

16 May 2013

Vibrant colours provide class solution for school flooring

As the £31 million flagship of Renfrewshire Council's 'Building Better Communities' project to invest in education, leisure and community facilities, there was widespread public expectation that the new Park Mains High School would be outstanding in every aspect.

Built in the grounds of the old school, the new structure serves 1,400 pupils and offers sports and cultural facilities to the wider community.

Architects Holmes Miller envisioned a strong grid pattern of orange/red facing brick panels as a unifying elevational treatment, which contrasted with a curved wall of zinc that sweeps round to meet full height glazing at the school entrance. Informed by the Curriculum for Excellence issued by Education Scotland, a three storey atrium floods the school with natural light, a motif continued with light wells throughout the teaching wings, illuminating break-out areas next to classrooms.

The client specified sheet flooring for all public spaces, including the street area, where pupils congregate at the coffee shop and canteen and is the social hub of the school. International flooring specialist Gerflor won the contract, supplying more than 6,000m² of Marmorette PUR from the DLW Linoleum range.

Craig Heap, director at Holmes Miller, said: "The choice of flooring was important to create a cohesive appearance throughout, which highlighted key spaces and maintained continuity of the design concept.

"The vibrant colour range [of Marmorette] played an important part in this process as once we'd picked the colours, walls and floors had to match."

The DLW Linoleum range offers an extensive colour palette for designers and its hard-wearing flexibility allows it to be specified in hotels, offices and retail spaces, as well as throughout education buildings. At Park Mains, Marmorette PUR was also used in the kitchens and technical classrooms, including the science labs and metalwork rooms.

Made from natural renewable products and 100 per cent recyclable, the range is suitable for use with underfloor heating and is resistant to fading. Mr Heap said: "Sustainability was very important too, as we wanted an 'excellent' BREEAM rating for the project and the flooring was integral to that."

Timeless styling makes Marmorette DLW Linoleum's most popular range. Calendered, with jute fabric backing, and available in sheets of two metre widths, its even, non-directional marbling pattern has 56 shades in 18 colour lines, offering light, medium and dark shades in every colour, as well as two coordinated lines of grey. Available in three thicknesses of 2.0mm, 2.5mm and 3.2mm, a multi-colour weld rod, called Camouflage, is available for the entire range.

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Mr Heap added: "It almost goes without saying that we wanted something durable, low-maintenance and easy to clean with low lifetime costs that was suitable for a reasonable budget."

Marmorette is offered with two finishes; PUR and LPX. The PUR chosen for Park Mains is antistatic and bacteriostatic, has a strong fire rating and is resistant to scuffs and stains. Cleaners at the school simply use hot water at the end of the day, saving money on detergents and polishes.

Mr Heap said: "We were familiar with the Gerflor product and are happy that it's standing the test of time. The client is delighted."

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FACT SHEET:

Client: Renfrewshire Council

Architect: Holmes Miller, Glasgow.

Project: Park Main High School, Erskine.

Product used: Gerflor Marmorette PUR 2.5

Size: > 2,000m²

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