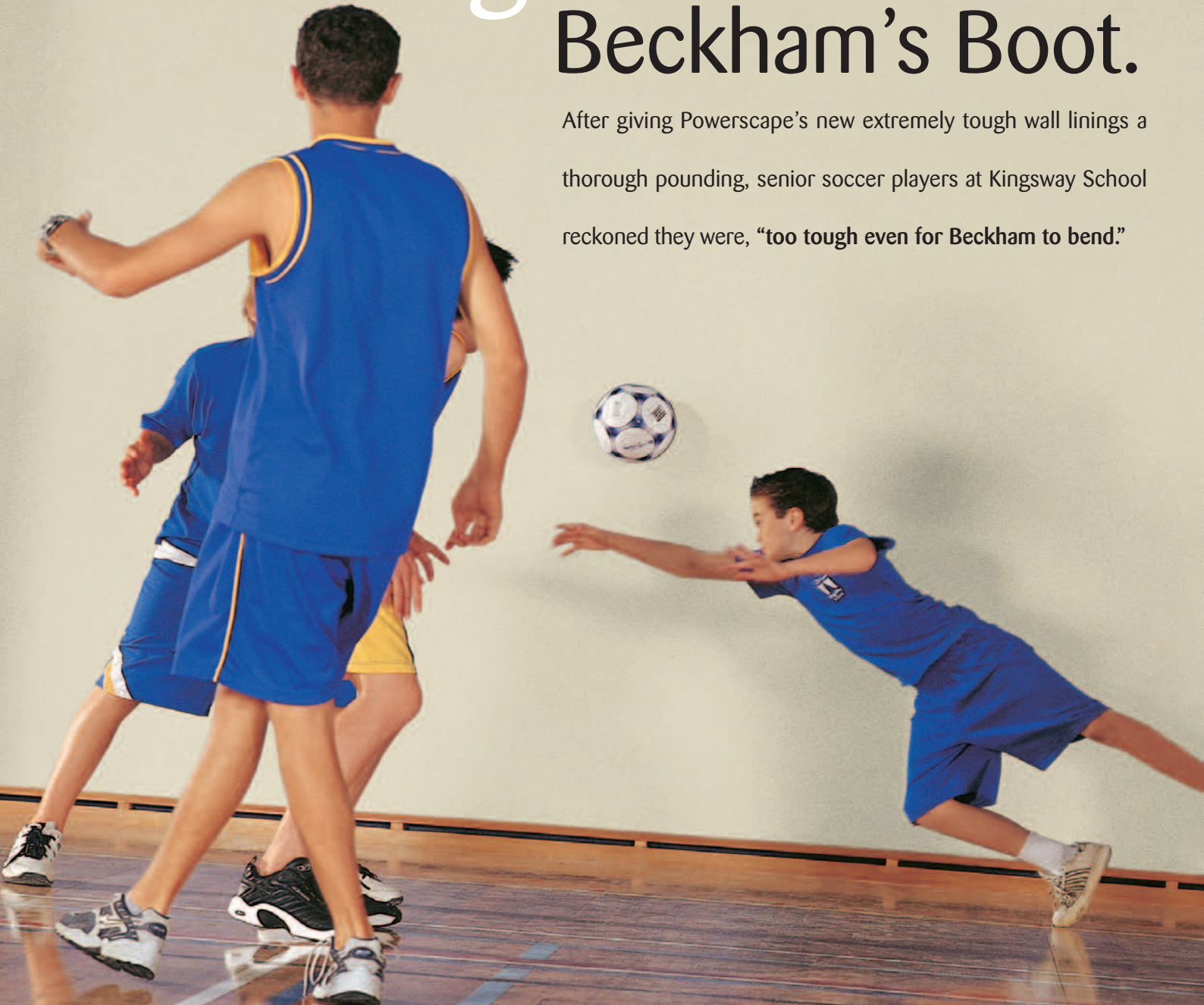
Fit-Out Econo Built Systems Ltd

Total Cost Approximately US\$2 million

Completed March 2004

Too Tough Even For Beckham's Boot.

After giving Powerscape's new extremely tough wall linings a thorough pounding, senior soccer players at Kingsway School reckoned they were, "too tough even for Beckham to bend."



The players lined up to put Powerscape to the test by repeatedly kicking soccer balls at the new Rocklinings in their recently completed gymnasium constructed by Econo Built. According to Robert Liebert, Director of Sport at Kingsway School, the Powerscape Rocklinings took a considerable pounding and didn't show any sign of damage. "We wouldn't normally condone this kind of treatment,

but we did agree to the test. I have to say I'm very impressed with the resilience of these linings. There are no signs of cracking at all and no dents. And that's very comforting because those kids really did put a lot of power into their kicks. It certainly is comforting to know that the new gym will be able to stand up to rough treatment."

Solid performance

Powerscape Rocklinings are a new generation of wall and ceiling linings developed by USG Corporation, North America's largest linings manufacturer. Utilising revolutionary Fiberock® technology, the board has a high-density consistency, bonded all the way through. This gives it incredible structural integrity with the added benefit of a smooth surface with no face paper. It is prepared with an acrylic surface coating which is ideal for painting, papering, laminating with tiles or finishing by any other method.

