

9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## **Gerflor and Gradus delivers Flooring and Interiors Excellence for International Plywood's Gloucester Facility**

Gloucester-based International Plywood has recently completed a state-of-the-art new build for their main office complex. This impressive development incorporated a comprehensive interior design scheme featuring flooring and finishing solutions from Gerflor, an international flooring specialist, and Gradus, a UK manufacturer of comprehensive range of contract interior solutions. The vast array of products installed were selected for their outstanding and striking aesthetics and the high standards of safety and durability required by the End User, for which both Gerflor and Gradus products are world-renowned and recognised for. Solutions included the world class Creation LVT, Gradus Lunar Carpets, Mipolam Planet, Gradus XT and BasicZ stair edgings, Gradus SureProtect Pure Wall protection and Gradus Mat-in-a-Box.

Since its formation in 1981, Gloucester-based International Plywood has earned its reputation through a commitment to friendly, informal service alongside delivering professional, high-quality results. International Plywood focuses on supplying customers with the right panel solutions, backed by their extensive industry experience. With consistent growth from a turnover of £14 million in 1998 to over £150 million in 2020, their success reflects the reliability and quality of their products and service.

For this project, Gerflor delivered a comprehensive range of flooring solutions tailored to the needs of the office environment. Central to the design was the seamless integration of Creation 55 Looselay flooring with the Gradus Lunar carpet tiles. Sharing the same thickness, these innovative products enabled a smooth and uninterrupted transition between areas, without the need for joining strips, resulting in a unified and visually appealing finish throughout the space.

Adding a vibrant touch to the back stairway, Mipolam Planet in Aventurine, a bright green shade, offered a durable and low-maintenance solution for this high-traffic area. Safety was prioritised on the staircases, with Gradus XT stair edgings enhancing slip resistance and visibility on the main stairway, while Gradus BasicZ stair edgings provided a practical and cost-effective option for the back stairs.

To further promote hygiene and durability, Gradus SureProtect Pure wall protection was installed in the shower rooms and toilets. Its' impact resistance and easy-to-clean surface made it an essential addition to these spaces. At the entranceway, Gradus Mat-in-a-Box played a critical role in trapping dirt and moisture, preserving the quality of the interior flooring and ensuring safety throughout the building.

Chris Pursey, Gerflor's Specification Area Sales Manager - Flooring, explained, "Stanley Partnership Architects approached us to specify flooring solutions that included luxury vinyl tile, safety and homogeneous flooring, carpet tiles, entrance matting, stair edgings, and even hygienic wall cladding for bathrooms. The range of Gerflor and Gradus products were installed across various locations throughout the complex, from offices and corridors to stairs, bathrooms, staff areas, and toilets."

Chris Pursey, further emphasised the design impact of the materials used. Located on a brownfield site with excellent M5 access, the project allowed for close oversight of the seamless integration of Gerflor and Gradus products. Chris commented further "The Creation 55 LVT Looselay tiles paired effortlessly with Gradus Lunar carpet tiles, eliminating the need for joining strips and achieving a high-quality interior finish. Additionally, the incorporation of plywood alongside these elements contributed a unique and visually striking dimension to the design."

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Ian Cartwright, Gradus Specification Area Sales Manager – Wall Protection, commented, “The accessories we provided, including the stair edgings and wall protection systems, were vital in ensuring the project met both safety and aesthetic requirements. From improved stair visibility to enhanced hygiene in wet areas, the Gradus solutions added long-term value to the space and contributed to the seamless integration of functionality and design.”

Stanley Partnership Architects, who have collaborated with Gerflor on past projects, specified Gerflor’s flooring for its versatility and suitability for multiple spaces. They also desired a complete solution and were looking for specification support on the wall protection and stair edgings requirements for the facility and were pleased to be able to source this from Gradus, which is a part of the Gerflor Group.

Stanley Partnership Architects were founded in 1978, this family-run firm, based in Cheltenham, is a multi-disciplined practice that provides a diverse range of architectural services. Their national portfolio of services are suitable for both Professional & Domestic clients in Housing, Private extensions/remodelling and also the Commercial sectors.

Director Andy Hobdey of Stanley Partnership Architects explained that the client approached them shortly after purchasing the site, seeking architectural support for planning conditions, building regulations, and the construction phase. With the site intended to serve as the company’s headquarters and main warehouse, the project presented a rare opportunity to create a well-designed, bright, and inspiring workspace for the employees, made possible by the client’s clear vision and commitment.

On specification Andy Hobdey went on to say, “We already had an existing relationship with the Gerflor team and knew immediately that their innovative product ranges would give us the versatility and durability required for the spaces we wanted to create. There is a wide choice of contemporary finishes that are recognised for their outstanding technical performance especially, when it comes to the safety of users.”

