

experienced designers can help at any stage in the design process, depending on what involvement you require.”

The company’s Coral Marine FR entrance floor coverings stop up to 95% of walked-in dirt and moisture being tracked on board, prolonging the life of the ship’s interior floor coverings and finishes and greatly reducing cleaning costs and the risk of slipping.

Coral Marine FR entrance and corridor flooring is a cut-pile floor covering consisting of 60% wool and 40% polyamide. It simultaneously absorbs moisture and removes dry soiling.

It has been developed for use in entrances, as well as transitional areas such as corridors and lift lobbies.

Ms Masters says “Coral Marine FR comes in a range of contemporary colours to suit all onboard interior designs. It is suitable for passenger ferries, cruise liners, charter boats, other seagoing vessels and offshore applications.”

#### BRITTANY FERRIES, ULTRAMAR, MSC

Elsewhere, Gerflor has supplied its Streamo floorings to a wide range of cruise and ferry passengers, with its latest projects spanning the Mustay Karim Russian river cruise ship, the new LNG-powered ferry for Brittany Ferries, Ultramar’s two latest fast ferries and *MSC Grandiosa*.

Gerflor product manager Karine

Bouttier says “Their interiors will be enhanced with Streamo Karavel luxury vinyl tiles, offering a wide palette of wood and mineral designs but also with homogeneous floorings, available in more than 60 colours.”

Streamo is Gerflor’s dedicated range for marine IMO applications. This includes homogeneous floorings with patented surface treatment, decorative luxury vinyl tiles and a wide offering of additional finishes and accessories (skirtings, stair nosings etc). Gerflor can also supply wall protection, entrance mattings and all the tools needed for optimal installation.

The company is expanding its products with a soon-to-launch IMO adhesive, a new non-directional homogeneous flooring and a rubber studded tile.

The sustainability trend within the passenger ship industry can also be seen in Gerflor’s processes. Ms Bouttier says “In line with our strong commitment to sustainable development and a focus on innovative solutions, Gerflor can supply pre-cut pieces for all crew cabins, enabling our customers to facilitate the installation process, save time and costs, and significantly minimise waste.”

She highlights how the company is forging links between onshore and maritime flooring. “Working in close co-operation with our customers and our internal group studio design, we try to bring more designs and reduce the frontiers between land-based buildings and the marine market to make the passengers and crew feel at home.”

#### INNOVATIVE CARPET DESIGN

Creative Matters from Toronto, Canada has designed carpets for a range of cruise ships in the last 18 months, and its project manager Clémence Hardelay highlights some of the major considerations and design innovations they keep in mind when designing. Singling out an irregularly-shaped inset carpet for the jewellery store *The Gem* on board *Celebrity Edge*, she says “At



Creative Matters’ carpet for jewellery store *The Gem* on board Royal Caribbean’s *Celebrity Edge* (credit: Michel Verdure)

first we received a floor plan, and no specific design direction except that it needed to fit with the surrounding colourway. What we noticed was the off-centre column and that’s what directed our choice of pattern

“We immediately thought that Nova, from our handknotted Aerial Collection, was just perfect for the space. We adapted the pattern into the woven Axminster format that is the production method usually used for cruise ship public areas. When I visited the ship, I was stunned by the elegance of the space. The carpet fits perfectly and I love how the pattern reflects in the mirrored cabinets, adding dimension to it.”

*Celebrity Edge* is one of six ships owned by Royal Caribbean International that now displays Creative Matters’ carpet designs. “Royal Caribbean originally requested our help because their manufacturers’ concepts were not always meeting their requirements in terms of colour, design and visual texture. This resulted in a long sampling stage where sometimes up to 50 samples per area

were made. With our expertise, not only did the number of samples reduce to between three and seven, but the designs became more contemporary and in line with their vision,” said Ms Hardelay. “An example of this is our design for *Cafe al Bacio*. The client’s inspiration for the space was images of pleats and fluid, transparent fabrics.”

She explains that Creative Matters created one pattern reflecting the lightness and movement of the pleats for the neutral carpet and scaled up a section of it for the red circular carpet that needed to match the colour of the velvet fabric of the chairs.

Ms Hardelay adds “For most of our Royal Caribbean projects, we liaise directly with their internal design team but it is interesting how Royal Caribbean hires different interior designers for each space – suites, staterooms, restaurants, bars and shopping areas. For some spaces we collaborated with the interior designers, helping them and Royal Caribbean to achieve the desired look. Sometimes we consulted only on colour, other times we created designs based on the

interior designer’s vision. The challenge is to please both as they each have their opinion and requirements.”

She says that for example, on *Celebrity Edge*, Creative Matters worked closely with Jouin Manku to develop the correct colours for the Martini bar and then with Kelly Hoppen to add interesting blended textures to her existing patterns for the corridors and staterooms.

Cruise ship carpet design can be restrained by small repeats (sometimes only 30 cm) and a small number of colours (four to 10 colours), says Ms Hardelay. “Although it varies by manufacturer, the space, and the standard of the ship, these limitations are based on practicality and how frequently the carpet needs to be replaced. “As *Celebrity Edge* is a modern luxury cruise ship, we were fortunately often able to create repeats up to 4 m wide and patterns with no repeat, which are both quite exceptional in this field. The results are beautiful, unexpected contemporary designs that elevate the cruise carpet world,” she says. ■



Forbo Flooring Systems’ Flotex FR is a textile-flocked floor covering, combining durability, comfort and slip resistance