The patented combination of cellulosic fibres and gypsum plaster gives Powerscape Rocklinings extra stiffness, unrivalled impact resistance, and significantly greater joint strength than plasterboard linings. Because there is no surface paper to scratch or scuff, the surface is significantly more resistant to everyday knocks; and much simpler to repair if damaged.

Frank Rientjes, Quantity Surveyor at Econo Built, said the company recommended Powerscape Rocklinings because, "Many other so called 'high-impact' wall linings were just not hard enough for our requirements. Powerscape Confidence Ultra-Mesh 16mm meets our criteria for high impact areas. It also allows us to deliver the best possible result for our clients in terms of durability and long term savings in repairs and maintenance."

Cost competitive

"Combining Powerscape Confidence Ultra-Mesh with other abuse resistant fit-out products, keeps our costs competitive, yet allows us to create an environment that will be able to withstand the rigours commonly encountered in a school gymnasium." Whilst it was more expensive than plasterboard, Frank added, "We still discovered that Powerscape Confidence Ultra-Mesh Rocklinings allowed us to deliver our client's needs at a price comparable with fibre cement."

"Actually, there was no difference in terms of cost and time for stopping and painting. There was a small increase in the cost of fixing due to its heavier weight, however, this was the same as we would expect for fibre cement."

According to Frank, Econo Built were extremely happy with the result at Kingsway School and fully intended using the product in future projects.

Powerscape Confidence Rocklinings are suitable for all high-traffic, high-abuse areas. They are recommended for use in buildings which are subject to extreme wear and tear - such as public amenities, institutions, schools, hospitals, commercial buildings, retail and display. Additionally, they are excellent at suppressing noise, and ideal for areas requiring a fire rated system.

Powerscape Rocklinings have two tapered sides of a design which makes them compatible for use adjacent to plasterboard linings of equivalent thickness. One innovative feature of the Rocklining material is that sheet ends can be easily tapered on site allowing all joints to be finished flat and strong.

Three Rocklinings for different uses

Powerscape Confidence Ultra-Mesh incorporates a robust reinforcing mesh making it suitable for the harshest of applications such as gymnasiums, industrial areas, or the lower 1,200mm of walls in commercial environments or public corridors. It tests four times stronger than plasterboard of the same thickness, two times stronger than scrim reinforced plasterboard, and is significantly stronger than 9mm fibre cement.

Powerscape Confidence Utility has exactly the same features without the internal reinforcing Ultra-Mesh. Even without this, Powerscape Confidence Utility is still an extremely tough product, two times stronger than plasterboard of the same thickness. It is recommended for use in moderately harsh environments.

The third Rocklining is Powerscape Distinction that has all the strength of Powerscape Confidence Utility, but has been formulated specifically for interior wet area rooms, and comes with excellent water and mould resistance properties.



Superior test results

In tests carried out to current and proposed international standards, new Powerscape Confidence Ultra-Mesh made a clean sweep for toughness and impact resistance. Powerscape Confidence Ultra-Mesh was rated highest in both hard and soft body impact tests, and in joint strength. The tests compared Powerscape Confidence with both fibre cement and plasterboard.



Screw fix directly to the Powerscape® Confidence™

A 42" Flat Panel Television weighing 30kg can be hung using 2 screws or 2 double nail picture hooks. In the photograph above the mounting bracket required four screws, which were used.

Another great advantage is that Powerscape Rocklinings allow the placement of wall fixtures, such as shelving or flat screen display monitors, virtually anywhere irrespective of stud location.

In terms of workability, Powerscape Rocklinings are extremely user-friendly. They are more rigid and easier to manage than other boards. They can be cut and shaped using normal woodworking tools onsite, and can be jointed with standard plasterboard jointing compounds. They are safe to work with having none of the known health risks associated with asbestos or respirable crystalline silica. And they are an environmentally-sound product, utilising 95% recycled materials.

Key Product Features - Powerscape Rocklinings

- Exceptional impact resistance; stronger than 9mm fibre cement; double that of scrim reinforced plasterboard; four times that of regular plasterboard. (Powerscape Confidence Ultra-Mesh).
- Joints easily to provide monolithic finishes.
- Screws, nails, glues and staples easily, and cuts with standard wood working tools.
- Two way fire rated systems up to 60 minutes (single layer) and 120 minutes (2 layers).
- High mass gives superior noise control, including inter-tenancy rated systems.
- Excellent substrate for paint and tiles, and a number of abrasion resistant coatings.
- Three products to cover different impact resistance needs, and also one for interior linings in wet areas.

Australian Distributor:

Powerscape Pty Ltd

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www.powerscape.com

In New Zealand Powerscape Confidence Ultra-Mesh is branded as GIB Toughrock®. This project review for use in Australia and Asia uses the brand name of Powerscape Confidence Ultra-Mesh, for clarity. Powerscape®, Confidence™ and Distinction™, are trade marks of Powerscape Pty Ltd.



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