

CLIENT:
SOLUTION:
LOCATION:

COLEG Y CYMOEDD
TARALAY IMPRESSION COMPACT & CONTROL, GTI MAX,
TARASAFE ULTRA H₂O, TARASAFE PLUS, POWERSHOCK 300
CAERPHILLY

Gerflor to the rescue for Welsh College refurbishment.

When the Coleg y Cymoedd (translated meaning is the College of the valleys) in Wales needed to totally refurbish the flooring element of their campus in Ystrad Mynach (near the town of Caerphilly), they turned to international flooring specialist Gerflor to supply over 1000m² of flooring for numerous areas and spaces throughout the campus. It was a project that provided Gerflor with the perfect platform to showcase a raft of high-quality flooring solutions ideal for the concerned demanding education environment.

Coleg y Cymoedd was formed in 2013, following the merger of The College Ystrad Mynach and Coleg Morgannwg. Over 10,000 learners' study at Coleg y Cymoedd each year. The college offers a wide range of Full and Part Time courses from Entry to Degree Level in over 15 Curriculum areas. The college has invested significantly in its facilities in recent years, with standout projects including the Nantgarw Campus building (a £40 million award winning campus), Aberdare Campus (a £22 million campus opened 2017), state of the art Railway Training and Motor Vehicle Facilities.

With over 80 years' experience, Gerflor is a respected manufacturer of high performance, design-led and sustainable education solutions for flooring and interior finishes. In this instance, the Gerflor products specified would provide the ideal flooring solution for their gym, restaurant, and common areas.

Tony Thorne, Gerflor Sales and Specification Manager - South Wales commented, "This project started at the specification stage with the Architects Austin-Smith: Lord. Over several meetings, we looked at a number of products to be used in various areas of the building scheme.



“ The Gerflor products we chose, easily met the brief for aesthetic design intent, slip resistance, easy maintenance and project costs. ”

Kate Thomas, Director, Austin-Smith:Lord



The installation at the Ystrad Mynach campus is a outstanding example of how a mix of Gerflor innovations can achieve world class results. Mixing gym tiles with sheet vinyl, safety flooring and LVT, yielded incredible results for this college refurbishment project."

The design and specification of the Ystrad Mynach campus project would fall to Cardiff-based architects Austin-Smith: Lord, who provide award-winning Architectural, Interior Design and Landscape Design services across multiple sectors across the UK. They have a growing portfolio of refurbishment work in the education sector, spearheaded by their growing specialist team of Interior Designers.

Kate Thomas, Director Austin-Smith: Lord commented, "The refurbishment project, part-funded by the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme, formed part of the college's plans to continually invest in new facilities and equipment that will allow learners across its catchment area to have access to the latest training opportunities and career paths." Kate Thomas added, "Austin-Smith-Lord was appointed through project managers Mott MacDonald to provide Architectural and Interior Design services.

"On the Ystrad campus the refurbishment works included the restaurant and kitchen, teaching spaces, café, and sports facilities." On specification, Kate Thomas said, "The Gerflor products we chose, easily met the brief for aesthetic design intent, slip resistance, easy maintenance and project costs."

The installation of such a varied and vast list of Gerflor products would need to be of the highest standards. The responsibility would fall to Floor Furnishings Ltd who are a well-established flooring contractor based in Cardiff Bay. Since 1961 they have been carrying out flooring contracts throughout the UK for a wide range of clients, which include hotels, hospitals, and public house chains.

Mark Bond, Estimator and H&S Manager at Floor Furnishings said, "We are a Kier CAT 1 Contractor and therefore receive regular enquiries from the Main Contractor. The finishes were specified by the Designer/Architect who had been discussing suitability, performance, and design of finishes with Tony Thorne, Specification Manager from Gerflor."

On installation and fitting Mark Bond added, "This was a refurbishment project with the original building being

built in the late sixty's/early seventies. We had our own survey carried out by our preferred subfloor preparation manufacturers to advise on what was required to refurbish the existing floor and provide a specification for the build-up of the substrate."

Mark Bond further said, "It was identified in the report that there was no structural DPM, and the floors were uneven and at varying levels. We applied a pre-smooth coat of smoothing underlayment to the substrate prior to applying a liquid DPM to suppress residue moisture. We then applied a topcoat of latex smoothing underlayment to achieve a smooth and even floor, so there was a lot of preparation required prior to us actually fitting the Gerflor floor finishes."

Mark Bond finally commented, "The client is extremely impressed with the end results. We regularly work with Gerflor products and recommend Gerflor where suitable, in line with our client's requirements and expectations. Gerflor's staff are particularly skilled in being able to work in collaboration and alongside both the end user clients, as well as contractors in achieving an excellent final result that is pleasing to the client and meets the complicated design brief."

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

UNITED KINGDOM

+44 (0) 1625 428 922
contractuk@gerflor.com
www.gerflor.co.uk

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

+353 (0) 42 966 1431
gerflorirl@gerflor.com
www.gerflor.ie

