



Central Library Manchester

Ryder
Architecture used a mixture of stone tiles, terrazzo, resin

and hardwood parquet flooring in its scheme for Manchester Central Library. Matching or complementing the original materials within the Grade II listed building was crucial.

The terrazzo effect floor by RSL was completely bespoke. 'We went through at least 10 different samples before we were happy with it,' says Graham Cavanagh, associate at Ryder. The floor starts at the main entrance hall and continues to the new circulation core. The colour option selected ensures the terrazzo floor sits happily in the space, providing a long-lasting surface that will stand up to the footfall and still look great in 10 years' time.

For the new circulation stair, Ryder used Cumbrian limestone (Baycliff Lord from Burlington Stone). 'Locally sourced and beautiful, it is a great match for the original Derbyshire limestone tiles [Hopton Wood] on the walls of the entrance hall, again vital for a heritage project,' says Cavanagh. A dark stone nosing was incorporated for contrast, ensuring that the range of stones are all complementary and hardwearing.

'The right flooring is essential to set the mood of a space but it can go unnoticed,' he explains. 'Usually it's when something goes wrong that it gets attention, so beautiful floors have to be fit for purpose.' ryderarchitecture.com; resinsurfaces.co.uk

Generator London exudes quirky character. Left, new stone flooring blends in at Manchester Central Library



Generator Hostel London

Generator London has relaunched its flagship hostel with a new-look design, complete with piano lounge, cafe and quirky features. These include a graffiti-

daubed London bus-cum-DJ-booth.

Located in a former police station in Russell Square, the new interiors express the dynamism of London's bustling streets. Acrylicize was commissioned to add creative detail to the walls and floors. The art collective is known for its unique brand of art, fusing graffiti, graphics and bespoke pieces made in-house at its Shoreditch studio.

The overall creative direction and design language for Generator London have been crafted by The Design Agency led by Anwar Mekhayech, partner and Generator's creative director. The emphasis is on bold and exciting social spaces drawing on the central London location. Mekhayech explains: 'Flooring for hospitality spaces usually gets value engineered since they get covered with people, but we felt that the long narrow

spaces that can be viewed from a far angle usually need some sort of definition.'

Acrylicize founder and creative director James Burke comments: 'We spray-painted triangle graphics in colours inspired by the camouflage patterns on British naval ships from the Sixties and Seventies. Elsewhere, we drew on wayfinding from the London Underground as a unique way to not only provide signage, but also to decorate the industrial feel of the space.'

'For the luggage room, vinyl dots can be seen decorating the floors and all the way up to the ceiling, inspired by Yayoi Kasama.' acrylicize.com

