

**Project:**

**Hedley McEwan Office  
Fit-out**

**Location:**

Newcastle

**Interior Designer:**

Contents Design

**Architect:**

Dene King Architectural Services

**Flooring Material:**

Coral, Sarlon, Step and Westbond  
carpet tiles

**Design Reference:**

Coral Classic warm black 4750, Sarlon  
concrete storm 433712, Westbond  
Colour citrus 9430, fallow 9841,  
flint 9570 and Surestep Stone cool  
concrete 17122





## Forbo brings an 80s riverside office back to life

When Hedley McEwan decided to refurbish its riverside offices in Newcastle, it required a floor covering that complemented the industrial feel of the building, while providing outstanding acoustic performance. As such, Contents Design specified a variety of products from Forbo Flooring Systems' wide portfolio to meet the project's brief.

Working closely with the client, Contents Design and DK Architectural Services identified that Hedley McEwan wanted to create an office space that had an industrial 'warehouse' aesthetic that would go well with the existing features of the building and provide a neutral backdrop to its vibrant branding.

Georgi Rennison-Rae, Interior Designer at Contents Design, said: "When we first started the project, most of the architectural features were hidden behind dated finishes, ceiling tiles and partitions. When exposed, the concrete soffit was in good condition, so we made the decision to choose floor coverings that aligned with the industrial architectural features of the building.

"For the meeting rooms and office areas, we specified Forbo's Sarlon acoustic vinyl in Concrete Storm – a natural exposed stone colourway – not only for its concrete-like appearance that coordinated well with the building's features, but also for its excellent acoustic performance – a must in such a busy office environment."

Forbo has 30 years' experience in manufacturing acoustic floor coverings. Its Sarlon acoustic vinyl range was specifically developed to reduce noise pollution, which is essential to promote the well-being and comfort of people working within a building.

Georgi continued: "Within the new office, we created a 'Brain Gym' that was to be used for collaborative sessions and meetings. As such, we decided to move away from the warehouse-like aesthetics and instead chose to install carpet tiles:

Forbo's Westbond in vibrant Citrus used alongside the rich grey and brown tones in Fallow and the darker shades in Flint, work together to create a stimulating, yet comfortable environment to help employees get their creative juices flowing."

Westbond is a premium dense carpet tile, which is created by fusion bonding – a sophisticated method of carpet tile manufacture, which provides the range with a luxurious feel and aesthetic. The range has an excellent broadloom appearance and is available in infinite colour possibilities.

Dene King, the architect on the project from DK Architectural Services, said: "In addition to installing Forbo's floor coverings throughout the building, we also installed its Coral Classic entrance flooring system in Warm Black. This was to ensure that dirt and moisture was removed from employees' footwear before they continued further into the building – it will certainly help to reduce cleaning and maintenance bills for our client!"

Georgi said: "Having worked extensively with Forbo before, we knew that the company offered a wide range of robust solutions that were suitable for a variety of areas. As such, we are really happy with the way the project has turned out and look forward to working with Forbo again in the very near future."

Dene commented: "I'm delighted with the outcome of the project, the previously enclosed, artificially lit spaces wasted the beautiful views of the marina, which are now maximised for the staff as they work. The industrial aesthetic we sought proved both attractive and economical, and Forbo's floor coverings made a strong contribution to the design and the overall result."

Tom Hedley, Joint Managing Director at Hedley McEwan said: "We are all over the moon with our new office! The flooring really captures the essence of the building and provides a perfect working environment for all of us at company. Thank you to everyone involved."

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