

BUSH HOUSE, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

A Case Study

Milliken™

LONDON

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Carpet shown : Naturally Drawn - Hand Sketched with additional custom design features

Background

Kings College London was undertaking a landmark project to refurbish and restore Bush House, situated on the Strand at one of the city's most iconic locations. After 70 years of occupation by the BBC World Service, the Grade II listed building and its four adjoining buildings, extending out to Aldwych, were to be transformed into a state of the art education and learning facility for students.

This challenging project was to play an important role in affirming Kings College's position as a world leading educational institution. Having worked on the restoration of the building, John Roberston Architects (JRA) were appointed by the estates team at Kings to develop an aesthetic for the interior that would combine the best of Bush House's heritage with the diverse requirements of a modern university.



Carpet shown : Naturally Drawn - Hand Sketched with additional custom design features

"We were keen to create a coherent and bespoke aesthetic that would deliver a modern, dynamic working environment for students and staff, while celebrating the magnificent heritage and original 1920's features of the building."

John Roberston Architects

Design approach

The Kings College campus spans 30,000m², housing a broad mix of functional spaces, including a 400 seat auditorium, lecture theatres, seminar rooms, academic offices, student services facilities and a new central pavilion.

For such a significant building project, Kings College's Head of Estates was keen to be hands-on throughout the process of developing the interior aesthetic and product specification, including the selection of flooring to be installed.

Working closely together with the interior team at JRA, Milliken's education flooring specialists prepared an initial 300m² installation of carpet for a performance assessment. As a result of the trial, Milliken was asked to create a full design scheme for the project.

The industry leading performance of Milliken's cushion backed modular carpet clearly became an important factor in the flooring specification. A combination of products with Milliken's Comfort Plus[®] and Comfort Lite cushion backings were used throughout the building, delivering a number of performance benefits. Acting as an insulating shock absorber, the cushion backing helps absorb the impact of foot traffic, reducing wear and damage. As the face fibre is protected, its appearance is retained, extending the carpet's life by up to 50%. Additionally, the sound absorbency of the cushion also helps in reducing the impact and ambient noise around the building.

In the Department of Informatics and adjoining seminar rooms, Isotherm with Comfort Plus[®] from Milliken's Arctic Survey collection was installed with purple (front cover) and acid green accents from the Colour Compositions range, complimenting the wall and signage colours. The striking plank format injects added drama into the space.

The subtle ribbed effect of Hand Sketched from Milliken's Naturally Drawn design collection was chosen as a backdrop for the sweeping corridor spaces of the English Language, Careers and Student Services departments. These were then customised using Milliken's Millitron[®] digital design technology

to create a truly unique look. The transitioning colours of Hand Sketched with overlays of bold triangular features in blues, rusts and greens were used to stunning effect and co-ordinate harmoniously with the furnishings and wall colours.

The tonal, sprayed look of Street Art from Milliken's Culture Canvas collection provides the open spaces with a contemporary aesthetic that works hard to perform against wear and soiling. In corridors darker colours were used at the edges to aid direction and wayfinding.

In the auditoria, the light and delicate lines of Circle Top View from the Clerkenwell design collection was selected in the soft brown of Spontaneous City to blend with the inlays in the desk surfaces.

For the staff office areas, the Omni-directional Admit One design was used with coloured accent tiles installed randomly throughout the space for added interest.

The initial refurbishment of Bush House reached BREEAM Excellent standard. JRA has built on this by exclusively using FSC certified timber, sustainably sourced furniture and zero VOC paint. For the flooring, Milliken modular carpet with ECONYL[®] 100% regenerated yarn and 90% recycled polyurethane cushion backing also made an important contribution to achieving this prestigious project's sustainability goals.

Milliken's broader environmental leadership in the flooring sector was also an important consideration for both the architectural and Kings College estates teams. The fact that the product is designed and produced in the UK at Milliken's manufacturing plant in Lancashire was an additional driving factor in the flooring specification.

"In specifying the flooring for undertaking at Bush House, we felt that the Milliken team really understood our requirements. Their impressive design capabilities and outstanding product performance were integral to the success of the project."

Head of Estates, King's College



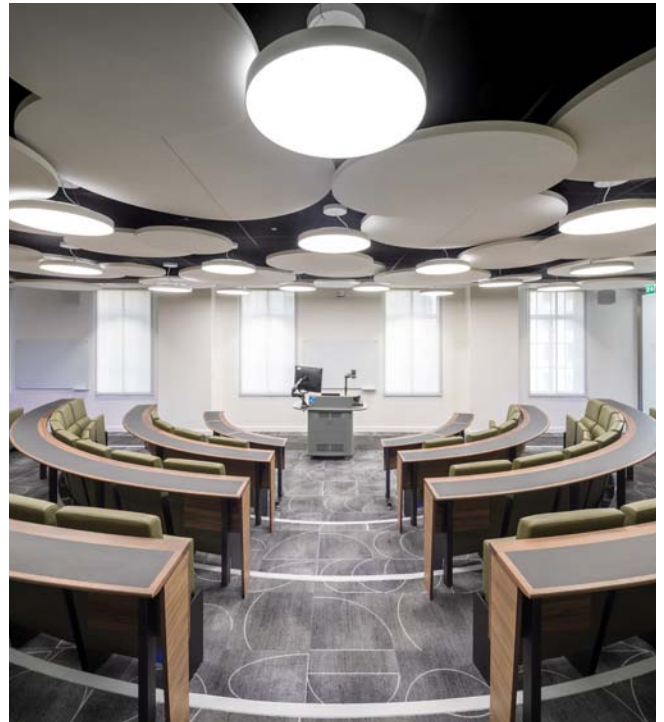
Carpet shown : Omni - Admit One



Carpet shown : Culture Canvas - Street Art



Carpet shown : Arctic Survey - Isotherm with Colour Compositions



Carpet shown : Clerkenwell - Circle Top View

Client : Bush House, King's College London
Architect : John Robertson Architects
Carpet : Milliken - Arctic Survey / Clerkenwell / Colour Compositions / Culture Canvas / Naturally Drawn / Omni
Photographers : Gareth Gardner and Matt Livey

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 for more information.
T +44 (0) 1942 612777 (UK)

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