

WINNER



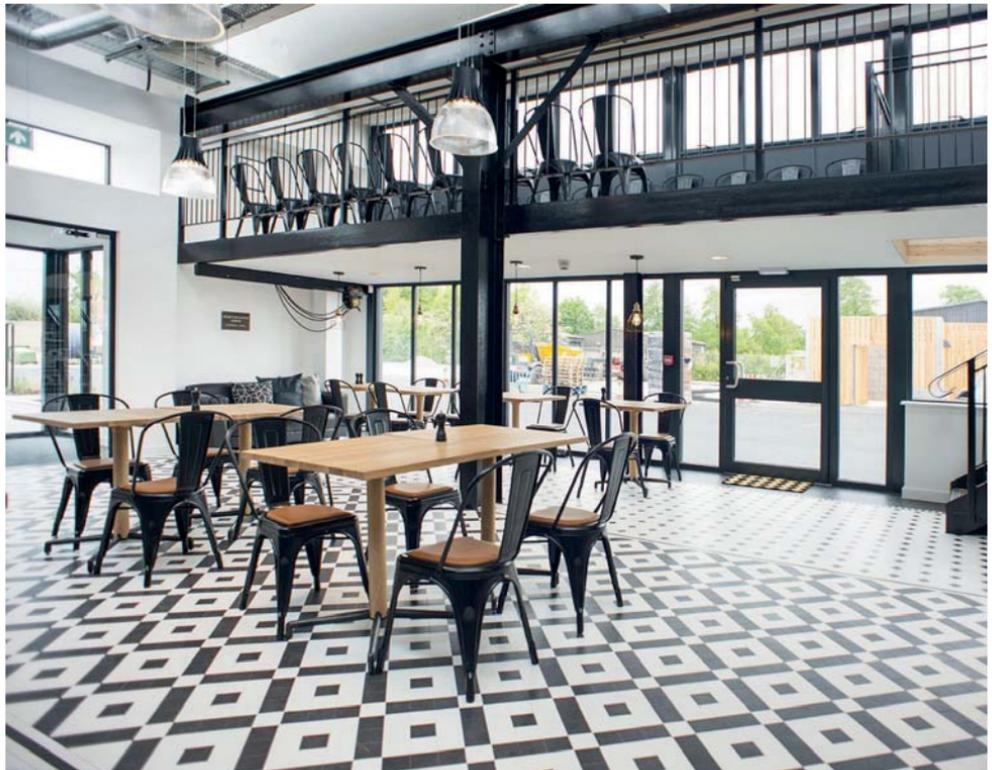
THE CFJ / CFA AWARDS 2020

FLOORING IN BARS & RESTAURANTS

KARNDÉAN DESIGN FLOORING WITH RB FLOORING AT TOOL & GAUGE KITCHEN, CLIFTON, SOMERSET

Tool & Gauge Kitchen is a café and shared kitchen facility located within the Frome Business Park in Somerset, converted from a disused warehouse to provide a unique hub space with a residential design for a warm friendly atmosphere.

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INSTALLATION OF THE YEAR

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Tool & Gauge Kitchen is a café and shared kitchen facility located in the Frome Business Park in Somerset, converted from a disused warehouse to provide a unique hub space with a residential design for a warm friendly atmosphere. Designing the prominent café space at the heart of the development, the team at Interaction was keen that the flooring complemented the industrial monochrome style of the centre yet offered a practical surface with heaps of character.

The design offers a contemporary social space where people can eat, drink and connect, with a modern monochrome look that respects the building's industrial history. Key to the success of the design was the flooring which needed to provide a practical surface with plenty of character and a sense of intrigue.

The large open-plan space offered a challenge for the designers to create a flooring that was interesting yet uncluttered. The flooring design combines a number of complementary geometric patterns from Kardean's Heritage Collection with coordinating borders to create zones and walkways, identifying different working areas and supporting wayfinding.

Completing the look, a bespoke hand cut design on the stairs to the upper office spaces offers a quirky humorous feature.

Problems and how overcome

The building benefits from extensive windows which floods the space with light. This high light-level could show up surface dirt and stains on any flooring, so a highly durable floor was required. Kardean's Heritage Collection features tiles with a 0.55mm wear-layer and K Guard+ PU coating to shrug off spills and stains,

a smooth surface for easy cleaning and a micro-bevelled edge that provides a realistic tile look without interfering with ease of maintenance.

