

Church Street, Liverpool City Centre

Challenge

With the announcement of Liverpool's prestigious award to be the 'European Capital of Culture 2008', the race was underway to regenerate and improve the City's tired and dated shopping and entertainment areas.

Along with other schemes to bring out the culture of historic Liverpool, plans to regenerate the City included a fabulous new shopping and leisure district which would take on gigantic proportions, the size of 28 full-size football pitches. The new area would include 160 shops, cafes, restaurants, two new hotels and a 14-screen Odeon cinema along with more than 600 stylish apartments.

With over 2 million extra visitors expected in Liverpool city centre in 2008, Liverpool City Council required a hard landscaping solution which would be robust enough to withstand heavy trafficking, but which would also add to the character and beauty of the area.

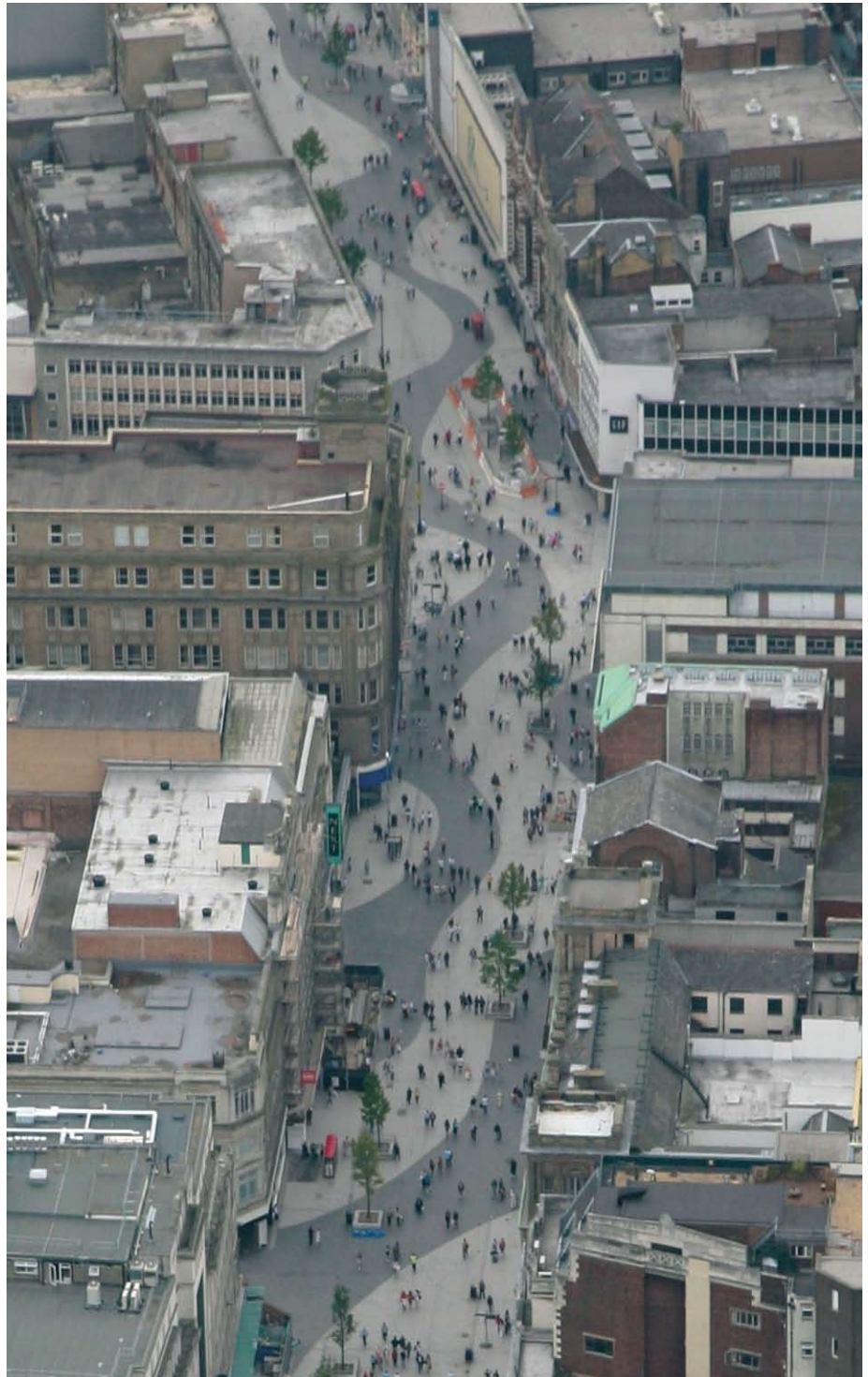
Solution

Working with main contractors, Balfour Beatty, Marshalls was brought in to advise on the best suitable hard landscaping materials to ensure its vision of regeneration was realised.

