Altro bring colour and design flair to pioneering London trust

Altro Suprema™, Altro Whiterock Digiclad™

Altro Suprema and Altro Whiterock Digiclad are being used at Whittington Health to help create a more relaxing, visually-appealing space for its pioneering £3m Ambulatory Care Centre while also providing the highest levels of safety, hygiene and reliability.

Project architect Ben Monteagle of Levitt Bernstein explains Whittington Health’s vision for this new space, and how he brought it to life with a striking, yet practical solution.

“Our realisation of that vision was to use colours in very creative ways through wall artwork depicting local scenery, such as Hampstead Heath, woodland and ponds.

“We were delighted when Altro suggested we use Altro Whiterock Digiclad for the artwork as this was a cost-effective way to integrate artworks within a clinical environment. Altro Whiterock Digiclad is robust and easy to maintain, and it absolutely met our aim to integrate practical with aesthetics. It gave us a lot of scope for design.”

Ben Monteagle continues: “We also developed a way-finding strategy, to help patient navigation, which uses coloured leaves embedded into the flooring. The flooring itself needed to be very practical, with excellent slip resistance, and a neutral base which would act as a good backdrop for the colourful design within the centre.”

“The aim for the Ambulatory Care Centre was to create a space that didn't look clinical or institutional,” says Ben. “The Trust wanted patient wellbeing to be a key factor, using a design that flowed, that was relaxing, colourful, visually appealing, full of light and with large open spaces where patients could relax and feel at home. In essence, a contemporary area that didn't look like a hospital.
They chose Altro Suprema safety flooring, a non-sparkle safety flooring available in 40 shades which is already used elsewhere in the hospital.

Main contractor, Overbury, appointed Jemic, an Altro Whiterock Premier Installer to install the Altro Whiterock Digiclad. Jemic MD Matt Robinson says: “The design of the build evolved over time. This showed just how easy and flexible Altro Whiterock Digiclad is to work with. The product is prepared off-site, but we were still able to make alterations when we arrived, to fit in with new designs, with some additional finishing and cutting.”

The Altro Suprema flooring was installed by Loughton Contracts, which has more than 30 years’ experience installing Altro products. Loughton Senior Project Manager, John Doak, says: “Altro Suprema is a product we install on a regular basis and it’s great to work with.”

Overbury Project Manager, Geoff Charlett, says: “We were very pleased with the quality of the Altro flooring and wall cladding installations. We recently completed flooring assessments 12 months after fitting, and it looks as good now as when it was installed.”

The Trust’s Assistant Director of Estates, Mike Veale, comments: “The Altro Whiterock Digiclad looks immaculate and everyone comments on it. It’s a great way to bring artwork into a space.

“We use Altro Suprema throughout the hospital because it performs from an aesthetic point of view, while also ticking all our boxes for hygiene and practicality. Cleaning is easy, too, and it still looks as good as it did 18 months ago. I am a big fan of this product.”

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