

21st March 2024

Top marks for Gerflor and Gradus at Kings College Sixth Form School, Taunton.

When Kings College Sixth Form School, a Somerset-based private school decided on a large flooring upgrade and refurbishment, they very wisely settled on the suggested specification from Rud Sawers Architects Ltd, their appointed architect. This would include a combination of world class flooring products from international flooring and interior specialists Gerflor. The project would comprise a combination of Gerflor's Urban Myth Carpet Tiles from Gradus for Classrooms, Creation 55 LVT for the Reception and Stairways, and Tarasafe Impression safety flooring for WC facilities, alongside a selection of Gradus accessories, including BasicZ Stair Edging and Boulevard 7000 Matting for the education facility. The overall project would ultimately see 800m² of new flooring installed.

King's College in Taunton, Somerset is an independent co-educational boarding and day school offering places to pupils from ages thirteen to eighteen. The school occupies a secluded and beautiful site of over 80 acres on the south side of Taunton, and just a few minutes from the town centre. The main building is an outstanding example of nineteenth-century architecture, with the entire site, a mixture of traditional and modern buildings. As well as an academic programme of robust subjects, there is a multitude of sports and co-curricular activities available that are popular across all age groups. The school provides inspired teaching, superb facilities, and the nurturing of individual potential, combines to create an environment in which young people achieve remarkable things. The outstanding modern facilities and stunning location ensure that children enjoy a challenging all-round education in a progressive, secure, and stimulating environment.

The renovation project provides a new, contemporary, low energy 6th Form, set within the historic learning environment of Kings College. The building accommodates a burgeoning programme of education and life skills, to make King's College an even more attractive option for their 16+ pupils. The building is modern, flexible, inspiring, technologically advanced, sympathetic to new learning strategies and anchored in sustainable energy principles.

The Gerflor Specification Sales Manager at the time of the installation, Chris Pursey said, "Rud Sawers Architects initially specified Creation 55 LVT for the reception and stairways but approached Gerflor to discuss other areas within the project. The Architect, Rud Sawers Architects Ltd found it beneficial to speak with us about the whole project including carpet tiles, safety flooring and flooring accessories, together with stair edgings and entrance matting. Specifying Gerflor and also Gradus throughout the project, saved considerable time compared with dealing with multiple manufacturers, and the client was extremely pleased with the vast range of products to choose from within our portfolio."

Totnes-based architects Rud Sawers has a simple design philosophy which is to transform project constraints into positive opportunities that produce inventive, unique, and beautiful buildings. Their practice has been steadily building a reputation for its exciting contemporary yet sensitive design approach and offer a full range of architectural design services.

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Rud Sawers, Director, Rud Sawers Architects Ltd commented, "In 2016, Rud Sawers Architects (RSA) won a design competition to design a new Arts building on the site. This was completed in 2018 and was received very positively by the client and the pupils. We were invited, alongside other architects to compete for a new commission to design a new Sixth Form building. We were selected as the Architect and enjoy a very positive professional relationship with the school."

On specification Rud Sawers went on to further say, "The Gerflor and Gradus products we specified, were fit for purpose and available in attractive finishes that perfectly suited the visual identity we were trying to create for the educational establishment. We specified Gerflor flooring for the ground floor, first floor and second floor of the building."

Commenting further on the project Rud Sawers said, "The real challenge however with this project, was working through the Covid Pandemic, maintaining construction momentum and meeting the brief for carbon Net Zero operations head on, which we achieved with a great degree of success."

The installation of the considerable amount of Gerflor flooring and Gradus Accessory products would need to be of the highest standards, as set by both the school and the architect. The delivery of the final outcome would be the responsibility of Bristol-based Gollop Contract Flooring.

Started in 1981, Gollop Contract Flooring are a successful family-run Bristol business specialising in commercial flooring installation. They pride themselves on delivering exceptional service to clients, both existing and new. With over 40 years of experience, they specialise in providing the very best of commercial flooring and employ in excess of 50 operatives and staff. During their many years of trading, experience and service has enabled the company to provide cost-effective solutions to any flooring project along with the deserved reputation and professional quality of their staff and workmanship from skilled craftsmen.