Marshalls supplied approximately 15,000 m² in a mixture of paving, setts and channels. Marshalls also supplied the seating around the trees which were already insitu on the site.

Church Street is the main shopping street in Liverpool which was previously laid in clay setts and looked dated. The scope of works was to improve/regenerate the overall look of the main shopping centre and it was decided to use the beauty of granite paving and setts to ensure the scheme not only looked like a world class shopping destination, but was also tough and resilient for many years to come.

Marshalls Natural Stone specialists were heavily involved in the scheme from the outset, offering advice on the different finishes available on the granites to aid with bond strength to both the bedding and jointing materials.



Silver Grey & Black Flamed Granite create a 'River of Life'



Marshalls

Transforming Britain's Landscapes

The scheme was cleverly designed to manage water run off with cambers and falls without the use of linear drainage. Point drainage units were used at designated intervals using Marshalls' flush granite channels to carry the water to destination.

Marshalls held large stock holding of materials which meant that Balfour Beatty had the flexibility to advance the scheme at appropriate intervals. It is a testament to the relationship between Balfour Beatty and Marshalls that suitable solutions were found to ensure the smooth running of the scheme.

Each tree on the project needed a planter/seating unit around it and with the aid of Marshalls specialist CAD designers, Marshalls were able to deliver finished units cut to size for ease of installation direct from China to help reduce waste and cost on site.

The scheme itself is comprised of two main colours, Silver Grey & Black flamed granite. The Black has been used to create a swathe down the length of the scheme to represent a river of life, a concept developed by the architect with the client. It has created a much more vibrant and contemporary feel to the area. Marshalls' granite was also used to stunning effect in a main undercover shopping complex, The Met Quarter, in the heart of the city centre, close to Church Street and other city centre areas where Marshalls products have also been specified to transform the area.

Marshalls and Balfour Beatty worked closely together to co-ordinate a complex programme of deliveries. Marshalls pre-ordered all the materials and delivered to site early in the morning, giving the flexibility to the contractor over which materials to call off at the appropriate time.

