



Project:

Matalan

Location:

Knowsley

Architect:

Fletcher Rae

Flooring Material:

Create Space 1, Surestep, Safestep, Allura Wood & Marmoleum Marbled, Create Space 2, Marmoleum Patterned, Nuway, Eternal Create Space 1 ebonite 1800, Allura central oak w60300, Create space 2 licorice 2800, Surestep laguna 181092, safestep 174952, Eternal 10262, Marmoleum Patterned grey dusk 3607, Marmoleum Marbled volcanic ash 3872, Nuway Tuftiguard 12mm grey

Design Reference:



Forbo specified throughout Maro's new Matalan HQ

A range of floor coverings from Forbo Flooring Systems' integrated and comprehensive product portfolio have been specified and installed throughout Maro Developments' prestigious bespoke new office headquarters for Matalan at Knowsley, as part of a major relocation project for the leading clothing and homeware retailer.

Maro Developments Limited appointed Manchester-based project architect Fletcher Rae to design the new building's appearance to reflect Matalan's high quality but cost effective values. For the flooring element, developer Maro, main contractor Morgan Sindall, Fletcher Rae and Forbo worked collaboratively to progress and agree the final specification.

Fletcher Rae Associate Craig Gill, explains more about the brief in terms of the flooring: "Forbo's range is ideal for office spaces. For the back of house areas that required clean, crisp and safe flooring finishes, we specified from its extensive standard safety vinyl range. For the more public spaces and common front of house areas, the team wanted to create a more prestigious feel so used Forbo's Marmoleum. However, the office areas, which form the bulk of the floor space, required a slightly different look. The brief from Maro was to deliver a high-quality finish with a real 'wow' factor."

Forbo Business Area Manager Julie Haake was given the opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of its Create Space carpet tile range.

With a dark grey and neutral colour palette agreed for the offices, the plain, single colourway of Create Space 1 in Ebonite and patterned nature of the striped loop design of Create Space 2 in Licorice, provided infinite installation opportunities in terms of design. "Nothing was too much trouble for Forbo," said Craig. "Julie organised for a trial area to be set-up supplying several boxes of the Create Space product so that the team could experiment with the pattern layout. This resulted in an interesting

flooring solution that fits with the shape of the building and flow of the furniture."

In terms of the product itself he goes on to say: "Create Space adhered to the requirements and more. It met both the construction and performance demands but the design flexibility and quality delivered a better finish overall than other products we had considered."

Other Forbo products featured include linoleum from its Marmoleum Patterned and Marbled collections. These were installed in some of the stairwells and tech rooms, which had a requirement for a durable, resilient floor finish.

Slip resistant Surestep and Safestep vinyls were installed in the shower rooms, back of house areas and kitchen areas. Demonstrating that its luxury vinyl tile offers best value for money for the performance required, Forbo's Allura LVT now features in an oak wood effect throughout the staff canteen. Eternal General Purpose Vinyl was fitted in one of the meeting rooms and 12mm grey Nuway Tuftiguard installed to the main entrance of this impressive headquarters office.

Commenting on Forbo's products and service, John Schofield, Morgan Sindall Senior Design Manager, said: "The Forbo materials met Maro's brief in terms of quality, life expectancy plus ease of maintenance and cleaning requirements. Forbo put a lot of time and effort into the project in terms of providing numerous samples and alternative colours. Over the last 10 years or so, whenever I have worked with Forbo on various projects, they have always provided exemplary customer service and have been great to work with."

Bringing together Matalan's key operations in the North of England, Maro has provided 600,000 sq ft of distribution facilities, 132,000 sq ft of office accommodation, staff training and conferencing, creating a modern and contemporary environment for this growing business

