

FX 326

ELIZABETH LINE DESIGN SEMINAR DAVID HARBER RAA PROFILE FX AWARDS

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FLOWERS AND DANCE

*This Japanese dance
space manipulates the
form to bring about the
effect of the design*





Clockwise An office meeting pod designed to create a domestic haven. The bubbleHUB co-working space features a glass panel in the floor, displaying the original Victorian era cobbles beneath. The Spark44 White Collar Factory features a floor marker line of red flexiglass to divide the room. A close-up of the red flexiglass.

Q&A

Nigel Tresise, director at Align, says that guiding sometimes risk-averse clients towards new possibilities has become an important design task



Which flooring materials do you particularly like working with and why?

I really love the texture and warmth under foot of Marmoleum. It is a natural product and the CO₂ absorbed through photosynthesis when the raw materials are growing is less than the CO₂ exhausted during the production process, so it's also truly carbon neutral.

How do you keep up to date with the latest flooring products on the market? Is there scope for using some of the very latest material technology in projects or do clients tend to insist that you stick with established 'tried and tested' solutions?

There's often a pressure from clients who are risk averse and tend not to be early adopters of new technology but we have recently expanded our team to include a sustainability



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researcher to keep us up to date on new developments. We're also moving towards clients not just accepting a box-ticking approach to sustainability and expecting a much deeper justification and analysis of product claims.

If budget was no object, what kinds of flooring materials would you love to use on projects?

I love wood floors (in the right setting) and some of the reclaimed decorative parquet products that are around now are wonderful.

How can designers look to exploit the potential of creative flooring, both in terms of design ideas and material choices, in a range of different applications?

We tend to start our design schemes from the ground-up and so the flooring scheme tends to kick off the creative



process. Functional parameters are crucial to ensure the floor will perform from the perspectives of acoustics, durability, slip resistance and so on, and once we have zoned out the operational elements, we can start on colour, texture and materiality.

Have you been involved in any recent projects that have provided particular challenges or opportunities for trying new ideas for a flooring solution?

We're currently working on a manufacturing facility that requires really high levels of slip resistance. The standard options for these areas have been traditionally quite boring so it's been really fun pushing the boundaries on what we can achieve visually whilst still maintaining the operational requirements.

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