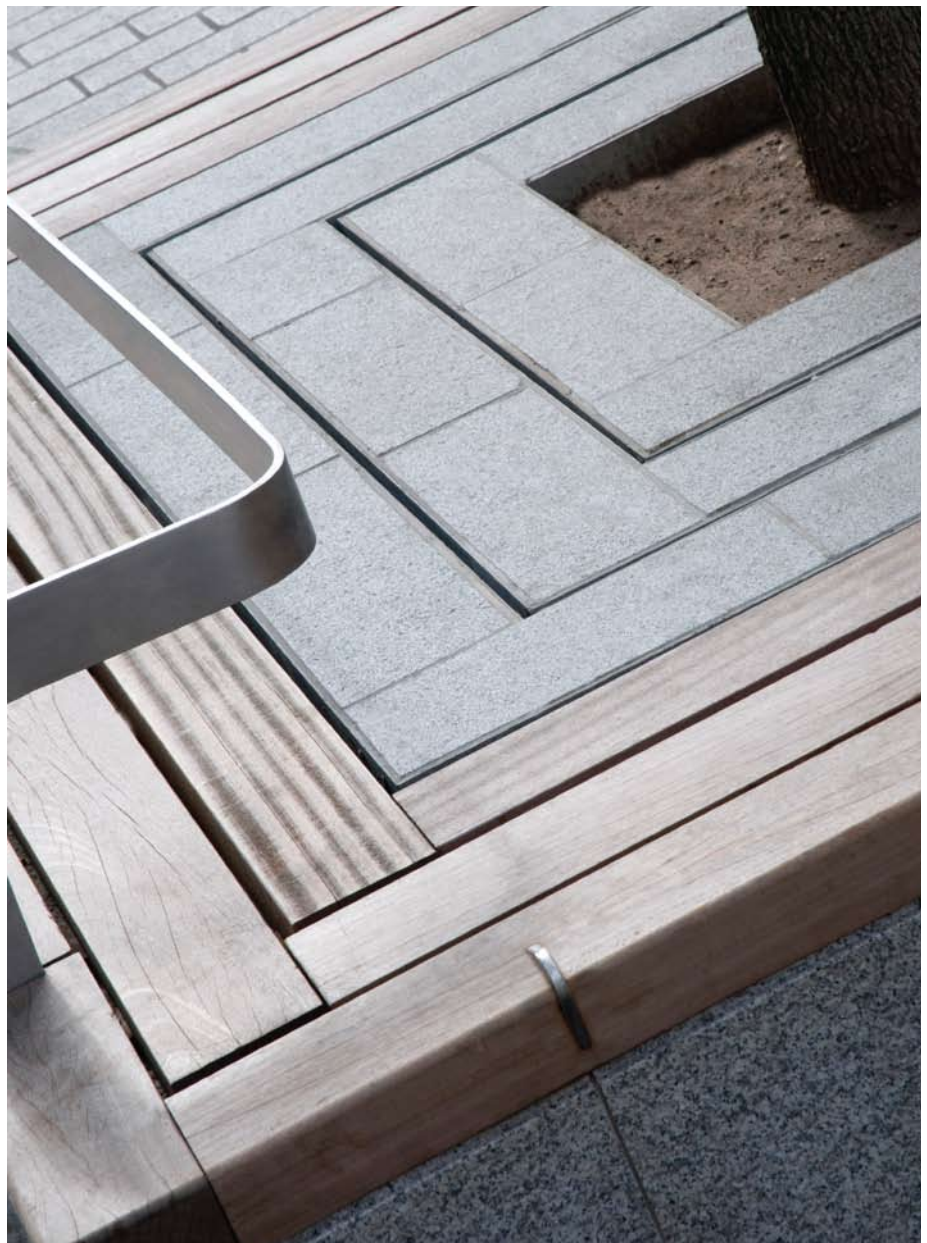
Having this storage and flexibility really helped deliver a high level of service to the contractor and ultimately the client.

Balfour Beatty's Contract Manager on the scheme, Dragan Barnett believes that many of the challenges to successfully delivering a prestigious public realm scheme such as this was identifying a natural stone supplier that could offer Balfour Beatty best value through understanding both the Contractor's and Client's needs.

"In selecting Marshalls, we not only secured a best value supplier who worked in a collaborative and transparent manner, but a long term partner who we continue to work with extensively on public realm projects nationwide. In particular, Marshalls were able to offer extensive technical advice at an early stage of the design so allowing a greater opportunity for change to maximise value for money.



Silver Grey & Black Flamed Granite



Mid Grey, Silver Grey & Black Flamed Seating

This was done through sourcing alternative materials to fit with the architect's vision whilst remaining within the Client's budget and improving design details to make them more efficient and robust. By understanding the difficulties encountered with site access and sequencing of works, they were able to precisely schedule contents of individual crates to maximise laying efficiency and avoid unnecessary double handling or wastage. This benefited not only Balfour Beatty but met one of the Client's key aims to minimise impact on local business and the general public.

This scheme can be held up as a first class example of how Marshalls are able to deliver best value to both Contractor and Client, and ensure their continued success with Balfour Beatty as a preferred supply chain partner.

Benefits

This scheme was one of the major projects in the North West in partnership with Balfour Beatty.

Due to the excellent working relationships on site, and the quality of materials supplied, Marshalls secured additional contracts to hard landscape adjoining streets in Liverpool City Centre.

Marshalls now has a footprint of over 25,000 m2 of imported Granite materials in Liverpool's busiest shopping centre, with materials which will last for many years to come.

The benefit of the finished scheme will be felt by the retail outlets and the public who now have a superb facelift to the main area which adjoins the new Paradise Street scheme as well as other Marshalls schemes across the City such as Whitechappel, Williamson Square and The Cavern Quarter.