Matt Donovan, Contracts Manager, Gollop Flooring commented, "We have worked in partnership with CG Fry the contractors on several projects and this was one of several projects, where we had been awarded the flooring package. The Gerflor and Gradus products that we installed were specified by the Architect Rud Sawers."

On specification, Matt Donovan went on to further comment, "The overall project was approximately 800m² which included a mixture of Gerflor Honey Oak LVT, Gradus Graphite & Peridot carpet tiles and Gerflor Brescia Tarasafe Impression safety vinyl. Part of the building was on a concrete base and other sections on a timber base, which required different preparation works to ensure correct installation of all the flooring products."

On installation Matt Donovan added, "Our lead fitter Jamie Hook did a remarkable job on the installation and working with the site team over a period of six weeks."

Matt Donovan concluded, "This was an iconic project to be involved with. Every flooring installation can have its unique challenges but overall, this one was extremely straightforward to lay, thanks to the technologically advanced solutions that were specified."

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I understand the building is now in full use and the new Gerflor flooring and Gradus accessory products are performing very well. We work with Gerflor and Gradus on many projects and consider them to be some of the best manufacturers in the industry.”

Rob Walker, Gerflor Specification Sales Manager, who worked with the Installer to manage the project concluded by saying, “The client is extremely pleased with the overall finished result. It was a notable project to work on and be involved with, and being able to supply a wide range of elite flooring and interior solutions that met the required brief was always our end goal for the client. The education establishment is future proofed for many years to come.”

In conclusion Rud Sawers commented, “We are delighted with the final result, the specified flooring and accessory products are performing extremely well, providing a robust and easily maintainable flooring solution for the hardworking school. We would definitely choose Gerflor and Gradus again, as they have delivered a high-quality range of products, which are equally matched by their excellent specification and customer service.”

Overview of Gerflor and Gradus products installed.

Gerflor company and products overview

Gerflor is a manufacturer of comprehensive contract interior flooring solutions, including vinyl, linoleum, carpets, and rubber. Gerflor innovations help to create attractive and functional environments, as well as enhance and protect education interiors. Gerflor solutions are proven to enhance the longevity of a building whilst reducing long term maintenance costs. Gerflor works in partnership with the education sector to ensure buildings are safe and accessible for all users.

A/ Gradus Urban Myth Carpet Tiles

Gradus Carpets is a brand of the Gerflor Group, manufacturing premium quality carpet tiles and planks, broadloom, and impervious backed carpets. Using a range of high-performance yarns, Gradus’ extensive range of carpets are suitable for a wide variety of contract applications including education, commercial office, and healthcare environments.

The Urban Myth range from Gradus is a premium textured loop pile carpet available in both tile and plank formats. Reflecting current design and colour trends, the range includes a choice of complementary shades, comprising six grey base tones and six vibrant accent colours that can be combined to create stunning installations.

After extensive research into the design process, Gradus developed this range to offer a unique and fresh approach to floor schemes, ideally suited to commercial office and education environments to give a contemporary, urban feel.

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With Urban Myth the random design and choice of both tile and plank format provides a variety of installation options, enabling architects and specifiers to customise the floor design that will result in a unique design finish every time. The Urban Myth collection can help to create flow within a building through its modular design, using both plank and tile options. It can also be used to create a softer, blended transition across the floor, with the option of adding a vibrant accent colour to emphasise specific areas to create an exciting design statement. Urban Myth is also backed with a 12-year warranty and a 10-year anti-static warranty.

B/ Creation 55 LVT

The Creation 55 Collection delivers a myriad of design classics in both contemporary wood and mineral decors. Available in tile and plank formats with a high definition of design & structured emboss for added ultra-realism. The crystal wear layer ensures an authentic finish and products come with bevelled edges. The revolutionary ProtecShield™ surface treatment delivers enhanced scratch and stain resistance and reduces maintenance costs as the product range is extremely easy to clean.