Sustainability aspects

Kardean flooring was chosen owing to its flexibility, hard wearing surface and easy maintenance. Important for a busy hospitality setting, the surface is resistant to damage caused by everyday heavy footfall and regular movement of tables and chairs.

The durable construction of Kardean Designflooring's LVT gives the flooring longevity, with a 15-year commercial guarantee, reducing waste over the long-term.

Kardean Designflooring is committed to reducing its impact on the environment. Kardean flooring products are manufactured in factories certified to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management and ISO 9001 Quality Management International Standards, with all manufacturing waste recycled in a closed loop process. The manufacturing process uses a polymer that has a lower energy requirement than that of other plastics and all packaging is made using recycled material

How you worked with the installer

Kardean's commercial team worked closely with Tool & Gauge Kitchen, Interaction and RB Flooring throughout the project to ensure the flooring provided would meet all requirements and any issues occurring could be quickly rectified. During the design process, full technical specification information, samples and moodboards were provided to help the client envisage what the finished flooring would look like.

Prior to installation, Kardean's in-house production team worked to an agreed design layout to laser cut each Heritage Collection tile design and bespoke cut for the stairs. The success of a bespoke floor depends on the accuracy of the layout plans, and thus on the trust built up between client, designer, installer and manufacturer.

End-user comment

Zoe Parr, designer at Interaction, said: 'We've had a long-standing relationship with Kardean and knew we could turn to them to bring to life the flooring for Frome Business Park's café area. With the vision to keep some of the building's original features, while also instilling a modern feel, it was important to select tiling that would reflect the vision for the space.'

'Kardean provides an extensive array of vinyl tiles and we knew that they would be able to realise the design we had in mind - the look of porcelain Victorian tiling but without the cost. As always, the products Kardean provide are of a fantastic quality and we knew we could trust them when it came to something so intricate. The finished look is amazing!'





Seven considerations for specifying flooring in community living spaces

Community living can offer both high quality, convenient housing as well as a sense of community. But how can we design and live in these shared spaces so that everyone can thrive, even in challenging times? **Fleur Carson, commercial sales director at Karndean Designflooring, looks at seven considerations for specifying flooring in co-living spaces.**

Designing for resilience

The co-living model emphasises togetherness and promotes social interaction through the use of shared spaces. However, the current situation has certainly highlighted the importance of personal safety. So, whilst the benefits of open plan communal spaces remain, designing in adaptability such as including smaller break-out activity spaces can help residents manage any social distancing needs.

Creating a sense of identity

A community living development creates a sense of vitality and belonging when it is embedded in its locality. The interaction between private and communal indoor and outdoor spaces can encourage the neighbourly interactions that build relationships. By incorporating design elements that are inspired by the local environment and cultural history, a co-living development can offer an interesting narrative that will link with the wider society in a constructive and sustainable way.

Boosting wellness and wellbeing

There is now a wider awareness across society of the importance of access to nature and the benefits of the natural world on our mental wellbeing and this translates into an appreciation of the connectivity of a home with its outside spaces. Nature inspired designs using natural patterns, materials and planting, with large windows and easy egress to liveable green spaces, will create a relaxing environment that is sure to be increasingly desirable.

Practicality and hygiene

With a greater emphasis on health and infection control, co-living projects will need to provide reassurance that systems are in place to protect the most vulnerable in society. Environmental issues such as air quality and hygiene can be managed with solutions such as air filtration systems, no-touch technology and easy-clean surfaces. Specifying a flooring that will resist stains, allergens and microbes and that is simple to maintain will support a cleaner, healthier environment.

Managing noise levels

Noise disturbance is known to be a significant environmental stress factor so the use of materials with enhanced acoustic benefits is key in shared buildings. The choice of flooring can have a significant impact on the noise generated by footsteps and everyday

activities such as moving chairs and other furnishings. For multi-level developments in particular, specifying a flooring with a pre-attached acoustic backing will significantly reduce noise transfer to the floor below and help meet building regulations.

Combining durability and style

While durability is of key importance when specifying flooring, there's no need to compromise on style. Luxury vinyl flooring can offer the stunning looks of natural wood and stone but with all the practical benefits of the latest manufacturing technology. With outstanding flexibility, bespoke designs can be imagined with an almost endless combination of products and laying patterns to create individual personality in connecting spaces or to highlight different activity zones.

Challenging deadlines

With developments operating under challenging timeframes, a flooring that is quick to install could be the answer. With no need for a separate underlay, selecting an easy-fit rigid core or loose lay design will ensure that projects can meet tight deadlines and achieve a beautiful and hard-wearing floor that will look great for years to come.

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