Andy Hobdey further added “It was of immense value to also be able to access and specify the Gradus Wall Protection and Accessory Stair edging products as part of the iconic project, having the relationship with Gerflor enabled us to fast track the project and also include the finishing solutions from the Gradus offer to be a part of the renovation project”.

Reflecting on his experience with the project, Ian Cartwright noted that working with his counterpart Chris Pursey from Gerflor, at the start of the installation phase, highlighted the impressive and diverse range of products Gerflor can supply for commercial interior refurbishment and new build projects.

Ian Cartwright went on to further add “As a combined business, we are able to offer our clients complete solutions ranging from high quality floorings such as LVT, Carpets, Safeties, Homogeneous vinyl’s from Gerflor, alongside our Gradus entrance matting, stair edgings and wall protection systems, this is a comprehensive complete solution which makes specification and purchasing even easier for all our customers.”

Andy Hobdey highlighted that the support provided by the Gerflor and Gradus teams during construction, along with the finished results, surpassed expectations. Based on positive feedback from both the client and their workforce regarding the completed offices and ancillary spaces, Hobdey expressed confidence in returning to Gerflor and Gradus for future projects.

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Andy Hobdey concluded, "The client and our teams are highly impressed with the final interior finish, this prestigious project required careful and thoughtful selection of building construction products, that would seamlessly work with the design vision we wanted to create for the end user. It has achieved this and could not have been possible without the support of the Gerflor and Gradus teams. We would not hesitate to use Gerflor and Gradus again in future specifications."

Summing up the project Chris Pursey concluded, "Being part of this world class project was incredibly rewarding. The range of Gerflor and Gradus solutions which were installed throughout the facility, showcased our ability to provide an end-to-end comprehensive solution for a variety of applications, resulting in a visually and functionally exceptional finish."

### **Gerflor Company Overview**

Gerflor manufactures a comprehensive range of interior flooring solutions tailored for office buildings, including vinyl, linoleum, carpets, and rubber. Gerflor's innovative designs enhance both the functionality and aesthetics of office spaces, while providing durable protection for interiors. Their solutions are proven to extend the lifespan of office buildings and reduce long-term maintenance costs. By partnering with office-based clients, Gerflor ensures that work environments are safe, accessible, and appealing for all occupants.

### **Overview of Gerflor products specified**

#### **Creation 55 Looselay LVT**

The Creation 55 Essential LVT Collection offers versatility with options available in Dryback, and selected references in Solid Clic, Rigid Acoustic, and Looselay formats. The exclusive Protecshield™ Treatment adds an invisible layer that prevents micro-scratches and dirt buildup without altering the collection's matte finish, ensuring the flooring maintains its appearance while simplifying and reducing maintenance costs. With a durable 0.55mm wear layer, the collection is REACH-compliant, Phthalate-free, formaldehyde-free, and contains recycled content, with the added benefit of recyclability at end-of-life.

A standout feature of the Creation 55 Essential Collection is its Mix and Match capability, enabling specifiers to seamlessly combine, contrast, and blend designs not only within the Creation 55 range but also with the Gradus Lunar carpet tile collection. This approach delivers unique, tailored flooring schemes with remarkable flexibility, offering an almost limitless palette for clients to create customised floor plans that fulfil both aesthetic and functional requirements.

#### **Lunar Carpet Tile**

Lunar is a tufted loop pile carpet tile which can be randomly laid, it is available in eight eye-catching colourways and is on trend. Its unique designs reflect the mountain ranges of the moon. From the ethereal 'Janssen' through to 'Jura' and 'Moro' the myriad of colour choices stimulated in design by our nearest celestial body will both inspire and delight Designers and Specifiers alike. The Lunar carpet tile can also be mixed and matched with the Creation LVT ranges for a bespoke and customised look.

Lunar is perfect for office interiors, a host of education applications and many other contract environments. Lunar is available in a 500mm x 500mm format, it is made using 100% solution dyed nylon yarn, and the bitumen backing contains 75% recycled material providing outstanding levels of performance and comfort.

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The Lunar Carpet collection is also available with a 12-year wear warranty and a 10-year anti-static warranty, as standard, a true commitment to its life longevity and quality.

#### **Tarasafe Impression**

The Tarasafe Impression Collection is a visually impressive safety flooring range featuring realistic wood and mineral finishes aligned with contemporary office design trends. Ideal for both refurbishments and new office builds, this versatile floor covering is suited for high-traffic areas where slip resistance is essential. With 18 design-led colour options, Tarasafe Impression is ideal for creating safe, stylish interiors in office spaces, healthcare, education, and public buildings.

