

**CLIENT:**

**SOLUTION:**

**LOCATION:**

COLCHESTER ACADEMY

TARAFLEX® PERFORMANCE, EVOLUTION & COMBI 85 SYSTEM

COLCHESTER, ESSEX

## Taraflex® Triumph for Gerflor at Colchester Academy

**When Colchester Academy in Essex urgently required a new sports floor for their main hall and their dance studio, they turned to international flooring specialist Gerflor for an Olympic pedigree solution.**

For this prestigious education establishment, Gerflor would supply a total of 552m<sup>2</sup> of their world class Taraflex® Performance vinyl sports flooring in 'Dark Blue' for the sports hall, and 258m<sup>2</sup> of their Taraflex® Combi 85 System in Evolution 'Pure Concrete Grey' for their dance studio. Gerflor were specified for this refurbishment project, primarily because of the technical benefits the sports floors could deliver for the facility users, including a high degree of comfort, safety, and performance, as well as a solution that could be delivered on time and to budget.

Colchester Academy strives hard to ensure that young people receive the very best education, realise their full potential, and are prepared to become responsible and successful citizens. As part of this vision, the staff employed by the Academy, wanted to enhance the students' passion gained during their Key Stage 3 and outside experiences of PE and use this within this vocational qualification. To achieve this ambition, the school had to secure the safest indoor playing surface, in order to contribute to their students sporting on-going development.

The responsibility for delivering an exceptional quality design and finish for the school's sports halls would fall to Braintree-based architectural practice- Barker Associates. Barker is an integrated property consultancy that designs, creates, and manages inspiring, sustainable spaces where people live, learn, work and play. They are a passionate, enthusiastic, and committed team who love what they do.



“ The Taraflex® sports surfaces installed at Colchester Academy, are surpassing the level of expectation in both performance and appearance. I would definitely specify Gerflor again. ”

Ben Jeapes, Senior Building Surveyor, Barker Associates





Ben Jeapes, Senior Building Surveyor at Barker Associates commented, "At Barker we work closely with a number of education clients, including Multi-Academy Trusts such as South Suffolk Learning Trust (SSLT). We were approached by SSLT to provide Design and Project Management services for this project and were subsequently appointed as Principal Designer."

On specification Ben Jeapes went on to comment, "I have specified Gerflor products in the past and know that they provide excellent quality safety flooring. I am also aware that Gerflor specialise in world class sports flooring and have the option of numerous systems for different levels of performance, or to accommodate different types of sub-floor construction found in refurbishment projects such as Colchester Academy."

Ben Jeapes had identified the need for a replacement flooring in the main hall and specified Taraflex® Performance. However, the dance studio required

a specific solution for the location to address the needs of the onsite users. This is where Taraflex® Evolution surface was specified together with an undercarriage, thus Gerflor's complete Taraflex® Combi 85 System proved the ideal solution for that hardworking environment. This System is an ultimate combination solution comprising of a fully height-adjustable cradle and batten substructure overlaid with plywood, finished with a 7.5mm thick Taraflex® Evolution playing surface. The perfect duo provides one of the highest specification sports floorings available with optimum safety and ball bounce.

On installation Ben Jeapes added, "We discovered a number of existing defects with the sub floor that needed to be addressed prior to the installation of the flooring. These included trapped moisture, lack of ventilation and level changes. We specified a new reinforced concrete slab to provide a suitable sub-base at the correct levels ready to receive the Gerflor Taraflex® Combi-85 system. This solution avoided the

requirement to reinstate the cross ventilation and provided sufficient build-up so that the existing finished floor levels could be achieved."

Dan Bowen, Area Sales and Specification Manager, Gerflor said, "Taraflex® Performance was chosen for the main sports hall due the high level of sport that is played at Colchester Academy. The school wanted a floor that could be used for sports such as cricket and basketball that require good levels of ball bounce, which Taraflex® achieves due to its unique construction. They also wanted a high quality sports floor that would protect the students from injury. Thanks to the high levels of impact resistance that Taraflex® delivers, this requirement was easily met."

Ben Jeapes ended by saying, "The Taraflex® sports surfaces installed at Colchester Academy, are surpassing the level of expectation in both performance and appearance. I would definitely specify Gerflor again."

For further information on Gerflor's extensive range of flooring solutions please contact us:

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