

SECTOR: HEALTHCARE
CLIENT: BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
SOLUTION: SPM CORNEA 60; SPM BED KITS; SPM DECORATIVE DOOR PROTECTION; SPM DECORATIVE DECOSHEET WALL PROTECTION

Birmingham Children's Hospital is revamped with SPM Gerflor, leading the way forward as an innovator not an imitator

"Everyone likes the finished look of the wall and door protection, not just the children! The installation of the SPM products all went to programme and they perform very well. Everyone at Gerflor was really, really helpful and if we needed any assistance, explanation or samples they were brilliant."

Sylwia Flanczewska, Assistant Architect, Pinnegar Hayward Design LLP.

Introduction

Birmingham Children's Hospital was established over 140 years ago with just 16 beds; now the hospital has grown to become one of the country's four specialist children's hospitals, treating around 225,000 children each year from Birmingham, the West Midlands and, for some specialities, the whole of the UK.

In 2006, a £12m, five-floor Burns and Education Centre extension was built and SPM, Gerflor's wall protection and handrail brand, was selected as a key supplier through a ProCure21 Framework agreement, a procurement method put into place for publicly funded NHS Capital Schemes.

Gerflor and Birmingham Children's Hospital

Gerflor has extensive experience of working in the healthcare sector and the ongoing relationship with Birmingham Children's Hospital has seen SPM products used in all its refurbishment and maintenance project work. Most recently, SPM protection systems have been employed in the new state-of-the-art £2.7 million renal unit, the most advanced of its kind for children in Britain. Housed within the Burns and Education Centre extension, it will benefit over 1,500 children a year from all over the region.

Meeting the requirements

The renal unit includes a 12-bed ward, haemodialysis and a day-care area. The huge amount of time, often over years, that children spend on dialysis means that their hospital environment is particularly important. The SPM products are ideal as they not only provide protection to the building's fabric but also add colour and life to the interior spaces.

Derick Harrison, capital projects manager at Birmingham Children's Hospital, emphasises the importance of this dual role. "The degree of protection offered by the SPM products is excellent and, with the decorative patterns and colours that can be achieved, they are much more attractive than a conventional trolley rail. They're very robust and still look as good as they did when first installed in the hospital three or four years ago, with no evident marks or scuffs."

An extensive range of SPM products have been installed at Birmingham Children's Hospital including: 600m² of decorative Decosheet wall protection; 36 Cornea corner protectors for vulnerable areas; 20 bed kits to protect walls from bed-heads; and door protection for 86 door leaves in standard Wave and Iron one-colour designs and the Stratum two-colour design. The key colours for all applications were melon and apricot.



Hands on approach

Gerflor offered a full project management service for its SPM products and, for the Decosheet panels.

The company worked with the interior designer, architect and contractor to produce bespoke designs which included inlaid stars and moons and a wavy line along the top edge of the panels. From the very first sketch to the production and installation on site, the complete project was turned around in just four weeks.

The solution

The SPM product range is designed to ensure a high degree of protection to the building fabric in the most ergonomic and attractive way, providing solutions where safety, hygiene, easy maintenance, noise management and aesthetics are paramount. The colour palette available ranges from the most sober to the most daring, ensuring the various protection systems will both blend and contrast with other decorative interior elements.

Uniquely, Gerflor provides an in-house design service using CAD and precision cutting of SPM decorative frescoes with a CNC machine. This means flexibility and fast turnaround times can be offered with the finished elements delivered to site quickly and bespoke designs available to satisfy specific customer needs. Approved partners are able to undertake the full installation. On some projects, Gerflor's involvement extends to supplying flooring from its extensive product range providing a totally integrated and seamless solution.

SPM surface protection products have been used as an integral part of new build and ongoing redecoration programmes throughout hospitals and care homes in the UK.

The wall protection system satisfies multiple criteria to suit a variety of applications such as hospitals, schools, and canteen kitchens. We have perfected solutions to cater for all your needs through our extensive experience in the health sector. Our systems are designed for every situation: they resist shock, reduce wear, aid mobility, and ensure maximum hygiene.

Testimonials

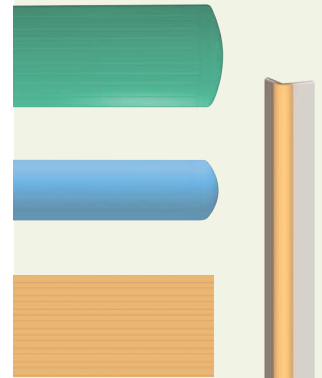
Architects Pinnegar Hayward Design LLP were responsible for the Renal Unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital and Sylwia Flanczewska, Assistant Architect, comments: "Everyone likes the finished look of the wall and door protection, not just the children! The installation of the SPM products all went to programme and they perform very well. Everyone at Gerflor was really, really helpful and if we needed any assistance, explanation or samples they were brilliant."

Derick Harrison, comments: "There isn't anything that we've asked of Gerflor that they've said that they can't do and the guys that visit us on site are always really helpful and pleasant. They've worked very well with us, provided us with what we need in a tight timeframe and have always come up with the goods."

Employed right across the healthcare sector from hospitals and clinics to care homes and public buildings, Gerflor's SPM products are used by NHS Trusts, architects, designers and contractors on projects of all sizes. The company has extensive experience of working within various procurement frameworks including - ProCure21 and Buying Solutions, the national procurement partner for UK public services, and is ready to embrace the new ProCure21+ framework.

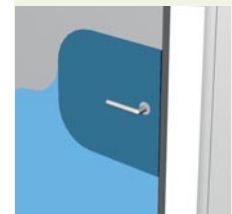
Wall Protection:

Trolley rails
Protection plates
Corner protectors
Bed head protection.



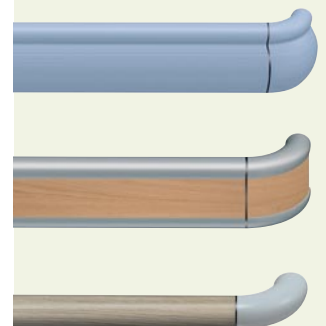
Door Protection:

Decorative protection panels and frame protection.



Handrails:

Hand and wall protection rails.



For further information on Gerflor's latest innovations:

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