Engineered with reliable safety features, Tarasafe Impression is designed for medium- to high-traffic applications, with a compact backing reinforced by glass fibre and a printed design protected by a transparent wear layer. It meets  $\geq 36$  HSE guidelines and has an R11 rating with a 20RTMRz micro surface roughness measurement, ensuring a low slip risk even in wet conditions.

This durable, 2mm-thick flooring includes a 0.70mm wear layer and a revolutionary UV-cured PUR treatment that enhances hygiene and simplifies maintenance. The ProtecSol<sup>®</sup> Control surface treatment further ensures easy cleaning and upkeep, making it a low-maintenance, long-lasting choice for office interiors where aesthetics and safety are equally valued. Developed to leave a strong impression, Tarasafe Impression combines inspired design with superior slip resistance and durability, ideal for both new build and refurbishment office projects.

#### **Mipolam Planet**

Mipolam Planet is part of a versatile range of high-performance homogeneous compact flooring solutions. Treated with Evercare<sup>™</sup>, an advanced and exclusive surface treatment, this vinyl flooring is scuff-resistant and requires no waxing or polishing to maintain its appearance and colour vibrancy over time. The combination of Evercare<sup>™</sup> with anti-bacterial and fungicidal treatments ensures that stains such as blood and iodine can be easily and hygienically removed using minimal water and detergent. This not only reduces maintenance costs but also helps lower the environmental impact.

#### **Gradus Company Overview**

Gradus is a leading manufacturer of comprehensive interior solutions for office buildings, offering products such as stair edgings, floor trims, barrier matting, lighting, and wall protection. Gradus innovations are designed to create attractive and functional environments that enhance the aesthetic and safety of office spaces. These solutions contribute to the longevity of a building while helping to reduce long-term maintenance costs. Gradus works closely with office building developers and managers to ensure that spaces are safe, accessible, and well-maintained for all users.

#### **Overview of Gradus products specified.**

#### **SureProtect Pure Wall Protection**

Gradus has been manufacturing, supplying, and fitting wall protection systems to the UK and International markets for 25 years and provides one of the most extensive wall protection systems available today.

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SureProtect Pure is a hygienic wall cladding system designed for use in shower and toilet facilities within office buildings. It provides superior surface protection, creating an impenetrable barrier against moisture and bacteria, while also offering resistance to impact damage. The smooth, easy-to-clean surface is a perfect alternative to traditional ceramic tiles, eliminating the need for grout that can trap bacteria and dirt.

Available in 21 colours, SureProtect Pure can be coordinated to complement most office interior designs. A variety of finishing options in matching colours are also available, ensuring a seamless, professional look for high-traffic areas like shower and toilet facilities.

#### **Gradus Mat-In-A-Box Entrance Matting**

The Gradus Mat-In-A-Box Barrier Matting is a modular barrier matting system, designed to capture dirt and moisture – keeping floors cleaner for longer. Individual sections clip together, meaning quick and easy on-site assembly, minimising overall disruption. Constructed from 100% polypropylene wipers and a black or grey PVC base: incorporating flexible PVC pads for noise reduction.

#### **Gradus XT and BasicZ Stair Edgings**

XT Stair Edgings are the ultimate stair edging solutions comprising of bronze, aluminium or PVC-u Hardnose channels. A unique insert design extends around the leading edge of the stair edging to ensure maximum safety underfoot. A choice of pvc inserts are available, as well as a new metal castellated insert for use with XT bronze and XT aluminium channels.

They can be used in conjunction with floorcoverings from all major manufacturers and are suitable for interior use in all commercial and most industrial applications. They are supported by recommendations from BRE and the guidance contained within BS 8300-2:2018 and Approved Document M (ADM) of the Building Regulations 2000. Building owners and specifiers can choose XT safe in the knowledge that these innovations offers the ultimate solution in product design and performance to protect all groups of building users.

BASICZ™ Stair Edgings are renowned for their high quality and are ideal for internal use within most commercial applications. Featuring 2 new wide channel ramp back profiles, there are now 11 profile options to suit the most popular step shapes and common floorcovering types. Gradus have also increased the number of available insert colours to 20, ensuring that clients have an option to suit their colour and LRV needs. Customers can also take the risk out of measuring and book their FREE stair edging measure with the Gradus team of surveyors (UK mainland only).

#### **Contact Details for Further Information**

Learn more about **Gerflor** solutions, ask for a free sample or contact us to speak to a specialist today by calling 01625 428 922 , emailing [contractuk@gerflor.com](mailto:contractuk@gerflor.com), or visiting [gerflor.co.uk](http://gerflor.co.uk) for the latest innovations.

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