

BARBICAN, CITY OF LONDON, UK

A Case Study

- Flexible and sustainable
- Comfort and performance

Milliken™

COMFORTABLE CONCRETE RETOLD - URBAN GRAFFITI AND FACET

Background

The iconic [Barbican Estate](#) incorporates around 2000 residential flats in the City of London. When a community of residents of Frobisher Crescent, one of 13 terrace blocks in the complex, was looking to re-carpet the communal walkways, they reviewed a number of design proposals, choosing Milliken to undertake the floor covering project.

Design approach

The residents were keen to find a high-performance floor covering that would visually reflect the urban aesthetic of the Barbican's signature brutalist architecture. Presented with a variety of proposals, they chose Milliken's featuring a combination of its [Facet](#) and [Urban Graffiti](#) modular carpet designs.

Facet's tufted level loop pile construction features chic, pinpoint sharp asymmetrical striations, designed with Milliken's Millitron® digital colour

placement technology. Specified in the neutral tones of [Latte](#), the design is installed as the main field carpet for the walkways. Its soft peachy tones and ordered grey lines co-ordinate perfectly with the buildings exposed aggregate walls and dark linearity of its window struts.

Set within the field carpet, large rug style insets of Milliken's bold and colourful [Urban Graffiti](#) design injects some welcome drama and interest.



Carpet : Facet

As part of the Comfortable Concrete Retold design collection, the multi-tile design is composed of 12 individual tile elements that come together to create one single randomly laid design feature. Choosing Urban Graffiti's [Pastel](#) colour combination, the residents felt that the contemporary design offered a much-needed burst of style and fun into these typically mundane spaces. Installed strategically at the main walkway intersections, the design also serves as a means of wayfinding through the building.

Flexible and sustainable

The Barbican terrace building's classic curved form can present some potential challenges for installation of floor coverings. With three floors of Frobisher Crescent's communal walkways to be carpeted, each at 300m², Milliken's modular format carpet proved the ideal flooring solution for its ease of handing and speed of installation.

Using modular carpet also meant that product wastage could be minimised, typically 14% compared to 65% for broadloom floor coverings. Importantly, this also saves cost and reduces the impact on the environment. The Urban Graffiti 'rugs' set within a field of Facet was also seamless, simple and efficient to install due to its modular format.

"The products' comfort and performance were important factors in the residents' decision to choose Milliken floor coverings."



Carpet : Comfortable Concrete Retold - Urban Graffiti and Facet



Barbican Estate, City of London



Carpet : Facet



Carpet : Comfortable Concrete Retold - Urban Graffiti and Facet

Comfort and performance

Both carpet designs feature Milliken's integral WELLBAC® Comfort cushion backing. As well as absorbing much of the impact noise of people moving around the walkways, the cushion backing feels comfortable underfoot and helps absorb wear from foot traffic.

For ease of maintenance, both carpet designs are also protected with Milliken's StainSmart® stain resist and soil release treatment. The products' comfort and performance were important factors in the residents' decision to choose Milliken floor coverings.

As an additional performance measure, Milliken's [OBEX™ Tile Entrance Flooring](#) was installed at each entry area to prevent moisture, dirt and dust particles from residents' footwear entering the building. OBEX™ Cut - Galaxy tiles in [Brown](#) transition seamlessly into the Facet carpet.

Manufactured in the UK, both carpet products are carbon neutral thanks to [Milliken's M/PACT Programme](#). They come with strong sustainability credentials, a 12-year wear warranty, lifetime anti-static and latent defects guarantees.



OBEX™ Tile - Galaxy, Facet and Comfortable Concrete Retold - Urban Graffiti

Client	: Barbican Estate and Residents
Location	: Frobisher Crescent, Barbican London
Project size	: 900sq m
Floor coverings	: Facet, Comfortable Concrete Retold - Urban Graffiti, OBEX™ Tile - Galaxy
Photography	: Gareth Gardner

Visit millikenfloors.com for more information.
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