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**Eleanor Harris**

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British Airways i360

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of Culture

**Grand Stade de Lyon**

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Olympique Lyonnais



**New cultural hub for Berkeley**

The new home for Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive opens for business



# Making a statement

**The University of Kent partnered with Karndean Designflooring for its award-winning nautical and industrial inspired student bar and bistro.**

LUXURY vinyl flooring from Karndean Designflooring has been installed in the University of Kent's award-winning CARGO bar and bistro at Liberty Quays, Medway.

Designed by London interior design practice Stiff + Trevillion, which counts Wagamama and Jamie Oliver among its clients, the student hospitality venue offers a nautical and industrial-style design complete with a statement concrete effect floor design.

Taking inspiration from its maritime base at the Medway, the university's in-house team selected Karndean's large rectangular Opus Urbus SP213 design with its stormy mix of light and grey tones over a hard stone concrete floor.

"Having initially considered a real stone floor, we were immediately concerned with the practicalities of maintaining a concrete floor, and ensuring it retained its original beauty," says Keith Williams, head of trading at University of Kent.

With previous experience of Karndean, the university chose to replace the original

design brief with a LVT stone effect design, and add a contrasting wood effect to enhance our overall concept.

To distinguish and zone out the bar and bistro areas, Karndean's Urbus tile has been paired with Karndean's authentic, mid wood rustic timber effect Opus Ignea WP313 planks. The large (36" x 6") planks offer a modern look and feel against the complementary Opus tile design, thus creating a contemporary feel.

"Having a central location with direct access from the street, we required a floorcovering to withstand high traffic and offer ease of maintenance.

"Our Karndean floor delivered the functionality and visual finish required to complete our design, as well as being soft underfoot and suitable to cope with spillsages," says Williams.

Winner of the U Dine Award for Best Bar Concept 2015, which recognises and rewards universities that are embracing and delivering the latest high street food and beverage trends to their students,

CARGO bar and bistro is used by more than 20,000 students.

Its central location is a first for University of Kent – combining the high street experience with the care of a university outlet.

"It's fantastic to see CARGO bar and bistro showcasing our Opus in place of real wood and stone. Interestingly, whereas architects and interior designers would have previously looked to real wood or stone in hospitality and student union bars, they are now specifying authentic wood and stone effect LVT for its practicality and design capabilities," said Paul Barratt, managing director of Karndean Designflooring.

"The extra-large rectangular tile and contrasting mid wood design, certainly makes a statement in this contemporary and urban area where students at the University of Kent can relax and enjoy this space." ■

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