

# Oxford Brookes University


INTERNAL NATURAL  
STONE COLLECTION



**Marshall's**

*Creating Better Spaces*





**Oxford Brookes University has recently undergone a major new-build programme, with the new John Henry Brookes Building having recently been completed. Already, it has received accolades, winning the prestigious RIBA 2014 prize for Building of the Year for the South and the Sustainability Award.**

#### Challenge

As part of the redevelopment work at the University, internal flooring was required for a new common room and restaurant area. The choice of internal flooring was required to be durable, hard-wearing and complementary to the surrounding environment.

Following a rigorous tender process, Marshalls internal flooring product was chosen not only because it met with both the required technical specification and the necessary aesthetics, but the added security and peace of mind that comes with our ethically-sourced granite supply chain.

The appointed contractor Vetter UK, needed to procure a high-quality material with the logistical and technical support of delivering to the University, with the material pre-sealed with surface treatment.





## Solution

Marshalls undertook extensive testing of the flooring materials in line with the specified requirements to support the contractor's legal obligations.

The flooring needed to create a seamless flow from the common room area to a new restaurant/food area within the new building. It was therefore required to be exceptionally hard-wearing, and one that ensured minimal visual impact of marks; ideal for high-footfall areas.

Marshalls Dapple Black Granite was selected for around 400 sq m of flooring, to complement the light colour of the walls, as well as around 1,000 sq m for the matching flooring for a new roof terrace, in addition to supplying low-level cladding.

The surface finish was a flame texture, offering superb anti-slip properties, while retaining all the other stunning aesthetics of the stones, which show a mottled crystal background designed to provide depth of character.

To support the programme, Marshalls pre-sealed a high proportion of the material before installation to help support the longevity of the product in application, as well as to aid the maintenance programme. The smaller proportion of flooring was treated in-situ.

Marshalls was able, in support of Vetter UK, to help the architect Design Engine with the sourcing of the material, the physical testing of its properties, the selection of the colour range and the overall logistics of importing, treating and delivering materials and being on hand to iron out any technical difficulties.





### Benefits

The design team from Design Engine worked with Marshalls to select the stone colour. Marshalls was able to provide product support, technical data and logistics, having been involved in the project from conception to delivery over the course of four years.

Using Marshalls for more than just the supply of stone meant the client benefitted from an assured supply chain. It also, in comparison with other black granite flooring, provided excellent value for money and offered a technically robust product for the application.

Granite flooring allows for a hardwearing, but aesthetically-pleasing appearance, while delivering the aspirational desire of a natural stone floor, contributing to the creation of an overall award-winning piece of architecture.