Available in Dryback, Solid Clic, Rigid Acoustic and Looselay formats, with new Herringbone Classics for all hardworking interiors. Suitable for contract applications including Education, Offices, Public Spaces. When a customised interior is at the forefront of a designer's eye the need to explore the world of possibilities by mixing and matching colours with specific designs really becomes crucial. With Creation 55 LVT, if a Mix and Match floor scheme is required, designers can combine, contrast, or mix up references completely for a unique and customised floor scheme. The options are simply limitless providing a vast palette of incredible choices.

Tarasafe Impression Safety Flooring

The Tarasafe Impression Collection is a stunning safety flooring range that comprises of realistic wood and mineral finishes that relate to contemporary up-and-coming trends. Tarasafe Impression is perfect for both refurbishments and new builds. A multi-purpose floorcovering it's ideal for a host of heavy traffic environments where slip resistance is a must. Providing 18 design-led colourways and is suitable for healthcare, education, retail, public spaces, offices, and other commercial interiors.

Crucially, Tarasafe Impression has the technical qualities of a safety flooring that can be relied upon when it counts. Designed for medium to high traffic commercial applications it comprises of a compact backing, reinforced with a glass fibre and a printed design that is protected by a transparent wear layer. It is slip resistant to ≥36 HSE standards, has a R11 slip resistant rating and has achieved a 20RTMRz micro surface roughness measurement, which indicates a low slip risk in wet conditions.

It is also an exceptionally hardwearing, tough, and durable 2mm thick, compact flooring with a 0.70mm thick wear layer. Tarasafe Impression also offers a hygienic solution thanks to a revolutionary UV cured PUR surface treatment for easy cleaning and maintenance. With the ProtecSol® Control surface treatment it's extremely easy to clean.

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Developed to make a favourable 'impression' where both aesthetics and safety are paramount, Tarasafe Impression provides inspirational design, superior slip resistance and outstanding performance within new build and refurbishment projects.,

Gradus company and products overview

Gradus is a manufacturer of comprehensive contract interior solutions, including stair edgings, floor trims, barrier matting, lighting, and wall protection. Gradus innovations help to create attractive and functional environments, as well as enhance and protect education interiors. Gradus solutions are proven to enhance the longevity of a building whilst reducing long term maintenance costs. Gradus works in partnership with the education sector to ensure buildings are safe and accessible for all users.

A/ Gradus Boulevard 7000 Barrier Matting

Gradus Boulevard 7000 is a tufted cut pile, high performance barrier matting manufactured from 100% solution dyed nylon. It features a linear design and incorporates a heavy scraper fibre for optimum dirt removal and offers excellent moisture retention properties. It is suitable for use in most interior contract environments including education, retail, healthcare, and commercial office. It can be used in conjunction with a primary entrance mat and in some situations can be used as stand-alone matting or in conjunction with another secondary barrier mat in entrance and access points. It is also ideal for use in any area of a building prone to soil and moisture damage*. The product is BSEN 13501-1 Cfl-s1 fire rated and has been tested to BSEN 1307 for wear resistance. Boulevard 7000 is available in 2m sheet with impervious PVC backing and has a 10-year wear warranty (subject to terms and conditions).

B/ Gradus BasicZ Stair Edgings

BASICZ™ Stair Edgings offer great quality and great prices from Gradus, a brand clients can trust and are ideal for internal use within most commercial applications. Now featuring 2 new wide channel ramp back profiles, there are now 11 profile options to suit our most popular step shapes and common floorcovering types. There are also 20 insert colours to choose from, which ensures there is an option to suit a designer's colour and LRV needs.

Learn more about Gerflor solutions, ask for a free sample or contact us to speak to a specialist today by calling 01625 428 922, emailing contractuk@gerflor.com, or visiting gerflor.co.uk for the latest flooring innovations.

Learn more about Gradus solutions, ask for a free sample or contact us to speak to a specialist today by calling 01625 428 922, emailing imail@gradus.com, or visiting gradus.com for the latest barrier matting, wall protection, lighting and flooring accessory innovations.

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