



Project:

The Hub – University of Bedfordshire

Location:

Bedford

Flooring Contractor:

Hi-Tech, Dunstable

Flooring Material:

Tessera Alignment, Westbond Flex, Westbond Naturals, Safestep R11, Coral Brush Activ, Nuway Tuftiguard

Design Reference:

Tessera Alignment nucleus 208, climate 210 & cyclone 203, celcius 209, Westbond Flex bespoke, Westbond Naturals dorset W12795U, Safestep R11 82002, Coral Brush Activ black 5830, Nuway Tuftiguard with black infills





Forbo's flooring solutions for work, rest and play at the University of Bedfordshire

Designed as a flexible education hub, the University of Bedfordshire's new £34m Campus Centre in Luton has been created to offer staff and students a stimulating environment for both learning and relaxing. Housing a 240-seat lecture theatre, exhibition space, informal learning zones, the Student Union and a variety of places to eat, the building's multi-purpose nature meant a combination of flooring solutions were required to meet the diverse needs of the space. With an impressive integrated flooring portfolio, Forbo Flooring Systems was well equipped to meet this brief.

Products from Forbo's comprehensive selection of carpet tiles formed the main component of the flooring design, which was specified by the University's Facilities and Estates department. In the corridors, common areas and offices, 3,200m² of Tessera Alignment tiles in contrasting shades of black, grey and brown – the Nucleus, Climate and Celcius colourways – were installed in a creative pattern that emphasises the linear design of the tiles.

A cleverly textured cut and loop pile gives Alignment a distinct directional theme that delivers a strong visual impact when laid broadloom. In this instance, the effect was multiplied by laying the contrasting colourways side by side, to create flooring zones separated by smooth flowing curves, which were hand cut on site by contractors Hi-Tech Flooring Ltd.

In the lecture theatre and circulation areas, 400m² of Westbond Flex in a bespoke pink shade was installed, while 120m² of Westbond Flex in a specially commissioned bright green tone was fitted in the breakout rooms. Offering absolute design control, Westbond Flex delivers a unique opportunity to create completely individual 'flecked' tiles using up to four contrasting or complementary tone-on-tone shades. Colours can be selected from the 144 rich shades of the Westbond Colour collection or can be custom dyed to match exact specifications, in quantities starting from just 1m². Providing a sharp visual contrast to the muted tones of the Alignment

tiles, the vivid shades of the Westbond Flex tiles add depth and interest to the flooring design, as well as marking out separate areas of activity within the building.

Nick Perkins, Sales Director at Hi-Tech Flooring Ltd, commented: "We've worked with Forbo for a very long time and on a project like this, where there are so many elements to piece together, it was very reassuring to know that we were sourcing everything from one supplier who wouldn't let us down. The fact that Forbo offer an integrated portfolio really helped streamline the whole ordering process – the made-to-order Westbond tiles in particular were turned around very quickly and the colours work really well together."

Nick also installed 350m² of Westbond Natural tiles in the Dorset colourway in the Campus Centre's management suite. Comprising a rich blend of natural, undyed wool, this tactile collection is an extremely sustainable and attractive choice, making it perfect for the management offices at the University. As a rapidly renewable resource, wool is one of the most environmentally friendly flooring materials available. In addition, the backing of the Westbond Natural tiles comprises up to 74% recycled material, further bolstering the eco-credentials of the product.

To complete the flooring specification, Forbo's Safestep R11 safety flooring was installed in the kitchen and food service areas, while at the building's entrances, an integrated entrance flooring system, comprising Coral Brush Activ clean-off mats and Nuway Tuftiguard rigid engineered entrance flooring, was installed.

Ash Carline, Capital Projects Manager at the University of Bedfordshire, said: "Overall we are very pleased with the flooring throughout the new Campus Centre and are potentially looking to re-specify some of the products on future projects."

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