The Met Quarter – Black Granite



The Met Quarter – Black Granite

Client:

Liverpool 20/20

Contractor:

Balfour Beatty CE Ltd

Landscape Architects:

BDP Manchester

Marshalls Product Used:

- Imported Chinese Granite Paving
- Imported Chinese Granite Setts
- Drainage Channels

Specialists Involved:



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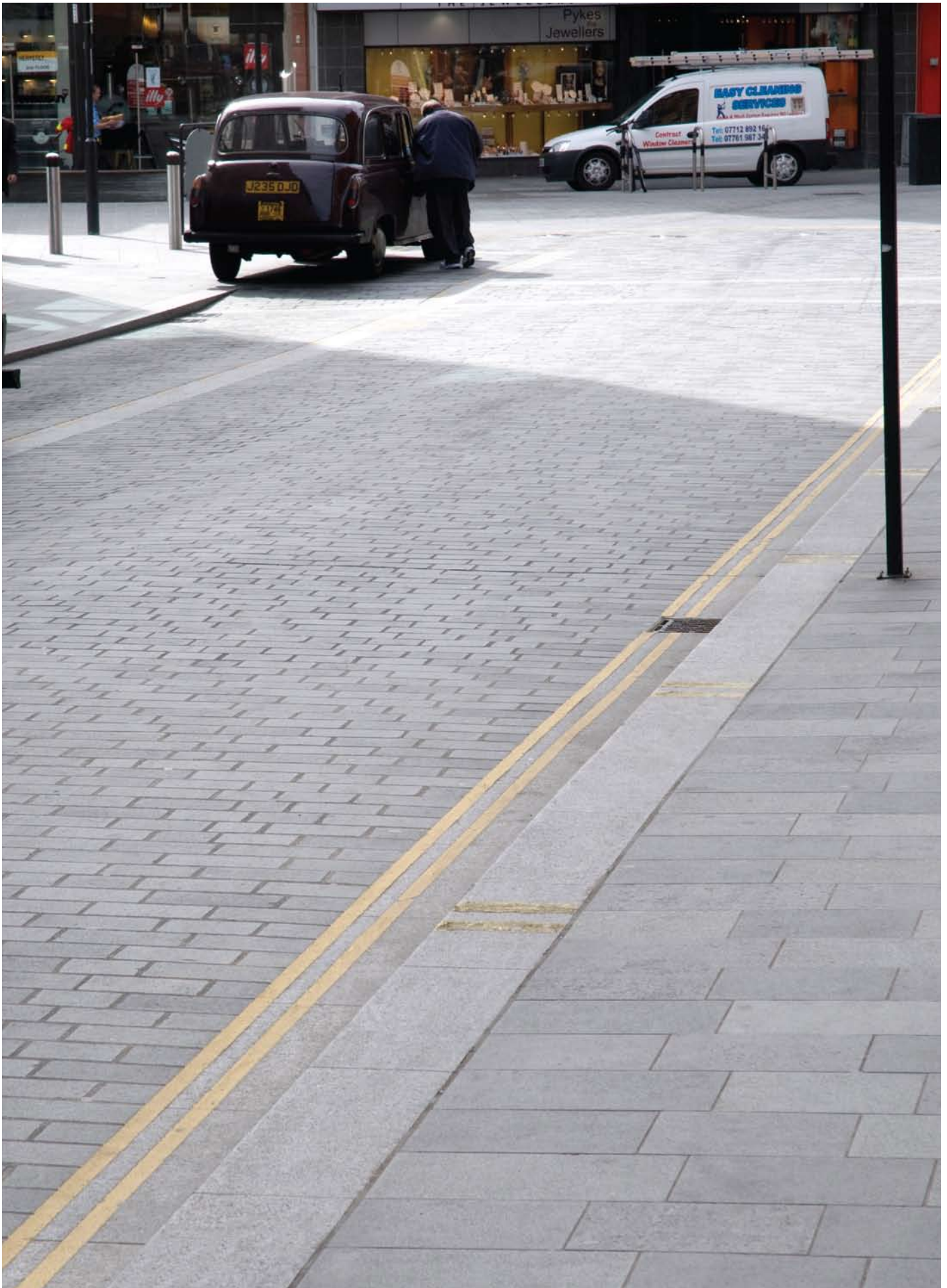
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Specialists Involved:



Mid Grey, Green & Black Granite Setts & Paving